

ONEIDA STAKE CONFERENCE.

OXFORD, Oneida Co., Idaho,
July 27, 1884.

Our first conference held in this Stake convened in our new meeting-house on Saturday, July 26th. Erastus Snow and Moses Thatcher present of the Apostles. The Presidency of the Stake W. D. Hendricks and Counselors, T. E. Ricks President of Bannock, and William Budge, of Bear Lake Stakes, and an almost entire representation of the Bishops of the various wards.

Opening exercises. Apostle M. Thatcher expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Saints at their first conference, and congratulated them upon the near completion of their meeting-house.

The morning was occupied in hearing reports from the Bishops of the various wards of the Stake, the representatives showing the Saints to be in good condition, although very much scattered. Fifteen wards were represented, showing a total of 818 families and 4,744 souls.

Elder O. C. Ormsby addressed the Saints referring more particularly to the greatness of the future in store for the children of the Saints, and instructing parents to teach their children correct principles, and guide them in the right path.

T. E. Ricks made a few remarks upon the scattered condition of the people, and hoped and expected to see the time when the hills and valleys of Oneida and Bannock Stakes would be much more thickly populated by the Latter-day Saints.

Apostle Moses Thatcher made a few closing remarks. He spoke of the hardships endured by the poor in some parts of Europe, and compared their condition with the condition of the Saints in these northern settlements, and showed that selfishness was detestable in the sight of God.

Singing. Benediction by Geo. E. Parkinson.

2:30 p.m.

A statistical report of the Stake was read, after which Prest. Wm. Budge of Bear Lake Stake addressed the congregation. He spoke of the influence which obedience to the Gospel has upon the minds and lives of men, showing also that the closer we live to the principles of truth, the more our love for them increases.

Elder James H. Hart made a few remarks.

Apostle Erastus Snow next addressed the Saints, tracing the history of the ancient inhabitants of this continent, and showing the promises of God to those who in any age of the world desire to possess this land. Also made allusion to the political situation of the Saints at the present time.

Singing. Benediction by Milo Andrus.

Sunday morning, 10:30 a.m.

Meeting opened with the usual exercises. President Hendricks made a few opening remarks, after which Apostle Moses Thatcher delivered a very instructive address, showing how co-operation correctly carried on, will improve the temporal condition of the people, prevent monopolies from injuring the poor, etc.

Elder Milo Andrus made a few closing remarks, after which the congregation sang the closing hymn and the benediction was pronounced by Apostle Erastus Snow.

2:30 p.m.

Meeting opened in the usual manner. The sacrament was administered, and the general authorities of the Church, of Oneida Stake and local authorities also were presented to the conference, and unanimously sustained.

Apostle Erastus Snow preached a discourse, his instructions being mainly directed to the newly ordained officers of the Stake, High Council, Bishops and others.

Conference was adjourned for three months.

Benediction by Elder Geo. Austin. Oneida Stake is bounded on the north by the Port Neuf river, east by the line of Bear Lake County, (except only at the town of Soda Springs, which is left belonging to Bear Lake Stake) south by the Territory line of Utah, and west by the mountain range west of Malad Valley.

EDWIN SMITH, Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OASIS—ITS OBSTACLES AND ADVANTAGES.

OASIS, Utah, July 27, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

Frequently hearing the question asked "Where is this place designated Oasis?" it would, perhaps, be of some interest to your many readers to learn something about it, especially geographically, for our embryo city, though not boasting of many thousand inhabitants, nevertheless covers no mean number of square acres, or rather miles I might consistently add, and if only the area would be considered to entitle us to a place on the scale, in proportion, undoubtedly, we would occupy a position near to Philadelphia or Boston.

Our boundary, though not precisely defined yet, may be said to include more or less the greater portion of that part of Zion lying between the third and fourth standard parallels

south and 112 and 113 longitude west, but of course, if this appears to be a "stretch" I can deduct a few miles from the sides. We are in the large and spacious county of Millard, on the line of the Utah Central Railway; our postoffice is Oasis, while our station bears the misnomer "Deseret," so also does our telegraph office. The indispensable store flourishes. We have also a hotel and restaurant, and since the grateful change of time on the U. C. opportunities of seeing and inspecting our situation and facilities are given passengers who may feel so inclined; for it is now a breakfast station, with a generous allowance of 25 minutes in which to enjoy both the comfort and luxury of a nice, warm breakfast (for to the traveler it seems indeed a luxury when he has plenty of time to comfortably swallow his meal) at the table of our genial caterer Brother Edward Webb.

