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THE CONFERENCE.

THE April Conference of eighteen hundred and eighty-nine will figure prominently among the memorable events in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After a long period of retirement from the public gaze, most of the leading spirits of the Church were present and in their places upon the stand prepared in the Tabernacle for the presiding authorities of the Holy Priesthood. An immense gathering of the Saints greeted them and listened with profound interest to their counsels. The congregations were large from the commencement. On Sunday the spacious building was filled to overflowing, and in the afternoon the Assembly Hall was thrown open to accommodate the throngs who could not gain admission into the Tabernacle.

The addresses were replete with instruction. Doctrine, principle, practical suggestions, correction of wrongs, exhortation to duty, were administered in the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, and every heart was cheered and every soul fed with the bread of life. Peace reigned and harmony and unity of spirit prevailed.

The Solemn Assembly on Sunday afternoon, in which the quorums of the Priesthood were arranged in order and voted in turn upon the names presented as the general authorities of the Church, was a grand and inspiring sight. And no one sensible to the higher influences could look unmoved upon the majestic scene when the whole body of the people, Priesthood and members, males and females, arose, and with uplifted hands to heaven in token of covenant and consent sustained the men chosen to conduct the affairs of the Church of Christ upon the earth. It was like the sound of many waters when they arose, and like the sublime unity and power of the heavenly hosts, as they stood before the Lord with one heart and one mind making the

sacred sign of assent. Nothing equal to it has been seen on earth in modern times outside of that Tabernacle. It was a glorious spectacle for men and angels, and the spirit accompanying it was divine.

The re-organization of the First Presidency was highly gratifying to the Saints. They have felt for some time that this was very desirable. On Sunday they knew that the right time had come and the right men had been selected. From what we know of the sentiments of the Saints we are sure that they would have named the brethren "chosen by the body" on Sunday, if they had been the proper persons to make the nomination. The votes came not only from their hands but from their hearts. There was not a dissentient voice or sign. The people were unanimous in all the votes. It was the voluntary union of ten thousand souls representing the scores upon scores of thousands of the hosts of latter-day Israel.

A great and pleasant spirit of contentment and satisfaction goes with the people to their respective homes. They have the most profound conviction that God is with them and that He will guide the affairs of His Church through the men who have been sustained as His servants, and that no matter what perverse man may be permitted to do in the exercise of human agency, Almighty wisdom and power will be exerted to bring off the truth victorious and establish the kingdom of righteousness in all the earth.

The Conference has been a glorious gathering. Its effects will be felt in every part of the Territory, and its influence go forth to every land where there is a living Saint or a believer in the restored Gospel of the Son of Man. May the spirit present during its sessions be carried to every settlement and permeate every home, and bring to memory, in the varied scenes of life, the teachings and impressious of this rare occasion!

AN UNTRUTHFUL WRITER.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Herald lately forwarded to that journal from Birmingham, Alabama, what he claimed to be a detailed description of the proselyting process adopted in the northwestern portion of that State by "Mormon" Elders from Utah. He states that in order to get at the facts without impediment, he visited that section in the pretended

capacity of a railroad passenger agent, seeking to dispose of tickets to this Territory, and at other times falsely impersonated a mining prospector. His report is, as a whole, about as correct in some of its features as was the nature of these claims. Had he visited the northwestern part of Alabama in his real character—that of an expert economizer of facts—he would have been equally as successful in the portrayal of the picture he has drawn. It is conspicuous for incongruity and discoloration.

After stringing out a mass of misrepresentation—mixed here and there with a glimmer of truth—to the extent of a couple of columns, the correspondent, whose aim throughout is evidently to float with the current of popular prejudice, speaks regretfully of the fact that efforts to drive the Elders out of that section have been feeble and spasmodic, intimating in this way that he would prefer them to be vigorous and continuous. On this point he reaches the conclusion of his article by quoting from the Rev. William O'Dell, a Baptist minister, who spoke to him as follows:

"I have preached and worked against them and done all in my power to arouse the people to action against these men, but to no avail. You see their first interest our people by their promises of good homes and rich lands in the West. Our people here know nothing but poverty and hardship. It is all they can do to live; they are in debt and the future looks very dark and gloomy to many of them, and they eagerly accept any chance to better their fortunes. More than one half of their converts are made by glowing representations of the ease with which fortunes are made in the Far West."

One thing to which my attention was called was the fact that none of the converts carried west ever write to their friends or relatives who were left behind. It is supposed that all their correspondence is examined by Mormon Elders, and no letters telling of the bitter disappointments and the horrors of a life in a country of Mormons are allowed to find their way back to fields which have been so fruitful.

From the counties of Clay, Cleburne, Randolph and Talladega over five hundred converts have been sent to Utah, Arizona and Idaho during the past four years, and the Elders expect to send away two hundred more early next autumn. There is no longer any pretense of opposition to their work in this section. They preach where and when they will, distribute literature from house to house, and no one ever thinks of molesting them. They still go about their work as quietly as possible, but their only anxiety seems to be to avoid newspaper men