

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

The Priesthood meeting convened on Monday, November 9th, at 8 a. m. Through the kindness of Mr. A. M. Bailey, the meeting was held in his parlor. There was a very good feeling among all, and Elder Spencer gave some instructions which, if carried out, will be the means of doing much good.

The vote was unanimous to sustain the leaders of the Church as sustained at the last General Conference of the Church in Salt Lake City. Samuel G. Spencer was sustained as president of and Eugene S. Hart as clerk of the Northern States mission; also Levi A. Colvin as president of and Daniel J. McRae as clerk of the Iowa conference. The Sacrament was administered by Elders Johnson and Colvin.

In the evening as we all sat chatting in Mr. Bailey's parlor, we were treated to a pleasant little surprise by being invited into the dining room, where we surrounded the table and partook of some of the luxuries of life, which had been prepared by Mrs. Bailey, whose hands are ever ready to do us a kind act. We highly appreciate the kindness shown the Elders by both Mr. and Mrs. Bailey. They befriended us when all others seemed against us. Mr. Bailey gave us the use of his opera house free of charge, to hold conference in. We know that they shall in no wise lose their reward.

The Elders are all enjoying good health. Elder Otto Johnson has been released from his labors as president of the Iowa conference, to return home.

The Elders have been appointed to labor as follows:

Levi A. Colvin and Daniel J. McRae, Des Moines, Iowa.

Isaac Coon and David Rishton, Sioux City, Iowa.

Thomas D. Wallace and Conrad J. Smith, Waterloo, Black Hawk county, Iowa.

Myron A. Holgate and James D. Coon, Knoxville, Marion county, Iowa.

David A. Robison and a new Elder who is to join him, Webster City, Hamilton county, Iowa.

DANIEL J. McRAE,
Clerk of Conference.

CALIFORNIA MISSION.

135 N., OLIVE STREET, Los Angeles,
California, Nov. 11th, 1896.

I left my home in Murray, on the 15th of July last, to fill a mission in the state of California. I arrived in San Francisco on the morning of the 17th, where I remained until the 1st of August. I was then called by President H. S. Tanner to labor in Sacramento, with Elders Henderson, Loveless and Murdock. We met with fair success, but found it hard to get people out to our meetings; but in our carding and tracting we met people who were ever ready to read some of the doctrines of the Mormon people, as we are termed, as they had heard so much of us, and there was much prejudice laid aside which has been in existence so long. It is hoped that the seed that was sown will soon take root and grow with much rapidity.

We left that city on the 2nd of October, to attend conference at San Francisco, which was held on the 4th. On the 5th a meeting of the Elders was called, twenty of us altogether, in which

Elder Tanner gave us some very good and interesting instructions. We also had our different fields of labor allotted to us, in which Elder Murdock and myself were called to the southern part of the state to labor.

We left San Francisco on the 10th for our southern journey. We visited the city of San Jose for a few days, where we met with some very nice people. We left there on the morning of the 14th for Los Angeles, where we arrived on the morning of the 15th. Elders Tanner and Scowcroft and family arrived the following day. The conference of the Southern California conference was held the following Sunday, the 18th, in which we had a very enjoyable time, together with the Saints and Elders.

Since that time there have been some changes made. On the morning of the 7th of this month, Elder Tanner received an honorable release, to leave this field of labor and return to his Utah home. It was somewhat of a surprise to the Elders on hearing of it, and he will be missed a great deal by the Elders and the Saints of California. Elder Tanner has treated the Elders with the greatest kindness since my arrival in the mission; and from all reports he has in all his time in the mission aimed to do the same towards all. It is hoped he will arrive home in safety, and there be made welcome by all of his friends, and that he will ever enjoy the Spirit of Truth to lead him.

We trust that Elder Nye, who has been called to fill his position, will be sustained by all, the Elders laboring in this mission, as Brother Tanner has been, and that the Spirit may lead him to direct aright the affairs pertaining to the mission. There is much work to be done in this state, but through faith it will be accomplished in the course of time. The seed must be sown before it will take root, and we trust that God will ever guide us in spreading the everlasting Gospel among the people of California.

CHARLES BROWN.

MENTAL NARROWNESS.

It is a fatal error when any person, party or organization concludes that he or it alone possesses all the truth and light that there is in the world, on any subject whatever.

This nation has just passed through one of those periodical times when abuse takes the place of argument, and misrepresentation the place of truth. If things said in the heat and fervor of political contest were really true, mental ability, moral perception and patriotism, must all be rare ingredients in the party introduced, and representative men are unfitted for the courtesies and unworthy the confidence of any honorable and well intentioned member of society. To be sure, these charges are somewhat vague when directed against a party. Things so said of individuals would be readily resented and personal chastisement or legal process would be in order as a balm for wounded honor and a set-off against malicious vituperation. But little of this personal abuse has been used in the just closed national campaign, although some very hard and diabolical things have been said by both sides. Probably but little personal enmity will remain now that the result is determined. Any way it is a

fashion in politics which, as Shakespeare says, "would be far more honored in the breach than in the observance."

This habit of depreciation is not all confined to political contests as party antagonisms. We have heard quite as much as it was pleasant to hear in religious circles. Sects have ridiculed each other; they have misrepresented each other; the vilest things have been charged, and disseminated for truth; facts have been distorted and doctrines perverted ignorantly or wilfully, without enquiry and without consideration, and in fact with indifference as to the result. But few communities have had a larger share of this illiberal feature of society than our own. Probably when the century of its existence arrives men will still witness some remnants of this abominable and dangerous habit. To be sure, the people here make extraordinary pretensions; their theories and thought have come in contact with large circles, with influential organizations, and with all religious training and tradition. But even that fails to justify intelligent men in resorting to the unworthy weapons of a far less enlightened time. However, it may be that the misrepresented are somewhat to blame, first for tamely submitting without protest or correction, as was done for so many years; second, for having in their superabundant satisfaction and knowledge of the truths they had, too readily concluded that truth was their special possession; overlooking the fact that the world is full of truth, even if associated with error; that human nature cannot be banished or combined on error alone, and that the true binding force and power everywhere existing, is dependant for all or most of its success, on the possession and life of truth. There is a more power of course in properly systematized truth, in its orderly presentation, in the intelligently understood relation which a series of truths bear to each other; and this is the grandest evidence of divine revelation, as it is the highest testimony to human comprehension and practical value.

The intrinsic importance of faith is universally accepted in religious circles. Repentance is an acknowledged ingredient of progress in all moral, religious and judicial education. Baptism by immersion is a righteous ordinance when practised by any denomination, even if born of its inherent virtue by misunderstanding or ignorance. And "the laying on of hands" for confirmation and blessing is beautiful even in its perversion, to one who comprehends its broader scope and understands it to be without authority in an unaccepted Church.

It is an insult for a Democrat to assume that a man cannot be an intelligent and conscientious Republican, Populist or Monarchist, that wisdom is all concentrated in the advocates of either gold, silver or paper; that the advocate of unrestricted intercourse between nations as between states is an unmitigated crank; or that the one who believes in tariff for revenue or protection is superlatively wise. Differences in conclusions are in great part the results of training, environment, mentality. The most liberal man may be the subject of prejudice; the man who