

RICHFIELD,
Sevier County, U. T.,
March 23rd, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

A pleasant little affair, and not so very little either, transpired in this place on Friday evening, the 18th inst. A surprise party was given our esteemed President, Franklin Spencer, who has just returned home from a mission to the Southern States, by a few of his many friends.

The Social Hall was prepared, tastefully and appropriately decorated for the occasion, and at one end of the hall the inscription, "Welcome to our President" was displayed.

The company met at the hall and placed a row of tables the entire length of the room, upon which the ladies spread the picnic.

A committee was dispatched to entice the President to the Hall, and upon his entrance with the committee the company all arose to their feet and Prof. Tutton greeted the President with a cornet solo, "Home sweet Home." Prayer was then offered, after which Elder Theo. Brandley delivered a neat address of welcome, which was heartily responded to by our President. Then the entire company numbering something over one hundred persons were seated at the tables and partook of the excellent picnic. After that the tables were removed and the evening was pleasantly spent in dancing, interspersed with recitations, instrumental music, select readings, songs, etc., until about 12 o'clock when the company dispersed. An excellent spirit prevailed, and the party was one long to be remembered by the Saints who participated therein. VICTOR.

DRESDEN, Weakley County,
Tenn., March 22d, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

Since my last letter to Bro. John Morgan, which appeared in your valuable paper, my companion, Bro. James W. Eardley, and myself made a circuit through the eastern portion of this county and through the principal portion of Henry County on the east down to the county of Carroll, making something over 100 miles in the most inclement season of the year and storming incessantly.

During this journey, we made something over 25 applications for school-houses, academies and churches, for the purpose of holding services to disseminate "the gospel truths," which resulted in a total failure on our part to secure an opening, for the commissioners and trustees and parsons interviewed on this trip made some excuse or other, and referring us to persons entirely out of reach. Among the number, a few were in favor of hearing us until we told them we were from Utah representing the so-called "Mormon" faith, and this was a finale to all further arguments.

We arrived at Huntington, Carroll County, from where we had the good fortune to secure a private hall and held service to a good audience, who gave strict attention and took many of our tracts and made many inquiries concerning our people, which we answered. By request of President Franklin Spencer, my comrade, Brother Eardley, here left me for Perry County and I took the train for Blandville, Kentucky.

While in that State I became acquainted with several attorneys, gentlemen of considerable note, among others, a Judge W—, who spoke in strong terms against the action of Governor Murray, in issuing "certificate of election" to A. G. Campbell, greatly in the minority, condemning it as fatal and destructive to the constitution of our government and dangerous in the extreme as a precedent.

I was treated with courtesy and respect by the people, and held three meetings during my short stay, with an invitation to return and hold meetings at any time. Shortly after my return to Dresden, I was joined by D. R. Bateman, of West Jordan, sent by Brother Spencer to labor with me in this section. We have done considerable traveling and held some sixteen meetings, and I can say that we have not been left without a testimony of our Father's care and loving kindness, and friends have been raised up to us in time of need. In fact we have been greatly blessed with good health and kind friends, and notwithstanding a spirit of bitterness is met at times, and they have closed us out at a few of their houses, still there are many invitations ahead to visit certain localities and hold meetings. Very

favorable reports from Middle Tennessee. The "harvest is great, and laborers few," so Brother J. R. Murdock writes, and we feel that God's work is spreading in this portion of His vineyard. Praying for all interested in His cause,

We remain yours in the covenant,
R. C. CAMP,
D. R. BATEMAN.

COOKSVILLE, Grouse Creek,
Box Elder Co., March 28, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

We have had a very mild winter here, and the horned stock have done well, some of them good beef now. The majority of the Saints are satisfied with their new homes, realizing that whether we are in the north or in the south we are all engaged in the same work and we are not all wanted in one place. We could find room for three or four more families who would appreciate a good home of their own, after making it. There are two or three places for sale here, already improved, as Brother Benjamin F. Cooke has been called to settle in Arizona, which leaves one less to fill public offices, and several brethren went south last fall. Our Bishop, Chas. Kimber, is seeking after the interests of the Saints to the best of his ability. Nearly every child in the valley has been sick with a complicated disease. They first appear feverish and drowsy and then it affects the throat, making them very hoarse, and leaves them with a distressing cough for a few days. We have not been slack in administering to them, and so far they are all getting well. The gift of healing seems to be enjoyed by the Saints, especially in the new settlements, as we have realized in a powerful manner. Our farmers commenced plowing on March 20th, and we have plenty of water. We have a little host of healthy children growing up around us. Surely "Zion is growing."

Yours respectfully,

PHILIP PASKETT.