Our prospects for becoming a large and wealthy settlement and eventually a city, are beyond a doubt excellent, and any one who closely examines the facilities of the place cannot fail to discern the same bright future, for firstly, we have plenty of land, miles and miles of it; secondly, there is an abundance of water, which needs only the labor combined with good management (common sense) to bring it upon the land. The only drawback is the distance to fuel and timber, the former is 15 to 20 miles away, and the latter 25 or 30 miles, yet even this disadvantage is slight, for coal can be obtained by the car-load at \$8 per ton, and may be lower next fall, while two or three together could easily purchase a car of coal, which with a load or two of wood, would last all winter. Then again, our winters are very mild, there are few days but what the south side of the house is actually hot. Our summers are long and dry, and if Dr. Koch's theory is correct then indeed we have no moribund soil, for the dreaded cholera microbe could not live or flourish in this arid spot, and not a healthier place exists in the land as all who visit us or reside here can prove.

The unusual high water has caused us a great deal of damage, labor and expense; for the third time has the angry Sevier overcome us and cut a new channel; but through the mercy and assistance of Him who has promised to be with his Saints in their labors to build up Zion, we know we shall finally succeed, and this fall when the river is low, en masse, we will secure all breaks and dangerous places, and tighten and strengthen the dam (Deseret dam), until we feel satisfied that the next Spring's freshet will have no effect, unless it be to triple our supply of water.

We cordially invite settlers. Come and see us before you go to Arizona, or Colorado, or New Mexico if you are intending to leave or change your residence: our bonanza is sure.

With the best of wishes for the NEWS which comes regularly to hand,

I remain sincerely,
J. H. H.

CHICAGO LETTER.

OUR CORRESPONDENT EXPOSES SOME CONSPICUOUS SHAMS.

OFFICE HOLDERS LAMENTING.

CHICAGO, July 28th 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

A dense gloom has settled on the features of the average office-holder, as he accords with a sigh the utter hopelessness of Mr. Blaine's chances for the Presidency. This office-holder sometimes tries to delude himself into the belief that Gen. Butler may yet assert himself. But even so, with Blaine, Cleveland, St John and Butler in the field the final settlement would be in the hands of the House, which even the office holder admits must continue Democratic, and the result would be Cleveland and Hendricks. Politicians now generally admit that with St. John in the field Blaine can hardly carry any state in the Union, not even his own. This would be a sad collapse for Knight errantry even though gaudy and resplendent with plumage. It was an evil day for plumed Knights when the race of Mulligan propagated in this country. Poor Mr. Blaine may well curse the obduracy of his friend Mulligan in withholding these awful letters. As a letter-writer Blaine will never go down to posterity with the fame of a Chesterfield. The letter of acceptance turns out to be the veriest kind of campaign bosh and entirely unworthy of his pen. His plea for the Republican party on the ground of the success of the country in wealth and manufactures is too simple for the children he used to teach 30 years ago, if they were children still. If he only looks around he will see that mostly every country in the world, savage and civilized alike, have improved as much as America has. This fact can hardly be attributed to the Republican party. How ludicrously Mr. Blaine puts it when he says the United States have progressed more since 1860 than they did during all their hitherto national existence. He might as well have said James G. Blaine has accumulated more wealth from 1860 to 1880, than all the race of Blaines and Gillespies did for 200 years before, all taken together. Wealth honorably and legitimately acquired, and judiciously and honestly expended is a good criterion for the prosperity of a family or a nation, but Mulliganized wealth reminds one of poor, honest, Oliver Goldsmith, who feelingly and practically and truthfully observes:

Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

In trying to explain away the

BOGUS MATTHEW ARNOLD DISPATCH

some time ago, the Chicago Tribune defined its "special correspondence" as news that might be taken from any source and not necessarily special to the Tribune. In this way it tried to saddle the responsibility of publication on its New York namesake, from which the dispatch was stolen, but not acknowledged. Anyhow, the publication of that letter or bogus letter in this city, brought anguish to many hearts and caused much pain and hard feeling even though it was only a few days till the mean falsehood was discovered. 'Tis true the people referred to in this letter were deserving of little sympathy, and to some at least it ought to be taken as a judgment on their own conduct; because at the time they were themselves dealing in falsehood, slander and the most indecent scurrility. One of the preachers mentioned as delivering himself of a "weekly modicum of diluted morality" in the shape of a sermon, published in a periodical conducted by him correspondence relative to Utah and her citizens, which was not only false, libelous and scurrilous, but so grossly exaggerated that it carried with it its own refutation. It stated that at a school in Utah under "Mormon influence" an advanced pupil asserted that John Taylor was President of the United States. This was mentioned to show as it were the drift of "Mormon teaching" and of course should be taken as ample proof that the Mormon people should be annihilated.

