

ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

On the night of the 27th ultimo a man named Moses Lakin Washburn, residing with his wife in Virginia City, Nevada, dropped dead on the floor of his sleeping room. A post mortem examination showed that rupture of the main blood vessel of the heart was the cause of death. Deceased was a native of Hancock, New Hampshire, and 37 years old.

The *Territorial Enterprise* of the 27th ult., contains an article on the salt mines and springs of Nevada, in which it says that State abounds in salt springs, salt marshes, salt mountains, and great plains where the evaporation of ages has left deposits of salt of almost illimitable extent. For mining purposes, the *Enterprise* says, this salt is ready for use, but for dairy or kitchen it requires purifying. Within fifty miles of Reno are some of the finest salt springs in the world, one gallon of the water, when evaporated, yielding three pounds of the finest quality of salt. A Mr. Leete, who owns these springs, is having evaporating vats excavated, and next year he intends to have a pulverizing mill erected for the manufacture of fine salt.

The *New North-West* says that a stabbing affray recently took place in Deer Lodge, between two squaws, one a Bannack the other a Snake, both former residents of Utah. Elva was badly wounded in the back, and Catherine arrested and lodged in jail. Whisky and jealousy were the cause of the trouble.

The fair at Helena, Montana, was not so far behind that of last season as many had anticipated. One squash was five feet five inches in circumference. Manning's wheat, from Deer Lodge yielded from 40 to 80 bushels per acre, ripens two or three weeks earlier than any other variety, heads six-rowed, 69 pounds to the bushel. Cabbages four feet in circumference. Potatoes three pounds in weight. Norway oats 125 bushels to the acre. Seven-headed rye averaging 52 bushels to the acre and 40 pounds to the bushel. Radishes two feet in circumference. Turnips 26 lbs.

Austin, Nevad., had five inches of snow on the night of Sep. 23.

The *Reese River Revue*, complimentarily noticing the enlargement of the Salt Lake *Herald*, says—"We value our Salt Lake exchanges very highly, as they invariably contain much useful matter, and evince a most untiring zeal in their several departments."

Says the *Idaho Statesman*—"Idaho is bereaved of a Governor again. Gen. Bowen has returned to his Arkansas love. Who next?"

The *Reese River Revue* goes upon Nevada salt, "which abounds in salt springs, salt marshes, salt mountains, and great plains," for table and dairy purposes, however, not quite equal to Eastern salt. Fifty miles from Reno are salt springs yielding three pounds to the gallon of the best quality.

A most beautiful day it has been for the opening of the Conference services. Peace reigns in Zion, the people are peaceable and tranquil, rejoicing in the blessings which have been vouchsafed to them, notwithstanding the nefarious, incendiary, and atrocious schemes of demagogues, who have no character, no standing at home, to introduce disorder, excitement, confusion, strife, and even bloodshed in this naturally placid, well-disposed, orderly, and industrious community. In spite of the iniquitous efforts of the iniquitous ring, the people still have the privilege of worshipping God in peace, of serving him according to the dictates of their own consciences, albeit sorely against the will of a corrupt judiciary, pious as Satan himself, but rotten as touchwood.

Shall we continue to have good peace in these valleys, notwithstanding the unscrupulous efforts of the ring to introduce discord, violence, and anarchy? Certainly we shall, as much and as long as the Lord sees will be for the best. He is perfectly able to put a hook into the jaws of the most rabid members of the ring, and to say to each, "Hither-to shalt thou go, and no further," and He will do it too, pulling them up standing, at the very nick of time, with a jerk and a wrench that will make them think they have something worse than a Spanish bit in their mouths.

The ring may imagine that they have things in their own hands, and their schemes all nicely laid and awaiting only the signal for the grand consummation. But they will find their supposed consummation only the beginning of sorrows to them. They will be sought and ferreted out to answer their crimes and to pay the damages when they would like to call upon the mountains and the rocks to fall upon them and hide them from the face of that inflexible justice which they now so outrageously outrage.

The best laid schemes of man and mice off gang awry, and it would not be the first time that the schemes and plots

of this identical ring were unexpectedly marred by an invisible power. Little as the ring may suppose it, yet it is a stubborn fact that they are not omnipotent. The flower fades, the leaves wither, and the ring will inevitably come to naught. For the Almighty has a finger in the pie, he has not relegated the affairs of this Territory wholly and irrevocably into the wretched keeping of the ring, not by any means, and they will find that out yet, to their discomfiture and sorrow, unless they repent, and repent in time too.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

ACCORDING to previous announcement, a Special Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened on this the fifth day of October, 1871, at ten a.m., in the New Tabernacle in this City.

