

done in the mountains of Israel. Let us remember this and be faithful, remembering our fasting and prayers, call upon the Lord in secret prayer, and ask Him to bless and direct us.

The Lord is with us, His hand is over us, and He is guiding this work and will continue to do so until Zion shall arise and be built up and shall stand in beauty, power and become the glory of the whole earth, and while the judgments of God shall extend throughout the nations.

May God bless you as Mutual Improvement Associations, may He bless every organization and association that has been established as helps and governments to this great latter day work; and may we be blessed in all our endeavors to do right, which may God grant, for Christ's sake, amen.

Y. L. M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

The Y. L. M. I. Associations of this Stake held an interesting conference in the Assembly Hall Tuesday, President Mary A. Freeze presiding.

After the usual opening exercises the Stake report of these organizations was read and adopted.

A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered the retiring treasurer, Dr. R. B. Pratt, for the able manner in which she has discharged the duties of that office since the first Stake organization of the association.

The opening address was by Dr. Maggie C. Shipp, who chose for her subject "Woman's Character, defining the difference between character and reputation, and showing the necessity for woman to have her character made up of sterling qualities, not neglecting those crowning traits of sweetness, tenderness and affection.

The next subject was an essay—The Mission of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, prepared and read by Miss Julia B. Jones, of the Fifteenth ward association.

Impromptu addresses were next in order and Mrs. Z. G. Eardley was the first speaker. She thought Brigham Young could foresee the necessity of these organizations, and advised the young ladies to be humble, meek and desirous of improvement, so that they may become great helps in the work of God.

Mrs. Lillie Freeze said we must have willing workers. "Heavenly work must be done with a heavenly spirit." It is natural that those who stand before the public are looked to as examples; but we must be guided by charity in all our thoughts of others, must be humble in spirit and have humility of heart that we may confess our sins and gain strength by the Spirit of God.

Mrs. Maria Hoyt followed. She said: Young ladies, let us be humble that we may inherit the earth. As daughters of Zion let us cultivate the Spirit of God for it will enlighten us in all things and we must be the most enlightened people on the face of the earth.

Territorial President E. S. Taylor then addressed the audience. She said that much had been said today that will bear good fruit. With regard to character she felt that woman needs moral courage every day of her life. She urged the young ladies to be care-

ful of their appearance and conduct in public places, and thus concluded: Be true to your womanhood, true to your God, kind and gentle, loving, firm and faithful.

Benediction by Della Eardley. Meeting then adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

At the evening session the opening hymn was "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire." Prayer by Mrs. E. B. Wells. Singing, "Should you feel inclined to censure."

Minutes read and approved. President Freeze referred to the *Young Ladies' Journal*, and spoke in its behalf.

The opening lecture, "Forgiveness," was by Mrs. Mary A. Freeze. She said before forgiveness comes repentance, or the turning away from sin, which is true repentance. Before we can conscientiously ask God for forgiveness we must first forgive those who have trespassed against us, or whom we imagine have wronged us. Then if we forgive others before they ask it, God will be equally merciful to us. We must never cherish a spirit of malice, for it is so unlike God's Spirit, which is one of love and kindness to all human creatures. She held up the life of our Savior as a perfect pattern with love as the word that comprises all good attributes.

Corresponding letters — Josephine Reiser and Emma Finch.

Mrs. E. B. Wells next spoke. She said it was fifty years today since she was baptized into this church, was then very young and acted in obedience to the counsels of her mother, which action she had never repented. She had been given strength to remain in the Church for which she was grateful. She referred to the impressions she received on seeing the Prophet Joseph and the wonderful spirit he possessed, which had a great influence upon her. She believed that the young ladies of this age will be called upon to perform a greater work than those who have lived in the early history of the Church and are now passing away; therefore they should take advantage of every opportunity to listen to the teachings of the Apostles and Prophets as well as to prepare themselves with all the education they can obtain.

A sacred solo was then rendered by Miss Maud Pratt.

Mrs. Lillie Freeze testified to the manner in which she obtained the gift of tongues and said she felt that God has bestowed this gift upon her by a spirit she cannot resist. She begged of those present not to speak lightly of that gift, even though it be the least of God's gifts.

A recitation entitled "Only a Girl" was then given by Mrs. May B. Talmage.

Mrs. Mattie H. Tingey called attention to the great number of inventions brought about by God's inspiration to further His cause here on the earth. Referred to the counterfeit religions and their tendency to allure from the truth. The speaker related an incident to prove the difference between the temporal benefits of other religions and the lasting benefits of the true Gospel.

Closing remarks were made by Counselor Nellie Colebrook, who contrasted

this conference with the first she ever attended, at which there were about thirty persons present. She said her heart went out in gratitude for this large assembly tonight. The speaker briefly reviewed the subjects that had been touched upon, and cordially invited all present to attend the next conference.

"The Spirit of God," etc., was sung and the benediction was pronounced by Mrs. M. I. Horne.

This concluded the conference.

LIZZIE SMITH, Secretary.

A DRAMATIC CHAPTER IN REAL LIFE

A DAY or two ago a San Francisco judge committed Sarah Althea Sharon Terry to the Stockton lunatic asylum. For several weeks past the woman had been roaming the streets and causing endless annoyance to hotel and lodging house keepers. Her commitment inaugurates the closing scene of a melancholy drama in Pacific Coast history, in which were involved many of the most prominent characters of the time.

Sarah Althea acquired national notoriety some eight years ago by reason of the Sharon-Hill divorce suit, which lasted 80 days. She is said to be of a good Missouri family. Her maiden name was Hill. She must be about forty years of age. Her statement at the time of the suit was, that she entered Sharon's office in San Francisco in the early part of 1880 with \$7500 in cash for the purpose of investing in mining stocks. Sharon was then United States Senator from Nevada. He became infatuated with the woman, and on August 25th, at the Palace Hotel, dictated to her a marriage contract, which he signed. There was a stipulation that the marriage be kept secret, owing to Sharon's fear of family wrath and of other entanglements. However, Miss Hill was taken to Belmont, the Senator's country mansion, and there presided as Mistress. She was there when General Grant was feted and banqueted, and when Flora Sharon, the senator's daughter married Sir Thomas Hesketh. This formed a most important point in the trial. A small army of witnesses were examined, and though all swore that Sarah Althea was present at the Grant festival, and robed in gorgeous costume, yet some swore that she was there only as Miss Hill.

Sharon himself when placed on the stand denied the marriage contract. Sharon was a man worth \$15,000,000 at the time and very unpopular, but his evidence in this case rendered him doubly more odious.

Sarah Althea's counsel were two of the best known lawyers on the coast, David S. Terry and George W. Tyler. The former a duellist and politician, the latter a poker player and politician. Terry ended by marrying his client, and his tragic fate about a year ago is yet fresh in the public mind.

Sharon had six of the ablest lawyers in the country. Barnes, the man who conducted the case, received a fee of \$60,000. The other expenses in the way of detectives, experts, special agents, etc., were tremendous.

One feature of the trial developed the fact that medieval superstition still prevails. Miss Hill consulted fortune-tellers, clairvoyants and charmworkers