BEAVER, March 28, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

Our winter has passed away and spring is once more returning to gladden our hearts and clothe the hills with grass. Our farmers rejoice at this and are looking forward for a prosperous season. There is an abundance of snow in the mountains and if we do not suffer from tardy frost the chances are we will be blessed with a good harvest of both fruits and cereals.

For the past few weeks we have been enjoying something of an amusing nature in the shape of public entertainments. The programme was opened with a concert given by the Institute School under the direction of Brother A. B. Thompson. The following evening the Second Ward Sunday School presented "Our Boys," and a farce. Next came "Priestcraft in Danger," or Heber C. Kimball's First Mission. This piece was given by the Second Ward Sunday School and in about two weeks was repeated. Soon after the Primary Association gave their first concert, a very creditable entertainment. Next on the boards were the Hamill-Dwyer readings, which were pronounced by all to be the most artistically finished and refined entertainment it has been our good fortune to enjoy. Since the readings the Primary have repeated their concert, and the 2d Ward S. S. performed "Miralda" and repeated "Our Boys." While these performances were going on "Damon and Pythias" wended its way before the footlights. Dancing has been considerably at a discount while these performances have been going on. So much for amusements.

Yesterday Apostles F. M. Lyman and John H. Smith, were with us in our afternoon meeting and gave us some excellent counsel, exhorting the Saints to more diligently live their religion. Brother Lyman's remarks were considerably addressed to the young, advising them to live near to the Lord and seek to characterize their lives with deeds of patience, integrity, truth and love.

In the evening Apostle Erastus Snow, who arrived from Parowan soon after the afternoon meeting, spoke to the people in his accustomed and fatherly manner. His instructions were of such a nature as to stir us up to more strictly observe the law of God, to perform our every day duties and endeavor to build up the kingdom of our God.

To-day the Primary Association, with the parents of the children,

were called together by Sisters E. R. Snow Smith and Zina D. Young, the object of the meeting being to organize a Primary Society for each ward, heretofore there being but one. Sister Snow attended to the business of organizing, and did it in such a pleasing and instructive manner, that the little ones were attentive and interested from the first. Her advice and exhortations must have found an abiding place in their little hearts, if attention and quietness are to be a guide by which to judge. During the meeting Sister Snow showed the children a watch that the Prophet Joseph carried for many years. In the afternoon the Relief Society met, but as your correspondent was absent, cannot inform you of the nature of the proceedings.

Altogether we have had an enjoyable time, yesterday and to-day, and the spirit of the Lord blessed us, and the Saints must certainly be inspired with renewed determinations to live more faithfully their religion, and seek to build up the kingdom of the last dispensation.

LA HARPE.

PAROWAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly Conference of the Parowan Stake was held on the 26th and 27th ult.

There were on the stand: Apostles Wilford Woodruff, Erastus Snow, Brigham Young, F. M. Lyman and John Henry Smith; also Jacob Gates, of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies; President J. D. T. McAllister, of St. George, and President George Teasdale, of Nephi, and Bro. Whitehead; also Jas. G. Bleak, of St. George.

They all addressed the conference in a very interesting manner. The meeting-house was crowded to excess at every meeting, and many could not gain admittance. During Conference four additional members were added by baptism. It was a time never to be forgotten.

Wm. H. Dame, President of this Stake, having resigned, Bro. Thos. I. Jones, of Washington, was appointed to succeed Wm. H. Dame, and Edward Dalton to be his first counselor. Both were set apart by Apostles Wilford Woodruff and Brigham Young, and sustained by unanimous vote of the Conference.

On Sunday, at 5 p.m., the Primary Association met and were addressed by Sisters Eliza R. Snow Smith and Zina D. Young.

The sisters, while here, organized a silk association, a young Ladies' M. I. Association and a Primary Association for the Stake.

The Parowan choir made the Conference very interesting with their music and singing, conducted by Thomas Durham, their leader, which was well executed.

Bro. Jacob Gates, on Sunday afternoon, effected a stake organization of the Seventies.

WM. MARSDEN,
Clerk of the Stake.

ONLY TWO CHURCHES.

MILL CREEK, March 11, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

I quote from the Book of Mormon the prophecies of the great Prophet Nephi, the son of Lehi, who led a colony from Jerusalem to America, the promised land to the seed of Joseph, some 600 years before the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh:

"And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying look, and I looked, and behold many nations and kingdoms; and the angel said unto me, what beholdest thou, and I said I beheld many nations and kingdoms, and he bethold unto me, these are the nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles."

"And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the foundation of a great church. And the angel said unto me, behold the foundation of a church which is most abominable above all other churches, which slayeth the Saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bindeth them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity."