On the stand were

Of the First Presidency:

Brigham Young, Geo. A. Smith and Daniel H. Wells.

Of the Twelve Apostles:

Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, jr., Joseph F. Smith.

Of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies:

Joseph Young, Albert P. Rockwood, John Van Cott and Horace S. Eldredge.

Of the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum:

Elias Smith, Edward Snelgrove and Elias Morris.

Of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion:

George B. Wallace and John T. Caine.

Of the Presidency of the Bishopric:

Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little.

There were also Bishops, Elders and leading men from every settlement in the Territory.

The choir sang:

"The towers of Zion soon shall rise."

Elder John Taylor offered up the opening prayer.

"Mortals awake! with angels join."

was sung by the choir.

PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SMITH said the design in the appointment of this meeting was to have a day's preaching to the Saints previous to commencing the business of the Semi-Annual Conference. He spoke of the kind manner in which the Lord had dealt with the people. It seemed to be a weakness with most people that in the midst of prosperity they were apt to measurably forget their duty to God, and it required something occasionally to stir them up to diligence. There was a sufficiency of the necessities of life in the Territory, business had increased among us, and great energy had been displayed by the people in the building of railroads and developing the resources of the country. Co-operation had succeeded, thus far, beyond the highest anticipations of its advocates and supporters. But in the midst of our prosperity had we been consistent with our profession as Latter-day Saints, and remembered the interests of the kingdom of God? However this might be, there were strong indications that the Lord was still mindful of us. Jesus said, "Blessed are ye when all men shall speak evil of you for my sake." There never were more lies sent abroad concerning us than now. We should so live that no evil can be spoken of us truthfully.

The Elders would be called on to preach to the people during the four days we should probably be together. President Young was in feeble health, yet it was exceedingly gratifying to have his presence at Conference. The faith and prayers of the Saints were desired for his recovery.

Quite a number of missionaries might be called during conference, to visit various portions of the United States, to declare the gospel. President Smith then bore testimony to the truth of the gospel and the final triumph of the Kingdom of God on the earth.

PRESIDENT DANIEL H. WELLS testified that God had spoken from the heavens and revealed the fullness of the holy gospel, of which the Latter-day Saints

were the recipients, Joseph Smith was inspired of the Almighty and he communed with holy angels. The world might ignore our testimonies, yet the plan of salvation for the living and for the dead had been restored, and nothing could impede the progress of the great work the Lord had commenced. We were here, and God was with us. We had come up together to the valleys of the mountains to learn of the ways of the Lord and we had the most virtuous and industrious community on the whole earth. At no moment since the commencement of this work had it ceased to grow and increase, and it would continue to be so, and we would come off victorious in every struggle. We might expect opposition. In fact the road we had traveled had not been near so rough as he expected it would be. We know we had the truth, so do many others who came in contact with us, whether they were willing to admit it or no, and such, knowing they were unable to cope with the truth by fair means or argument, resorted to disreputable and unfair means to accomplish its overthrow.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON addressed the Conference. He said there were many subjects which could be spoken about and listened to with profit. There were probably more reasons why the present Conference should be a good one than might be expected under other circumstances. Occurrences which were transpiring should arouse the people to diligence and unity. He felt in his heart to prophesy peace to Zion. There was nothing in our surroundings to cause us to feel downcast, but everything to the contrary. The Lord had blessed us in these valleys during the past twenty-four years in a marvellous manner, and should the adversary not marshal his hosts and show his anger, it would indeed be astonishing. Whether we resided here or went anywhere else, it did not matter; God had established His work, never more to be thrown down. He did not anticipate, however, that we should have to leave this city or Territory. He rejoiced that the devil was not yet dead, for we were not yet perfect and his services could not yet be dispensed with.

There was one thing which had been demonstrated beyond doubt, that was that no dependence could be placed on the man who did not live his religion, and who might be simply what was called "a good fellow." It took faith, humility, honesty, virtue, sobriety and other qualities to constitute a true Saint, and it would only be those who sought to cultivate such qualities who would stand.

