

parents enrolled. Spoke of the first Sunday school that he attended in the Stake, the attendance being nine, while now we number 1,257. The speaker encouraged all to faithfulness and good works towards God, the necessity of prayer and of setting our lives in order.

First Assistant Superintendent J. P. Rudy spoke of the instructions given at the Brigham Young academy, the authority of the Stake superintendency and the need of systematic work in our Sabbath schools.

Elder Goddard praised the boys and girls for their good attention, urging in all vocations of life that communion with God is necessary. Told many interesting stories of the work done in his life, thereby teaching the necessity of honesty. Gave some instructions to secretaries regarding their duties and the taking and recording of the minutes. Stated that "nickel day" had been changed from the first Sunday in September to the last Sunday in October; twenty per cent of the amount received on nickel day should be retained for the use of the Stake superintendency. Closed by singing, "O, My Father!" assisted by our excellent basso, David Manwearling, and the organ.

Dr. Maeser followed in the same strain, speaking also of our records in heaven, being in our own souls. So forcibly did he speak that tears came to the eyes of many, and a death silence prevailed; even to the babes in their mother's arms.

Singing, We are Bowling. Benediction by Bishop James Shaffer.

An officers' and teachers' meeting was then held. Brother Goddard asked for questions. Several were asked and answered. He also called for those who obeyed the Word of Wisdom and found that nearly all did.

Dr. Maeser spoke on the absolute necessity of monthly teachers' meetings; also the order of asking questions.

Brother Goddard then gave instructions to secretaries in regard to the time that reports should be in.

2 p. m.—Conference continued by the Vernal choir singing, Come ye children of the Lord. Prayer by Elder R. L. Woodward. Singing, Let us oft speak kind words, etc.

While the Sacrament was preparing the Stake secretary presented the names of the general and Stake officers, which were unanimously sustained.

Sacrament was administered by Elders Warren Johnson and Don B. Colton. The choir sang, "Jesus once of Humble Birth."

Elder R. S. Collet, of the Stake presidency, spoke of the army engaged in Sabbath school work, and gave many examples of training a child in the way it should go.

Elder S. R. Bennion, president of the Stake, spoke at some length on sustaining of authorities and parents visiting the Sabbath school.

Elder Goddard spoke of the blessings we enjoy as a people, and of our following the maxim: "Duty before pleasure." Spoke also of punctuality, the curse of saloons, and of the prayer and the necessity thereof. Closed by singing, "Who's on the Lord's side? Who?"

Dr. Maeser took for his text, "Feed my Lambs," showing how to teach

and search the Scriptures—not to merely read them.

Singing, "Joseph Smith's First Prayer." Benediction by Elder Geo. Merkle.

8 p. m.—Meeting called to order by Elder R. S. Collet. Singing by a mixed Sabbath school choir. Prayer by Elder George Billings. Singing, "Far, far away."

Elder R. Collet spoke of the Church school; its past labor and indebtedness.

Dr. Maeser spoke in the interest of the Church school work. He repeated the instructions given him by President Brigham Young before organizing the B. Y. academy. Likened the B. Y. academy to a large banyan tree. Told the people to sustain their own Church and not depend upon the general board for means. "Make it self-sustaining by your patronage."

Elder Goddard spoke words of encouragement, and prophesied that the Uintan Stake academy would never close for want of means. Closed by singing, Hard times come again no more.

The following resolution was then adopted: "Resolved, That we extend a vote of thanks to the singers, the deacons, the classes, those who prepared the bowery, and all others helping to make this conference a success, not forgetting our visiting brethren, asking them to come again, and God bless them!"

Singing, "Sing we now at parting." Benediction pronounced by Elder Jos. Black.

Brothers Goddard and Maeser left Monday morning on their return home.

R. L. WOODWARD,  
Stake Secretary.

### TELLS OF THE MORMONS.

ONA, Coltell Co., W. Va.,  
August 8th, 1895.

As the old saying is, "It is never too late to do good, and we are never too old to learn," I feel that I would be doing an injustice to my feelings if I did not give expression to them through your paper, which I have had the pleasure of reading during the past year.

I had always heard of Utah and the Mormons being such an outrageous, degraded people, that I was led to believe that they were something different from a white man. It was one evening in August, 1894, that two well dressed men came to my house and applied for entertainment, stating they were ministers of the Gospel. I took them in, and from that time on the shades of darkness under which I had been hovering began to be dispelled. The two gentlemen proved to be Mormon Elders, and I must confess they were far superior to any person I ever expected to see from Utah.

Since then I have had the opportunity of entertaining ten different Elders at various times, and enjoyed very much listening to them explain the principles of the Gospel. I find their views to be in perfect harmony with the Scriptures, which is more than I could ever say of the man-made systems of religion in this country. Even their songs seem to carry such a spirit with them as to preach a sermon themselves.

One very marked characteristic I notice in these gentlemen, is that they

all seem to be honest, straightforward, humble, God-fearing men. Surely they must be devout Christians, or they could not put up with the scoffs, humiliations and slurs that they receive from the people all over this country.

I have never been a member of any church for the simple reason I could not conceive of a just God without body, parts and passions; neither could I believe in their way of interpreting the Scriptures.

In conclusion I will say that I am, in deep sympathy with the Mormons, and always please to see them coming around, and shall always defend them to the best of my ability.

Yours respectfully,

J. D. EDWARDS.

### MEXICAN CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Mexican mission was held in Colonia Juarez July 13 and 14, 1895, Elder Geo. Teasdale presiding.

Elder Teasdale in addressing the conference said that he was very pleased to see so many in attendance, especially when he considered that this was the rainy season, and the Saints in traveling were exposed to the violent rain storms that sweep across the country at this time of the year.

Bishop Wm. D. Johnson in reporting the Diaz ward said that the spiritual feelings of the Saints were good, except among some of the young men who were in the habit of using bad language. Their crops on an average were very good.

Counselor T. G. Williams, of Dublin, reported the associations of that ward as being in a good condition and doing an excellent work, especially the Relief Society, which had built a granary, and had money with which to purchase grain. Their crops were better than usual, because their water supply was more abundant.

Bishop George W. Sevey said that in a general sense the spiritual condition of the people was good; still there were some difficulties existing, which, with the help of the Lord, they would eradicate.

Bishop J. N. Smith, in reporting the Pacheco ward, said there were some difficulties existing among the Saints of that ward, but most of the Saints were striving to live their religion. Their crops were looking well.

The Bishop of Oaxaca, being unable to attend conference, wished President George Teasdale to report that ward. He said the Saints were well both spiritually and temporally.

The brethren who addressed the conference were as follows: Elders George Teasdale, Henry Eyring, Heleman Pratt, A. F. McDonald, Miles A. Romney, Henry Lunt, W. W. Galbraith, W. R. R. Stowells, Joseph S. Bentley and J. J. Walser.

The principal subjects treated upon were marriage, charity, faith and works, humility, abusing dumb animals, and reproving the Saints for their misdemeanors.

The general authorities of the Church, and authorities of the Mission were unanimously sustained by the conference. The conference was well attended, considering the bad season of the year, and a good spirit prevailed.