

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MAY 31, 1876.

FARMERS SMILING.

THE farmers seem to be smiling all over their faces, the soaking rains and even the abundant snow being so very favorable to the young wheat crop and also to the grass and hay crops, as well as some others. A few persons whose land lies on the bottoms, where it is too much flooded, or on the banks of the ravaging streams, may suffer somewhat from the excess of water, but the very large majority, and especially the bench or upland farmers, could hardly be better suited with the season. The opening of spring was rather late, but the rains continue late too, and the reserve snow on the mountains is reported to be considerable. So that the dry bench lands are not only well moistened just now, but there is promise of a large amount of water to irrigate them during the summer. All this, barring subsequent disastrous contingencies, means large crops of grass and hay and grain and cabbages and onions and potatoes and other root crops. The young wheat looks fresh and bright and vigorous and flourishing, and hopes are high with the promise of an abundant harvest, so that there may be plenty in the land for all.

So far as the fruit is concerned, there is likely to be plenty of peaches and apples (if worm ravages are light), pears, plums, apricots and small fruits. Of all fruits the grapes have suffered most by the late frosts. The vines, many of them look sick indeed, but they will recover their vigor, though the promise is, to all appearance, of a grape harvest much below the average hereabout. However, if the vines do not bear heavily this year they will be storing up vigor to produce a weighty crop another year. So that present loss is not wholly loss.

THE COUNTRY SIDE—LET US HAVE TREES.

AFTER the rains and the snows, the foliage and the verdure in the country look fresh and brilliant, set off by the clear atmosphere in the bright sunshine, and entirely free from the tarnishing presence of the very palpable Summer's dust. Among the ruralists all hearts are light, all eyes are bright, and Nature's face looks gay.

Brilliant and gay as the country looks, however, it might look much more so, with advantage every way, both as to utility and beauty, and especially the latter. The settlers in these valleys have done much to improve the appearance of the bald and barren face of Nature in this region. Yet much as has been done, there is room for much more, and especially in the planting of trees. Even in this city there are many blocks along the sides of which no shade tree appears, nor has been planted. In many places in the country this is remarkable to a much greater degree. How frequently one can pass a house there, "solitary and alone," with not a single tree and perhaps not a shrub of any kind near. No shelter from the fierce rays of the Summer sun, no wind break, nothing to modify the arid heat of Summer or the biting cold of Winter. How bare and bleak and unenjoyable and comfortless are the surroundings of such houses! What have the inhabitants been thinking of these long years, that they have forgotten to plant and care for a single shade or fruit tree, a gooseberry or a currant bush, or a hardy grape vine? Where as they might have had orchards of fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, and groves of shade trees, that would have been most useful and pleasant to themselves, and would also have been most attractive to the visitor or the passing traveller. As for the children, the orchard and grove would have inspired them

with a home-like feeling and with material for childhood reminiscences of the most delightful kind in the many years of mature life, reminiscences which for soothing and pleasing influences are of priceless value when the mind is racked and tossed and torn with the anxieties, the perplexities, the struggles, the crosses and losses, the temptations and conflicts, the privations and sufferings of manhood and womanhood.

It is late now, for this season, to begin to plant either shade or fruit trees, but the time is beginning when one can realize powerfully the lack of those things. The sun attains great force and his scorching rays begin to pour down in a way to make one look around and be thankful for the grateful mediation of spreading branches and unbrazen foliage. As it is, around these treeless, cheerless homes, the little children find no leafy shelter from the midday heat of the burning sun, and they run about exposed to its unmitigated fierceness, till they are burned and browned almost to the color of the wild, untutored Indian.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—Rev. Thomas Miller, vicar of St. Barnabas Church, Heaton, near Bradford, in an action for libel and slander, though denying the charges in the case, admitted having given a schoolmaster's wife a "kiss of peace," after a quarrel, also that he had kissed a servant girl, but he only did it to please his little boy, who was with him. How handy it must be for amatory clergymen to have with them little boys who want to be pleased with such osculatory demonstrations.