He had watched the course of the First Presidency and others against whom combinations had been formed, and he rejoiced in seeing the serenity and peace that had pervaded their hearts, notwithstanding the circumstances which surrounded them, and in witnessing this he had thought what a blessed thing it was to be a servant of God, having implicit confidence in the Almighty. What a blessed feeling it was to have the assurance that nothing could occur to us but what was permitted by Him. We had broken no law, we had not violated the Constitution, but we had served God and accomplished the work that was to be seen in these valleys. The persecutions now being inaugurated against us would only enhance the interests and accelerate the progress of the work of God.

The choir sang:

"Praise Him."

Conference was adjourned until 2 p. m.

Prayer by President George A. Smith.

Two p. m., Thursday, Oct. 5th.

The choir sang:

"God moves in a mysterious way."

Prayer by Elder Lorenzo Snow.

"Ere long the vail will rend in twain,"

was sung by the choir.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH YOUNG endorsed the sentiments advanced by those who spoke at the morning meeting. He alluded to the manifestations of the power of God in behalf of His people in every age, and especially dwelt upon the goodness of the Almighty to His Saints in these latter days. If he should represent the feelings that animated him, he would but express those entertained by his brethren. The Latter-day Saints believed in the efficacy of the blood atonement of Jesus Christ for the redemption of the human race, for it was a true principle. If a person, upon evidence presented, received an impression with regard to the truth

of the gospel, and should drive such impression away by resisting it, he would be held guilty in the sight of God. He continued to speak for some time and bore a powerful testimony to the truth of the great Latter day work.

ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON alluded to the promise of Jesus that those who obeyed heavenly principles should obtain a knowledge and testimony of their divine nature. Wherever the plan of salvation was found the people who embraced it would have a testimony of its truth and would hold out the same promise to all who would obey it. The ability to testify of the divine nature of the principles they had received was one of the peculiarities which distinguished the Latter-day Saints from all other people.

It was a bad sign when those who professed to be Latter-day Saints manifested a disposition to "steady the ark" as they thus showed an inclination to mistrust those whom the Lord had appointed as His agents to oversee and carry on His work. The Almighty, in His supreme wisdom, knew who were qualified to assist in bringing about His purposes, and it was for us to sustain the priesthood.

He testified that he knew that God had revealed the everlasting gospel in these days, that His work would stand forever, and that those who endeavored to overturn it would but accomplish their own ultimate discomfiture.

ELDER C. W. PENROSE said every stage of his experience connected with the Church of Jesus Christ only served to strengthen his faith in the work. God had given him a witness that was satisfactory to his mind; wherever he traveled and bore testimony and the people received it, they invariably testified that they also received a like witness. What he said before this congregation he would be willing to meet before the bar of God. Plurality of wives was an article of his religious faith. He adduced scriptural evidence to the truthfulness of that doctrine, and spoke of the evidence impressed on his mind by the Spirit of God when the revelation upon it was first made to him.

He continued to speak on the nature of true marriage. Marriage with the Latter-day Saints was not a mere civil contract. A marriage by a magistrate or civil officer was to them no marriage at all—marriage was "ordained of God" and, whether single or plural, must be administered by one having authority from God. This was a part of their religious faith previous to the passage of the act of 1862, which was a piece of special legislation for the people of the Territory, and, being aimed against their religion, was unconstitutional, as the great American people would one day acknowledge.

He testified strongly concerning the future triumph of the Church of the living God, and the crumbling of every opposing power, and that the efforts now being made against us would but serve to bind us closer together. They would serve as a purifier of the Church, and we were now in need of a little purification.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG, JUN., next addressed the assemblage. He said if a call were made for those who had received a testimony that God had spoken in these days to arise, a very large majority would get upon their feet, and the effect would be the same throughout the Territory. His testimony to-day was that God was as able to defend His people now as He ever was, and He had shown His ability to do so in the past. He quoted the saying, "Trust in God and keep your powder dry." He knew that every honorable man would go with us in standing up for our rights as men.

PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SMITH said he had been pleased to listen to the testimonies of the brethren. He was also gratified to see so many people from a distance. There was still plenty of room for the people of this city to come here. God had commenced, so to speak, a reconstruction of the human family, and He used us as His instruments. It was good for us to come together to talk over matters of profit, that we might be stirred up to activity in the work we were identified with. Peace reigned in the one hundred and fifty settlements of the Territory, and peace was one of the fruits of the gospel. The tree was good, and so therefore was the fruit.

The choir sang: "Sing unto God."

Prayer by Elder C. C. Rich.

The Special Conference adjourned, and it was announced that the Semi-annual Conference would commence the next day at ten a. m.