

will again define the Catholic position on transubstantiation and other doctrines relating to the Sacrament, peculiar to that church.

There is one marked feature of the Catholic church, however, which may be more clearly brought out by the speakers at this congress—the pliability of the practices as well as doctrines of that church within certain well understood limits. Thus, by one of the canons of the council of Trent, members of the church are allowed to believe in the sacramental doctrine of the Anglican church without the penalty of excommunication. In the same way there are churches, in Bulgaria for instance, in which the laity are allowed to partake of the chalice. Matters of this kind may be brought out to prove that the Roman church more than other religious denominations in the world understands the importance of embodying the principle: Unity in essentials, and liberty in non-essentials.

CONFERENCES OF THE SAINTS.

The practice of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to gather regularly in Conference is one founded on a divine command. The authority for it, as for other institutions of the Church, is revelation. Immediately after the organization of the Church, the members were by the Lord instructed as to their duty in this matter:

The several Elders, comprising the Church of Christ are to meet in conference once in three months, or from time to time as said conferences shall direct or appoint; and said conferences are to do whatever Church business is necessary to be done at the time. Doc. and Cov., Sec. xx. 61, 62.

To meet in Conference with the Saints is, therefore, to keep a commandment of the Almighty, as important as other commandments given for the benefit of the Saints.

It is not difficult to perceive why the Lord has directed the Saints to come together as often as possible. Character is to a large extent formed in our association with our fellow-men. And in no other way in this earthly region can those sentiments, those feelings and modes of thinking be developed, which should be characteristic of sanctified men and women, and which should influence our dealings in everything with everybody. The children of God need to lay aside, once in a while, all their temporal cares, and in the undisturbed communion with one another in sacred precincts gather new strength to battle with life's troubles and to meet them, as behooves their high and holy calling. In gatherings of this kind faith is strengthened, enthusiasm is kindled anew, and covenants are renewed. For the special promise of the presence of the Spirit of the Lord is given to those who gather in the name of the Lord.

One of the more remarkable manifestations of the outpouring of that Spirit is that recorded as one of the features of the first conference held in the Church. This was on June 1, 1830, when the Saints already had commenced to experience much persecution on account of the appearance in print of the Book of Mormon. The young Church needed some special sign of the divine

protection promised, just as the followers of the Crucified one at the day of Pentecost needed a powerful testimony from on high. About thirty members were gathered at this conference. The exercises were opened with singing and prayer, after which the Sacrament was administered and several who had recently been baptized were confirmed, while others were ordained to the various offices of the holy Priesthood. Many instructions were then given, and, according to the Prophet Joseph himself, quoted in the Historical Record, the Holy Ghost was poured out in a miraculous manner. Many of those present prophesied; others had the heavens opened to their view and, like Daniel in the presence of a heavenly messenger, were overcome. Among those who had such wonderful experiences at that time was Newel Knight. By his own account, he felt his heart filled with love and pleasure unspeakable, and could discern all that was going on in the room, when, all of a sudden, a vision of the future burst upon him. He saw represented the great work which through the instrumentality of the Prophet was to be accomplished. He saw the heavens opened—and the Lord seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high, and had it made plain to his understanding that the time would come when he would be admitted into His presence. When the bodily strength was restored to these brethren, they shouted, "Hosanna to God and the Lamb!" and told the glorious things they had seen and felt while in the spirit.

In this way, the Lord miraculously attested His approval of the obedience of the Saints to the commandment concerning the conferences of the Church, and while the visible manifestations of the presence of the Holy Ghost may not always be the same, in reality He is present today as in the first days of the Church, and His influence will be felt by all who are prepared to receive it; the result will be a life of righteousness, peace and joy.

NOT VERY PUGNACIOUS AFTER ALL.

Of the determination and backbone that ought to characterize every man called to a position so exalted as that of executive of a state, Governor Culbertson, of Texas, has just furnished a glowing example. His opposition to the proposed encounter between the two most famous living prize-ring pugs has been unflinching from the start; and he has neither withheld nor retracted the threat that all the power he possessed should be employed to prevent the disgrace which was contemplated in having the fight take place within the borders of his state. When a court decision appeared to give warrant to the plans and program of the law-breakers, he took the only course left; and, unparalleled as was the action, he called the legislature together in special session to remedy, as far as could be, all defects in the law forbidding prize fights. The work was promptly performed, the legislators being given no opportunity to escape a complete knowledge of the state of public feeling on the subject; and if the advertised fight should now come off, it

will be because both the legislature and the governor have been outwitted in their sincere efforts to prevent it.

The amusing feature of the case is that the more doubtful the prospect of a fight becomes, the braver the fighters talk. From their latest utterances it would seem that they will be quite heartbroken unless permitted to get at each other; they are just simply spoiling for a set-to, and nothing but the other's gore will satisfy either. All this is so ridiculous as to deceive none but the simplest; the truth probably being that the two persons most thoroughly satisfied and pleased with the action of the Texas authorities are the respective sluggers themselves. If they had really been half as sanguinary as they and their managers would have us believe, they could long since have adopted the quick old Texas way of settling disputes; and without any advertising or any special convocation of the legislature, one or both of the noisy braggarts would have measured his well-ventilated carcass upon some quiet spot on the staked plains.

THE EISTEDDFFOD.

While there still remains at this writing one more session—and that the crowning one—of the Eisteddfod which our Welsh friends and the whole community have been celebrating during three days—the competitions are now over, the work of the adjudicators is done, the prizes have been awarded as decided, and nothing remains but the grand finale in which winners of previous contests are the performers—and that takes place this evening in the Tabernacle. It is not too early, therefore, to allude briefly to some of the striking features of the festival, and the pleasant recollections that will be retained concerning it.

Artistically it has been a magnificent success—so declared by every judge of music, elocution and literature who from far or near has expressed himself at all; financially we trust it has equalled the expectations of its promoters, for they assumed a tremendous monetary risk in prizes and countless incidental expenses, and their energy and confidence deserve a reward better than actual loss. In a social way the event has achieved perhaps its most distinctive success; there has been a cordiality and friendship, even where the competition has been keenest, that is as admirable as it is rare. The visitors are loud in praise of the hospitable treatment received, and those who have given them welcome have again proved to their own satisfaction that in the entertainment of true ladies and gentlemen it is more blessed to give than to receive. A third and gratifying feature is the fairness and judgment shown by the adjudicators and the hearty acquiescence all found in the decisions given. Of especial and splendid prominence is the work of the adjudicators in music. It has been a genuine treat to listen to the criticisms of these gentlemen, whose eminence in the "divine art" would entitle them to a hearing everywhere, and whose absolute fearlessness and impartiality have impressed every auditor. We take