

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## SANPETE STAKE CONFERENCE.

EPHRAIM, Sanpete county, Utah, May 19, 1896.—The conference of the Sanpete Stake was held in Mantion on the 16th and 17th of May, 1896. There were present of the Apostles Elders F. M. Lyman and Heber J. Grant; of the Stake presidency, Henry Beal and J. B. Maiben, President Peterson, prevented being present by the severe illness of his wife; High Councilors, Bishops of the wards. A very large congregation was in attendance at all the meetings.

After the opening exercises Elder Lyman said he desired all the Bishops to give a concise report of the faith and condition of their wards.

Thirteen wards were reported; three made no report. Peace generally prevails; no difficulties among the Saints; Sacrament meetings generally well attended; fast meetings not so well attended as they should be; the poor reasonably well provided; a liberal feeling to help the missionaries; young men not quite as zealous as the young ladies; health generally good at the present time.

Elder Henry Beal said many who had been careless in years past, never attending meetings, were now quite earnest in their duties.

Elder J. B. Maiben said this was the 75th conference of this Stake. He was pleased to note the growth of the Saints in the principles of the Gospel and that notwithstanding their weaknesses they are growing in the knowledge of God.

Elder Lyman said he was pleased to hear the reports of the Bishops. The Saints are becoming so numerous that the leading quorums cannot visit them in their homes and wards, so are largely dependent on others.—Bishops and presidents of Stakes—who are always with the people. He spoke on Church discipline; said there is not much written although there is a great deal of unwritten discipline that is well understood. We have but few forms of ordinances in the Church; have a written form of prayer for the Sacrament. Thought if we had more forms written it might be well. He spoke on the magnitude of the labor involved in effecting the salvation of man; that it is a great thing to take man in his fallen state and prepare him to return into the presence of his God. He also spoke on the sufferings and death of the Savior. Exhorted the Saints to be diligent, as everyone will be rewarded for what they do, and not for that they may have intended to do; but did not.

A Priesthood meeting was held at 8 p. m. on the 16th, which was well attended. A great deal of instructions were given by which the Saints may profit.

Sunday 10 a. m.—Elder McAllister exhorted the Saints to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded in laboring for themselves and their dead.

Elder John B. Maiben presented the General and Stake authorities; all sustained by unanimous vote.

Elder Grant spoke on the inconsistency of praying for the authorities of the Church when by our acts we show

we do not believe our prayers will be answered; said that those who kept the commandments of God never become tired in their labors, or of hearing the duties of the Saints dwelt upon.

2 p. m.—Elder Heber J. Grant again addressed the conference. He said there were many young people present who had not an absolute knowledge of the divinity of the work. It was just as necessary that they should have the testimony as that their fathers and mothers should. The Lord said that he that doeth the will of the Father shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or not. There is no if about it; the statement is an absolute promise to those who keep the commandments of God that they should know of the doctrine. The Gospel must be studied as we would study any other problem; study the ancient Prophets, study the prophecies of the Prophet Joseph and witness their fulfillment, and ask God in the name of Jesus Christ to give his Holy Spirit, which will give you a knowledge as to whether it be of God or not. He said he knew the signs as promised do follow the believer. Related the promise in his Patriarchal blessing and also in that of Elder Lyman in his blessing, being promised the Apostleship some years before they were called thereto; also of John Henry Smith receiving a promise of the Priesthood while his brother George A. Jr. received no such promise in his blessing and was afterward killed by the Indians.

Elder Lyman read the parable of ten virgins. He referred to his being called to the Apostleship; said he did not believe that the Patriarch before laying his hands upon him believed it to be among the most remote possibilities, his father having been unfortunate. He told of laying his hands on the daughter of Samuel Pichorth of Nepht, who was stone blind and she received her sight; of Benjamin Hancock, who was stone blind, who received his sight by the anointing of oil and the laying on of hands, he being a believer in the Gospel. Said he was pleased to announce to this conference that the people in this Stake in their ward conferences had voted unanimously to sustain the address; asked God to bless the people of this Stake.

After singing and benediction conference adjourned for three months, to meet in Mount Pleasant.

GEORGE TAYLOR,  
Clerk of Conference.

## ISRAEL EVANS'S FUNERAL.

LEHI, Utah county, June 1, 1896.

The largest funeral pageant seen here for many years turned out today on the occasion of the funeral of our pioneer townman, Israel Evans Sr. He was born October 2, 1828, and died May 30, 1896; aged 68 years in October next.

His family were amongst the first to receive the Gospel and to gather to Missouri, the gathering place of the Saints in those days. He was a survivor of the Hauns Mill massacre, the

family being residents of that place at that time.

The family passed through most all of the mobbings and drivings of those times, and also at Nauvoo, and had their part in the final expulsion from that place. He was along with the Pioneer company, in crossing the state of Iowa, then a wilderness; and when Col. Allen arrived with the requisition for the Mormon Battalion he was among the early ones to respond to the call. He enlisted, being the youngest member of that company. He endured through all of their marchings, and was along with those who arrived in California, and remained and took a part until their final discharge. He was one of the company which undertook to dig the Mill Race, which resulted in the discovery of California gold. He worked in the mines and obtained some gold, and then, along with a number of Mormon boys, explored the road to Utah, thus aiding in opening a road which thousands were destined to travel over. The company arrived in Salt Lake Valley, he thus becoming one of the early settlers of that city.

In the fall of 1850 he came to Lehi, a few families having previously arrived. He assisted in surveying the first farm lands and townsite, and in locating the first fences and irrigating ditches, including the ditch from the American Fork, seven miles long, and the largest irrigation work undertaken up to that time.

He was a member of the first city council of Lehi city, and of many subsequent councils, and was always a leader in measures for the establishment and progress of the city.

In 1853, he was appointed on a mission to England, which he honorably filled, and had charge of one of the early handcart companies, which he successfully brought across the Plains. He was a leader in devising and making the Provo bench canal; and along with his working partner he completed the first stint on that work. He has always been for progress, and the building up of the country and had strong faith in its future. He was always on hand when hard work was needed; and its effects were manifest on him the last few years of his life, his bodily strength having failed for some years past. But his mind remained bright, and he has been an active leader and worker in the late political movements. He died in full faith of the Gospel.

JOHN WOODHOUSE.

## BEAR LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of this Stake convened at Paris May 9th and 10th. On the stand were Elders F. M. Lyman and John Henry Smith, of the Apostles, Seymour B. Young of the Seventies and Elder George F. Gibbs; the Stake presidency and High Council, and on the Bishop's stand were seated the Bishops and their counselors. The first day's morning service consisted of remarks by Counselor L. Rich and President William Budge, followed by a report by the Bishops of the condition of their wards showing a healthy condition spiritual and temporal; the declaration of Church discipline had been presented in the various wards and received the unani-