—The *Catholic Universe* says, "Popular sovereignty is a grand idea, but its workings prove it to be an immense humbug." To which an exchange answers, "Of course. Absolute sovereignty by an infallible chief priest is the only correct thing. No 'humbug' about that."

—A recent author on bookkeeping says, "It is a broad assertion to make, but a true one, that out of the large number of books I have examined, fully one-half contained palpable evidences of fraud; and, in a majority of cases, where there was no previous suspicion of anything wrong. The most stupendous defalcations are perpetrated by partners, who have acted as cashiers."

—Methodist ministers in Chicago have been agitated upon the proposition "that as a means of evangelization our Sabbath schools are a failure."

—Talking of failures, among recent ones was that of Warren B. Russell, of Hatfield, Mass., and it was stated in this way—liabilities, \$21,000; assets, sixteen chickens and an old wagon, which were sold for \$16.20; expense of settling the estate \$100; deficiency in said settling, \$83.80, assessed on those creditors who proved their claims.

—In getting up a heavy spectacle at Niblo's Theatre, New York, recently, it is said that sixty women were engaged in sewing spangles on the spritz dresses, and twenty-eight pounds of spangles at \$7 a pound were used for each dress.

—The climate of the city of London, its smoke and its fog included, is thought to be a preventive of fever, but to induce lung diseases. A London paper says, "How is it that London shrubs are always out in leaf earlier than those in other parts of the country? Does London smoke or does London fog have a stimulating effect upon vegetation? The late George Hinton Bovill, the engineer, had a high opinion of our London climate, and as he walked to his office in Great George Street on a foggy day, he would say, 'Thank God, here is another fog.' His theory was that the minute particles of soot deodorized everything, and were it not, now and then, for a fog to kill the germs of disease, London would be devastated by plagues. But I question whether the remedy—if remedy it be—is not worse than the disease. A fog may prevent fever here and there, but it brings on pulmonary affections which are fatal in scores of cases."

—Here is a flattering item from the Custer City correspondence of the *Omaha Bee*—"One man who accompanied the train with Dr. Bemis, our present Mayor, heard there was law in Custer, and immediately on his arrival started back for Salt Lake."

MINUTES of CONFERENCE

Held at St. George, Utah, May 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1876, President Brigham Young Presiding.

FIRST DAY—MORNING.

Friday, May 12, 10 o'clock.

The attention of the congregation was called by the PRESIDENT, who gave out the hymn commencing—

"Once more we come before our God,"

which was sung by the St. George choir.

Prayer by Elder BRIGHAM YOUNG, JR.

The Cedar choir sang—

"Come ye that love the Lord."

PRESIDENT B. YOUNG expressed himself as being happy in the enjoyment of the opportunity of meeting with the people in the South once again. He said the people must not expect to hear him speak very much, but he trusted to be blessed of the Lord in speaking some during the conference. He expressed his satisfaction with the labors of the people in the south, as far as he had seen and as far as he had heard of those labors. He felt especial pleasure in the progress which had been made in erecting a temple. He wished that the people called Latter-day Saints truly realized the great importance of the work entrusted to them. He blessed the people and all their substance. He referred, with thankfulness, to the progress of the work of God among the remnants of the House of Israel, among the Lamanites. He said, he understood that the promise of the Saviour, contained in the Book of Mormon [Nephi, chap. 10, par. 1, page 479], was in progress of being soon fulfilled; when the remnants of Israel would build the New Jerusalem, and we, who had been born and to some extent traditioned among the Gentiles, would assist in this important work. He referred to the expression used by some, that they were now baptized into the United Order. For his part, he was baptized when he was baptized into the church, upwards of forty-two years ago; he was baptized to be one with the righteous of this and former ages, to be one with the Saviour of the world, one with the Eternal Father, and one with all the hosts of heaven. If we were not seeking after this oneness, we should find ourself cut short of anticipated blessings. He concluded by again blessing the people in the name of the Lord.

