

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Latter-day Saints who will assemble in regular semi-annual conference beginning tomorrow, October 4th, surely ought to be able to approach the Lord in happiness and gratitude. Temporally the condition of the people is materially better than it was a year or even six months ago. Generally speaking there have been abundant returns from labor expended in field, orchard and garden; while the flocks and herds have prospered and multiplied in an unusual degree. Peace has reigned throughout all the borders of Zion; bigotry and prejudice on the part of opponents have melted away; friends have multiplied on every hand, and generous prospects beam from all points of the horizon as well as from above. Spiritually, the work in the vineyard and in the harvest field has been prosecuted with great vigor and shows magnificent results. An extraordinarily large number of sturdy, energetic Elders are industriously laboring in the missionary field, and the Gospel message is being sounded with a diligence and over a breadth of the earth's surface perhaps never before equalled. The reports from these messengers of salvation are uniformly encouraging, and through the softening of public sentiment which the last two or three years have witnessed, the glad tidings are being heard in regions and in homes formerly quite unapproachable. The good work among the Saints themselves in these mountains and other abiding places has also been prosecuted with great earnestness and success. The Presidency and Apostles have been zealous in availing themselves of opportunities of meeting with the Saints in their conference; the Stake authorities have assiduously labored with their flocks in Ward and Stake gathering; and the great body of Church ministers, the Teachers, have been keenly alive to their important duties. Besides the excellent work of these regular organizations of the Priesthood, the Sunday school cause by its general and local officers has received a tremendous impetus from Canada to Mexico, and the prospects for growth and usefulness now before it were never before equalled. Other organizations, such as the Young Men's and Young Ladies' associations, the Relief Society and the Primaries, are all reported in a gratifying state of health and activity. "As with the priest, so with the people;" and the energy and devotion characterizing the leaders in the various departments alluded to are abundantly reflected in the improved spiritual condition and the earnestness of the whole body of the Church.

Hence we say the Conference now about to open should be, and no doubt will be, a glorious one. It cannot fail to be all that the most zealous Saint desires, if each one in entering the house of worship will lay aside every unworthy thought and concentrate

his mind upon the great mercies of the Lord and the sublime truths connected with His salvation.

THE BASE BALL SEASON.

The base ball season which ended on Monday last, September 30th, landed Baltimore for the second consecutive time in the first place in the national league with a percentage of about .670. The Cleveland club had played an equal number of games, 130, but only won 84 as against Baltimore's 87, so that its percentage was rather less than .650. The club which played the largest number of games during the season was Pittsburg, which started off swiftly with a long list of victories, but failed to keep up its record as the summer advanced. The aggregation in which western enthusiasts were most interested—that from Chicago, with Grandpa Anson at its head—had the good luck to finish fourth in the race, by a great burst of speed at the finish, after almost everybody had mentally consigned it to eighth or ninth place among the twelve competing clubs. The tail-enders are the Louisville players who have won 35 out of 131 games; while the formerly invincible performers from Boston and New York finish in the fifth and ninth places respectively.

Between the two leading clubs, Baltimore and Cleveland, there still remains the Temple Cup series to be decided. This is a New York trophy, apart from the regular league pennant, for which the two chief competitors do battle at the close of the regular season. The first game of this series, which consists of seven games if necessary to give the winner four of them, was played yesterday, October 2, at Cleveland, where another is to be played today and the third on Saturday. Three games are booked for Baltimore next week and if the seventh game shall be necessary it will probably be played at Philadelphia.

The season just ended has been notable for the harmony characterizing the management of the clubs, and the public patronage bestowed. There have been years when there was better playing—at least where the winner's percentage was higher. The general results, however, show that the national game is still a fine and popular institution, and as at present played is not undeserving of any proper enthusiasm with which young America may choose to regard it.

PRAISE FROM THE PELICAN STATE.

The Sugar Planter's Journal, published at New Orleans, Louisiana, in its two issues for Sept. 21 and 28, contains editorial correspondence from Utah—the writer having been a member of the recent press excursion and convention in this city. The first letter is copiously illustrated with

views of various buildings and scenes of interest in this Territory, and the descriptive matter throughout is enthusiastic, accurate and in the highest degree complimentary to the thrift of the people who now live in these "chambers of the mountains" as well as to the enterprise, courage and statesmanship of the founders of the present commonwealth. We cannot refrain from quoting a paragraph:

"But a majority are Mormons," our readers will say, as if that was a great objection. We should not forget that the very corner-stone of our government is founded upon civil and religious liberty. Mormonism is a religion—a Christian religion—and we must believe that they are as devout Christians and as moral and as upright in their dealings as any other body of people.

EUCCHARIST CONGRESS.

The Eucharist congress of the Catholic church which opened at Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 2, is considered a memorable event of that church for the reason that, with three exceptions, all the dignitaries and heads of dioceses in this country are present. The purpose of this congress is to discuss the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Lord's Supper.

The first general controversy on this point occurred in the ninth century when a learned monk maintained that the visible symbols in the Sacrament, during the act of consecration, became transformed into that very body of Christ, in which He lived on earth. According to this view, the bread and wine retain their outward form, but their substance is changed. The announcement of a doctrine apparently so contrary to all evidence stirred up much antagonism, but the age in which it came was full of credulity. It appealed to the wonderful and seemed to offer an explanation of the miraculous power attributed to the Sacrament; but more than all, it added luster to the rite administered by the consecrated servants of the church, and the result was that the doctrine of transubstantiation prevailed. It was officially approved by the council of Rome in 1079, and by the Lateran council, 1215, it was made an article of faith. The Greek church adopted the same view in 1672 at the synod of Jerusalem.

At the time of the Reformation, the whole controversy was renewed. Luther held that through the power of God, in some way not capable of explanation, the body and the blood of Christ are present "in, with and under" the visible emblems. Zwingli taught that, as the Sacrament is merely a commemoration of the sacrifice of the Savior, the bread and wine are only symbols. Calvin endeavored to bridge the chasm by the explanation that although the bread and wine are nothing but symbols, yet the faithful receiver of these emblems is brought into union with Christ through the medium of the Spirit and receives the power which emanates from His glorified body. The Protestants divided on this point and stand divided until this day, while the church of Rome took, if possible, a firmer stand on the foundation laid by previous councils. The Eucharist congress undoubtedly,