

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### THE CONFERENCE.

The General Conference of the Church opened this morning (April 5th) in the Tabernacle in this city. There are, as is commonly the case, in attendance at this Conference, representative men from every department of the Church. At the present time this representation covers a large field, reaching throughout the settlements of the Saints in Arizona, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, New Mexico and Utah, and also into Canada and Old Mexico, where the Mormons have located and enjoy peace and prosperity. Glancing over the history of the Saints for the past half century, to the occasion when they were compelled to abandon their last place of gathering previous to taking up their abode in the vales of Utah, the record presents a marvelous array of events which elicit gratitude to the Almighty and stand as ineffaceable monuments of the protecting care and guidance which has been given to the Latter-day Saints by that kind Providence in which they reposed their trust by accepting the principles of His Gospel restored to earth in this dispensation.

This assemblage of representative men and women of Zion is an event of vast significance to the people who dwell in these mountain vales. It means that in the Conference in which they engage they will receive counsel, instruction and admonition from the servants of God who have been called as leaders in His Church on earth, and that those counsels, instructions and admonitions will be attended by the power and testimony of the Holy Spirit which guides into all truth, that those who receive them will be so impressed thereby that in their conduct and their teachings, so far as they are worthy members of the Church, they will convey the same lessons to their homes and there disseminate them in purity and accuracy among the people. Thus shall the glad tidings heralded forth at the Conference be carried to the remotest habitation occupied by a member of the Church.

That the information thus disseminated is not of an illusory or vain character is amply witnessed in the history of the Mormon people. It is their religious instruction which has made them what they are today; without it they would not have been the organized community which now occupies such a broad area in the West; without it, the industry, the thrift, the faith and the success which have marked their existence here would have been far beyond their reach; without it, a people might have settled and lived in these mountains, but the force and development which have characterized Mormon settlement would have been unknown because the means of its concentration and application would have been absent. With it, the extraordinary results have been made an absolute certainty. The religion of the Mormons is practical in teaching the motive for every action and implanting therein fidelity to truth and honesty of

purpose. This is the class of instruction given at the conference, and which reaches to the heart and home of every faithful member of the Church.

The present Conference is an auspicious time for the Church. The Gospel is being carried to most of the nations, and the way is opening for still further advance. The principles of truth are being taught to tens of thousands of the rising generation at homes and these are gaining a knowledge of the Gospel's divinity and power, and thus are being prepared to engage in proclaiming the glad message committed to earth from the heavens, for the salvation of mankind, the ushering in of the Millennial reign, and the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness. That the hour is auspicious for the Saints does not argue that they may fold their hands and sit down to idleness. On the contrary, intelligent, determined, vigilant, unwavering, sublime faith is an absolute necessity for the present and the future, as it has been for the past. Truth is to be established, Zion to be redeemed—to be redeemed by power. For this, work, ceaseless, tireless work, is required by the Almighty of His people, that by His omnipotent power they may accomplish His purposes. The occasion of the present General Conference is full of promise for the Church, for the increasing opportunities it offers for the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad, and for its requirements of closer harmony with true principle on the part of the Saints. May the inspiration of the Almighty be with all Israel, that they may comprehend His will and conform thereto, that the Sixty-fifth annual Conference may be another milestone to mark the onward progress of the Saints in union, love and truth!

### THEY HAVE FAULTS, TOO.

There is lots of mean work by politicians in this country; lots of corruption in official quarters, and a great deal of looting of public treasuries. In very many instances those who have secured the electoral support of the people have regarded public office as a private snap. We have had some of this latter class in Utah of late years, and have got some now. Other states are likewise afflicted, some of them even worse than we are. To rid themselves of this and other evils, the voters change from one party to another, in the hope of securing purer government, and in many respects are successful; then when the new broom which has swept clean gets to the condition in which its predecessor was, there is another reform wave and change. But the fact that there are reform waves does not justify the charge of universal corruption that is so frequently made; the fact that many politicians are rascals is not proof that all men in political life are corrupt. The occasional exposures of corruption that are made establish this, and recognizing this truth, Michael Davitt, who, as an Irish political leader, has

said and done many things which the English have not been pleased at, taken up the present English fad of charging all manner of crimes to Americans and the American system of government, and in a letter to the London *Chronicle* gives self-righteous British politicians a sharp rap over the knuckles. Regarding the recent wholesale criticisms of Americans by Englishmen who have paid a brief visit to this country, Mr. Davitt says:

Is it not just possible that some injustice is done to both public men and institutions in the United States by a too sweeping condemnation of almost everything transatlantic that is not so perfect or progressive as everything British? W. Benn, M. P., is reported as saying that "all politicians (in the states) shared in corruption." Surely this is either a senseless statement or an excess of ordinary English pharisaism. The American ambassador in London is a politician. So is President Cleveland, General Harrison, Levi Morton and scores of other prominent public men of the great Republic. Are all these to be dubbed as "corrupt" because, in a comparatively few instances, some politicians of the baser kind have traded upon their representative positions? To imagine for a moment that 60,000,000 of people—better educated than any other nation in the world—are openly tolerating universal corruption in all Federal, state and municipal government is simply assuming that these 60,000,000 are either criminals or fools.

With trenchant pen Mr. Davitt goes on to point out that the wholesale charges of corruption appear to him to be "superlative absurdity, seasoned with that amount of ignorance and conceit which makes your English critic impervious to ridicule when he rides the high horse of British superiority." Taking up the matter of the pursuit of the "almighty dollar," to which the English critics attribute the greater amount of the corruption which they describe, Mr. Davitt suggests that possibly that may not be strictly a Yankee fault, and ironically suggests that "there is nothing low or mercenary, mean or grasping, in the pursuit of £. s. d. in England; neither in the sweating dens of the East-end of London nor in connection with the chain-making of Cradley Heath." Thereupon he says:

Might we not send out a special mission to America from the employers of these and other places in Great Britain, with, say, the most noble the Marquis of Clanricarde thrown in as a moral make-weight, just to teach "England's sons and daughters" how to make money in accordance with the principles of the Property Defense League? Such a mission would find some things connected with the affairs of the great Republic which would excite additional English pity and sermonizing. It would be found that American workmen do not allow their sisters, daughters or wives to act as barmaids in saloons or in similar places. The reactionary opinion of the states is dead against this (English) system of pursuing the almighty dollar by methods which too often make the comely drink-seller's wage-earning the prelude to a life of misery and shame. It would be found too that these universally corrupt municipal, state and Federal institutions favor the employment of women in almost all branches of such public services, while, in every other respect the women of America enjoy a protection through the unwritten law of native courtesy and the actual law of the land, which an enlightened wife-beating England might