PREST. WELLS expressed his satisfaction at meeting with the people under such favorable circumstances. He referred to the nature of the work of Salvation in which we were engaged. This work, so extensive, so far-reaching, having to do not only with what we called time, but with all eternity to come, had to be gradually accomplished, and therefore it required steady and persistent application. Instruction had been and now was imparted, "line upon line, precept upon precept," and the injunction should ever be before this people to "live by every word which proceedeth from the mouth of God." A great work of preparation had been, and still was committed to this people, and this work was, for every one to prepare himself to administer in the office work of the Holy Priesthood in temples, and in every department of the work of the Almighty outside of temples. The Eternal called upon his children for co-operation with him, to aid in banishing sin and wickedness from the earth, and to establish righteousness thereon. Many had commenced in this good work, who, after putting their hands to the plough, had looked back, and had not continued in the way of well-doing. The trials and tests, applied to those called to be Saints, were various. What would try one might not be a trial to another; but all must be tried; and blessed were those who preserved their integrity, and proved themselves true to God and his great plan of salvation. We must preserve ourselves pure in the faith of the holy gospel.

He alluded to the duty, placed upon the Saints, to observe the Work of Wisdom, and spoke of the precious promises contained in that revelation. The Father's word should be considered as his law, even when it was not given by way of commandment. This Word of

Wisdom should be observed, according to the spirit and meaning thereof. It was the duty of all the Latter-day Saints to live the life of Saints, and to prepare themselves to receive and reign with, the Son of Man, when he came and should rule from the rivers to the ends of the earth.

Elder ERASTUS SNOW said he felt sure that the assembled people of the South felt, with him, gratitude for the blessing of meeting and hearing our beloved President Young and his counselor and fellow laborer President Wells. He called attention to the responsibility, resting upon all Saints, to be faithful co-laborers with these brethren in executing the purposes of the Almighty. The variety of experience, making up the sum of our lives, was all needed. Opposition, trial and test were all for our development, and would all be sanctified to our good, if we preserved ourselves in the faith of the Gospel. He expressed his thankfulness for the guidance, protection and blessing of the Lord which had attended the Church which he has established in the last days. It was a source of great satisfaction and joy to see Israel grow and increase in the way which our eyes were privileged to behold.

Brother Snow concluded, by expressing his most sincere desire to see the people, called Latter-day Saints, live and move more in the spirit of that oneness which the Gospel imperatively demanded.

The Kanab Choir, under the direction of Elder Edwin Ford, sang,

"Sweet is the work, my God, my King."

Benediction by Elder TRUMAN O. ANGELL.

AFTERNOON.

Cedar Choir sang,

"I'll praise my Maker while I've breath."

Prayer by Elder EVAN M. GREENE.

Kanab Choir sang,

"Awake, ye Saints of God, awake."

Elder BRIGHAM YOUNG, JUN., expressed his satisfaction with the people, and his gratitude to God for the great work which had been performed on the Temple; it was further advanced towards completion than he had expected. He referred to his emotions, when standing in the front room. He dwelt on the vast responsibility which is inseparably associated with the faithful Saint. Work for the dead and for the living devolved upon us, and must be performed, or condemnation would come. As a people, called Latter-day Saints, we had not been sufficiently diligent in keeping the commandments of God. He read the 6th Par. of Sec. 18, Book of Doc. and Cov., beginning at the words, "Verily, I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will." In connection with this passage, he dwelt forcibly on the necessity which existed for the Latter-day Saints to live in obedience to the principles and requirements of the holy United Order.

Elder A. M. MUSSEY dwelt, to some extent, on the building of the temples in Salt Lake City and in St. George. He contrasted the want of union among the peoples of the nations, and the union which exists among the Latter-day Saints; yet, said he, there is room, much room, for the increase of union among the Saints. He enjoined upon the people the necessity of faithfully and diligently prosecuting their political duties as voters, office holders, jurors and as citizens generally. He stated that some forty carpenters were on the way from the North, to work on the St. George Temple. The following named carpenters were called, to engage in the same work—

Of St. George, Isaiah Cox, Horatio Picket, George Laub, H. H. Riding, W. H. Thompson, Wm. Barnes, Jas. Cragan, Wm. J. F. McAllister, David Rogers, Joseph Judd, and John Peterson.