"And it came to pass that I beheld this great and abominable church; and I also saw the devil, that he was the foundation of it; and I also saw gold and silver and silks and scarlets and fine twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots." (The churches extant upon the earth)

"For behold they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious." (From the holy scriptures). And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away. And all this have they done that they might prevent the right way of the Lord. "Thou seest because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God." Because of these things which are taken out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceeding great many do stumble, yea,

insomuch that Satan has great power over them. "I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them in my own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb."

"Behold these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb, and in them shall be written my gospel saith the Lamb, and my rock, and my salvation." "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost."

"And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, Nephi, saying, thou hast beheld that if the Gentiles repent it shall be well with them." "And behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose foundation is the devil." "And he said unto me, Behold there are save two churches only." "One is the church of the Lamb of God," "And the other is the church of the devil."

"Therefore whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God, belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations, and she is the whore of all the earth."

"And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters, and she had dominion over all the earth. Among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, and it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters, nevertheless I beheld the church of the Lamb, who were the Saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth, and their dominions were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw."

Thus spake the Lord by the voice of the angel, and his prophets, to his people on the American continent, where he had led them for a wise purpose in him. They came direct from the great city Jerusalem, and they were a branch of the House of Israel, of the seed of Joseph.

We find that the things spoken of have had a literal fulfillment in most things. And we think it would be safe and wise if all the people on the earth would investigate these things, and also many other great sayings spoken by the holy prophets recorded in that sacred book, called the Book of Mormon.

The Latter-day Saints are laboring unceasingly for the salvation of all who will hear, and to convince those that believe not in the truth of this divine mission, and in the restoration of the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that God has restored these things, and also the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, and has given commandment unto his children, as in days of old, and as in former years. If the "Gentiles" could realize these things and their merit and intent, that are fraught with such momentous consequences and interest to them and their posterity, and to all peoples on the earth, they would certainly cease their wicked persecutions and their misrepresentations and abuses of the people of God, and would repent and turn from their evil ways.

It is emphatically declared in these revelations from God that there are only two churches, one of them is the Church of Christ and the other one is the church of the opposing power, and this embraces the old Mother of Harlots and all her posterity or offspring. Their churches are built up and organized in man's wisdom, through priestcraft, without any revelation or command from God, or any authority from him in the priesthood of Jesus Christ; and they are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men, without the light of revelation, and they cannot legally officiate in any of the ordinances of the holy gospel of Christ. It cannot be expected that God will acknowledge authority where he has never given or bestowed any.

They find much fault with the Latter-day Saints for claiming modern revelation, and they say the canon of Scripture is full and that there is not to be any more revelation after the days of the apostles. Now if this is so, how is it possible for a people to have authority from God that he has never spoken to?

They can only claim their authority through the old Mother of Harlots, and she had none to give only through a corrupt assumed priesthood. Society has grown worse and worse on their hands yearly, because God and his authority was not with them. They have, however, made war on the authority and government of God, and wicked and unjust persecutions of the true followers of Christ.

Now we think it is time for them to give heed to the words of "eternal life, and to that plan of salvation and redemption that was inaugurated before the world began. For be it known that it is the duty of all men and women to come to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where the authority of God is, exercising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in his great and glorious atonement, and then humble themselves like little children in great humility, and in full and sincere repentance, of all their sins and

folies, and be baptized for the remission of sins, that is to say, be buried in water and come up out of the water, in the likeness of Christ's burial and resurrection, by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, which this Church only holds, for it cannot be found outside of this Church in any place on the earth, and then let them be administered to by the same authority for the light and blessing of the Holy Spirit, and in their humility, obedience to the law of God, and the institutions of heaven, they are made partakers of the Spirit of Christ. They are baptized into Christ, and then are they Abraham's seed and heirs to the blessings and promises. It should be remembered that the Gentiles must be adopted into the everlasting covenant by the ordinances of the holy gospel, by the authority of God, and become the seed of Abraham by such adoption. The ministers of the different sects call upon the children of men to come to Christ. This is all well enough as far as it goes; but it is too short at both ends, for they fail to show them the right way to come, not knowing it themselves. Never having been baptized into Christ, they are prepared to set aside the true order and counsel of heaven and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, if there is any other or better way than the one we have marked out, or any nigher or better road for them to gain everlasting life, we have not found it, and we do not expect to.

We declare these things in much assurance and in boldness, and in faith of the unerring certainty of their truthfulness, and that they will stand the test in heaven and on the earth in the great day of accounts.

MILL CREEK.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the Probate Court of Davis County, Utah Territory.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JONATHAN H. HOLMES, DECEASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE undersigned Administratrix of the Estate of Jonathan H. Holmes, deceased, to the creditors of and to all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said Administratrix at her residence at Farmington, Davis County, Utah.

SARAH J. HOLMES,
Administratrix of the Estate of Jonathan H. Holmes, deceased.
Dated at Farmington, Davis County, March 21st, 1881. wt

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