A similar kind of "special correspondence" appears in a late issue of the Chicago Tribune, purporting to come from Birmingham, Ala., but really manufactured in the office from an item concerning a

BAPTIST CHURCH SCANDAL

in that State. A Baptist preacher there named Sherman turned his congregation into a kind of free-love community, and got to be known as Shermanites. But the humor, if humor such imbecile maliciousness could be called, is that the Shermanite vagaries are sought to be saddled on the Mormons of Utah, whose missionaries were tolerated because, as the "special correspondent" sayeth, they worked on the semi-civilized and because of this and because the removal of such would benefit its remainder, the special further sayeth this fact alone prevented the hardy virtuous farmers from removing the polygamous missionaries. "The strange part of the story is that those hardy farmers, virtuous and moral too, who remained behind under Brother Sherman, and whose social condition the 'special' depicts as follows: 'If possible they are more immoral than Mormons, for the latter cohabit with their various wives under color of some sort of marriage ceremony, while these people indulge in the same licentious practices without the semblance of a marital vow.' It is difficult to conceive what is the drift of the writer in the manufacture of this stuff. It cannot be doubted that Shermanite prostitution exists in Alabama, in the same proportion perhaps as Kittridge prostitution in Chicago; but what is the object of trying to connect that with Utah; perhaps the same as trying to ascribe the other to Mayor Harrison and his administration.

If the "special" fiend only looked back a few days in his own paper to July 26th, he would find the Rev. R. W. Smith indulging in what is charged to the Rev. Mr. Sherman of Alabama. It is true the Rev. Mr. Smith is a Methodist, but it appears the

METHODIST IS AN UNREGENERATE

as the Baptist. The account of the case is rather lengthy for a quotation, and rather unsavory for decent people to read as news, but it conveys a moral and shows that either Mr. Smith is one of the greatest rascals unhung, or that his congregation is composed of a humanity so base that it is a disgrace to mankind in general. If Mr. Smith really insulted a widow lady on the grave of her dead husband, would it be surprising to hear of the yawning earth swallowing him? And if his congregation trumped these charges because of conscientious opposition to Blaine, what are we to think of Methodism? In either case humanity and human nature is disgraced by the influence of such a religion—if anything producing so abominable a state of things can be called religion. But why do we have an ecclesiastical court to try this case. We have no State church in Illinois, and if conduct of this kind is not reprehensible enough to come under statute criminal law, then heaven save us from anything that could be worse. As the full extent of this case may in a measure illustrate the animus of the Alabama dispatch, we will venture to quote it in full. It will be seen Mr. Smith was childless with an invalid wife on his hands. Perhaps the Rev. Joseph Cook would favor the world with an opinion on Mr. Smith's case. Studying on the Blaine feeling, perhaps the Alabama dispatch means a little capital for some costive-brained politician against Mormonism, the solid South and many other campaign necessities. At the risk of being considered not tasteful in the selection of literature and with an apology to the readers of the News for the grossness of the case, we will venture to quote the whole matter. It reads as follows:

A CHURCH SCANDAL.