Washington, Warren Tenney.

Rockville, Thomas Bowman.

Hebron, Charles Pulsipher.

Glendale, James Leathhead.

Johnson, Charles S. Cram and two others.

Kanab, Lorenzo Watson.

Virgin City, one carpenter.

PREST. B. YOUNG said, if we could inspire the hearts of the people, by the aid of the Spirit of the Lord, to push forward the work on the St. George Temple, so as to complete it, it was contemplated to hold the next Annual (April) Conference here. He spoke of the ad-

verse circumstances which had surrounded the Latter-day Saints, while the Kirtland Temple was being built. He related some of his personal experience as a workman on that temple, exhibiting of the stern poverty in worldly goods which was the lot of himself and of those in Kirtland in those early days. It was easier for the people of St. George to now build a Temple, such as that in Kirtland, than it was for the entire church on the earth, at that time, to do. He said, if the people would do their duty in paying their tithes and offerings, the storehouse of the Lord would be filled to overflowing, instead of being lean and empty, as was now too often the case. In referring to the United Order, he said that his judgment and decision were that, with proper security under the laws of the land, a large majority of the Latter-day Saints were ready and willing to enter into the combination, in temporal things, required by the gospel, or, in other words, required by the United Order. He spoke of the extravagance in dress which existed among the Latter-day Saints, saying that fathers and mothers were too often remiss in their deportment, and failed to properly instruct their sons and daughters in the principles of true economy.

St. George choir sang,

"Holy, holy is the Lord."

Benediction by BR. H. LUNT.

SECOND DAY—MORNING.

Saturday, May 13th, 10 o'clock.

Kanab choir sang—

"On mountain tops appearing."

Prayer by Elder MILO ANDRUS.

Cedar choir sang—

"Hear my prayer, O Lord."

Elder MILTON H. HARDY expressed his joy in meeting with the people of the South. He, for five years, had been in the missionary field. He and Elder Morris Young were now travelling as missionaries to aid in organizing mutual improvement associations among the youth of our community. In laboring as missionaries among the young people they had endeavored to impress upon them their individual duty, to take a course to know for themselves that God had spoken from the heavens in this generation, and that he had organized his church again on earth; and that to learn this, the youth must go to God in humility, and get this knowledge as their parents had done before them. Another duty enjoined upon the youth was, to cultivate the gifts of God within them. The youth were instructed in the rights, privileges and immunities of citizens of our great republic—God's free born. The minds of the young were directed to inquire into the causes of the faith, self-denial, and persistent efforts of their parents, who, for years, endured the oppression and drivings of the red hand of the most bitter and relentless persecution. He said the young had been and were encouraged to diligently seek after that faith in God which had been exemplified in the lives of the fathers and mothers of Israel.

Elder LORENZO HATCH expressed his desire to labor where the priesthood required. God had spoken from heaven, had organized his church, and had, through his servants, published glad tidings. The duty of the Saints was to go forth diligently and faithfully in the discharge of their duty. The word of the Lord had been, and still was, freely given. He bore testimony to the truth of the Latter-day work.

Elder LEVI W. HANCOCK rejoiced in the privilege of bearing testimony to the truth of the Gospel. He referred to a time when he was present, when the Prophet Joseph first saw President Brigham Young. At that time the Prophet Joseph said, pointing to Brother Brigham, "There is one of the greatest men on the earth, and one who would lead the world to heaven, if they would listen to him." He rejoiced in the teachings of the Prophets Joseph and Brigham. He concluded by invoking the blessings of the Almighty upon the priesthood and people.

Elder JOHN L. SMITH desired to be used where the Lord, through his servants, desired. This had been his feeling and course, since he was first baptized. He felt like upholding the priesthood of the Almighty, and exhorted the people to do so.

Bishop HENRY LUNT expressed his pleasure at meeting on the