STERLING, Ill., July 25.—[Special.]—The

Methodists are a strong and powerful organization here. There are two churches in Sterling and one in Rock Falls in sight of each other. The parent church is located in Sterling, and is known as "the Broad; way." Nearly two years ago the Rev. R. M. Smith was sent from Fulton, in this county, to fill the Broadway pulpit. He is a married man, with an invalid wife and no children. He is about 50 years of age, dresses well, wears Burnside whiskers, and is very energetic in all he undertakes. Nearly one year ago it began to be whispered about that he was intimate with some females of his congregation. At last two or three sisters of the church charged the Rev. R. M. Smith with the crime of adultery, and demanded that he vacate the pulpit. The charges were formally made and presented to the presiding Elder, Mr. Spencer. A church court was convened, consisting of the following clergymen: The Rev. William A. Smith, D. D., of Sycamore, the Rev. G. W. Carr of Light House, the Rev. J. B. Shadford of Kingston, the Rev. O. E. Mattison of Dixon, the Rev. S. Hughes of Erie, the Rev. J. T. S. Stiff, of Albany, and the Rev. A. B. Matter, of Prophetstown. The presiding Elder, W. A. Spencer, was Chairman, and the Rev. N. S. Cantine of Sterling acted as Secretary. A stenographer was employed, and an order passed to sit with closed doors. The whole population of Sterling and Rock Falls fairly shook with excitement, and little else has been thought or talked of. The Rev. R. M. Smith has been served with a copy of the charges. He entered a general denial, and declared it was an attempt to blackmail him. The charges were adultery and attempted adultery. The first witness was a Mrs. Vaughan. She is a widow woman, of fine form, elegant appearance, good address, and a devout and energetic member of the church. She testified that in the summer of 1883 the Rev. R. M. Smith began making love to her and promised to marry her as soon as his invalid wife should die. She says she listened and was pleased, but when he made improper suggestions she objected. He then, she charges, brought out the Bible, and at last convinced her that there were times when it was right to suspend the seventh commandment, and in October, 1883, she consented to his proposals. She testified that they had been intimate with each other more or less ever since. Until this scandal came out Mrs. Vaughan had borne a good reputation, and the great wonder is how she fell, and that after she had fallen how it was that she seemed anxious, like Elizabeth Tilton, to tell all she knew.

The other witness was a widow named Libby. Her husband was a clergyman, and since his death she has taken to preaching. She testified that the Rev. R. M. Smith made certain proposals to her which she resented with threats of exposure. At last, she says, he attempted to accomplish his purpose by force, and she then decided to go for his scalp, no matter what the result might be. In the meantime, it is said that he pursued persistently an unmarried woman until some of the neighbors threatened him with violence if he did not keep away. Several quite young girls are also said to have been approached by him.

It is stated that at one time he invited Mrs. Libby to visit her husband's grave, which she consented to do. On their arrival he knelt down, prayed over the last resting place of her dead husband, and then made a proposal which she resented by slapping his mouth and taking an angry leave. To the testimony of these women Mr. Smith entered a general denial and on the stand stated that it was an attempt to blackmail him. When the arguments for the prosecution and defense were over the council were but a few moments in unanimously finding Mr. Smith guilty of both charges as made and the sentence was that he be suspended from the ministry until the meeting of the general conference.

Smith says he will fight to the bitter end. Only a few weeks ago he declared in one of his sermons that no honest man could vote for Blaine and if they did it would show they had no conscience. The people here think he is a poor judge of what constitutes conscience.

This is a sad narrative, and one worthy of further thought. The papers of the eastern cities if searched during the last six months will reveal just about 200 cases of clergymen in

SIMILAR SCRAPES.

The number of church members and subordinate church officers, accounts of whom are also published, will number about double this preacher business. Now taking the law of criminal statistics which proves that only about one case in ten is detected or published, this would leave among church societies for six months 6,000 preachers and members in wrong doing of a sexual character alone. With the women concerned and the families of the peccant persons, the whole affair would involve a population of 24,000, allowing four persons at least concerned in every scandal. Mr. Leonard and Mr. Stanwood might well employ a useful hour in the investigation of this matter. And Mr. Blaine might study on this way of preserving family purity and sacredness.

The campaign has brought to the front a new development of the

BLOODY SHIRT TYPE,

but in no way connected with the South. It was being found out the average political parson was a dead weight in the election, having no congenial field for him to exercise his oratorical powers on. The bloody shirt of the South is as dead as Dickens' doornail. The Mormon question has miscarried as an issue. But then why not go further and employ a few private detectives who will manufacture a fine field for the sensational preacher. The fact is they found a woman who has had a child by Governor Cleveland. Why, of course, and if there is money enough put forward they can find half-a-dozen women who will swear that Grover Cleveland drugged, seduced, and then attempted to hang them. Yes, even the children could be found if it is necessary. But the ball has been started now, and it is very easy for a few preachers and church papers to keep it rolling. All that is wanted is to get some too anxious friend of Gov. Cleveland's to be so foolish as to come forward with a denial or possibly an explanation. Then, hurrah, we have Grover. This kind of tactics will also die provided Mr. Cleveland's friends let it take its course unob-

served and unnoticed. The public will not accept charges of this kind against a private citizen or public official without good evidence, unless the private citizen happens to be a preacher or a church member, or a Washington official—a taxgatherer or something of that kind. And then the public will accept any charges of immorality against them; because political preachers and Republican taxgatherers are regarded so low in the scale of humanity that good mothers frighten their babes with spectres of this kind.

JUNIUS.

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., 4.—The city is thronged, public and private buildings are decorated, and, "Welcome to Our Arctic Heroes" is placarded on bunting everywhere. The harbor is filled with craft laden with people. At 11.20 a. m., amid considerable enthusiasm, Commander Schley, Lieutenant Emory and Commander Coffin disembarked; following them were the other officers of the Greely expedition, and the sailors of the *Thetis*, *Bear* and *Alert*. They were enthusiastically greeted as they landed, the crowd pressed forward to shake their hands, and a roar of welcome went up when at 11 o'clock Greely was discovered with his comrades coming towards the landing in the Admiral's barge. Greely was clothed in white, and with a slouched hat and wearing spectacles. As he and his companions alighted all crowded to welcome him. Greely leaned upon Lieutenant Powell, and languidly lifted his hat. His every movement indicated weakness. His comrades received much attention. All were placed in a coach and immediately driven to Rockingham House, it having been decided they should not appear in the procession. At the hotel crowds gathered to catch a glimpse of them. Lieutenant Greely said to an Associated Press reporter that he felt very well this morning, and he looked it. He expressed himself much moved by the cordiality of reception. Mrs. Greely joined her husband at the hotel.

At 12.20 the procession began to march. The streets were packed and applause greeted the sailors of the relief squadron, and the ovation continued to the end of the route. Commander Schley, Lieutenant Emory and Commander Coffin were received with tremendous applause. As the head of the procession neared the Rockingham House, where Lieutenant Greely and the survivors were waiting to review the procession the pressure of the crowd became so great that the column was delayed several minutes. Lieut. Greely and comrades were seated upon the balcony, and cheer after cheer greeted them. As the crews of the *Thetis*, *Bear* and *Alert* passed Greely bowed very low, and seemed to look his gratitude to the men who so recently rescued him from an Arctic grave. The scene was affecting. Commanders Schley and Coffin and Lieutenant Emory raised their hats as they passed the hero. After the procession, Greeley and party were driven to the grand stand, where they again reviewed the procession and received the plaudits of the multitude. Among the prominent men on the stage were Secretary Chandler, Gen. Hazen, Governor Hale, Mayor Lathrop of Dover, the mayor of Newburyport, Samuel J. Randall, Congressman Robinson of New York, the officers of the relief expedition and the North Atlantic squadron, and members of the city governments of many New England cities. The procession was dismissed at 2 o'clock, and shortly after the invited guests were entertained at dinner by the city of Portsmouth.

The meeting of citizens in the Music Hall this morning to extend the official welcome of the city to Lieut. Greeley and his surviving companions, was largely attended and was characterized by unbounded enthusiasm. In the auditorium were Portsmouth's foremost citizens, and on the stage were the officers of the North Atlantic squadron and the Arctic relief fleet, and on the front seats in the orchestra sat the crews of the *Thetis*, *Bear* and *Alert*. The sailors were enthusiastically received on entering the hall as were their officers, who appeared shortly after. W. E. Chandler, Secretary of the Navy, Gen. Hazen, chief signal officer, Admiral Luce, Commodore Wells, Gen. B. F. Butler, Congressman S. J. Randall, Congressman Robinson, Gov. Hale, of New Hampshire, and Senator Hale, of Maine, occupied seats on the stage.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. W. A. McGinty. Rev. W. H. Alder made a prayer, and was followed by Mayor Treat, of Portsmouth, who read an address in which he extended the hospitalities of the city of Portsmouth to Greeley and his little band. Rev. McGinty then announced that a committee of citizens had secured Hon. W. E. Chandler's consent to act as permanent chairman of the meeting. When Secretary Chandler came forward to address the meeting, he was very warmly applauded, and when he referred to the efforts of Samuel J. Randall in the House of Representatives, and Senator Hale in behalf of the Greely relief bill, as well as the noble work of Commanders Schley and Coffin and Lieut. Emory, the audience became almost wild with enthusiasm. Mr. Chandler in his address told