

ADVICE TO YOUNG ELDERS.

LEBANON, Kentucky,
August 24, 1896.

It was a common saying among the Puritans that "brown bread is good fare." I hope this letter may be "brown bread" to some of the young Elders home who expect missions. There have been as many, if not more, baptisms made in the Kentucky conference during the last year as in any conference in the south. The bright band of twenty-four Elders, with their capable president, S. A. Smith, are working energetically sowing the good seeds of truth. The success of the conference is attributed to the plain and lucid manner in which the Elders explain the first principles of the Gospel. The Elders who seem to make the greatest success here are those who apply themselves hard to concentrated study, during every spare moment, that they may accomplish something that may be of use to others. The Elder in this conference who is making the greatest number of converts, presents the Gospel in such a plain manner that the youngest child can grasp his meaning. He is

"Rich in saving common sense,
And as the greatest only are,
In his simplicity divine."

The people love him for he is afraid of no man.

President Elias S. Kimball, at our June conference, desired the Elders to preach the first four principles of the Gospel only; and he advised them to study much, and become proficient on the foundation principle—faith—which is minutely explained in the Doctrine and Covenants. The other principles he told them to carefully study also.

If we Elders desire to become well posted in regard to the Gospel, we ought to take a book that treats on the subjects we desire to investigate, and read it over carefully. For instance, to get the subject of faith well implanted in the mind we should read in regard to it, then reflect upon what we have read, then write our thoughts, and afterward, if possible, go off by ourselves and speak our thoughts aloud. This is the way our great orators have attained their ability. It is only by repeated practice and work on any subject that we may get it firmly implanted in our minds, so that when we get up to speak we will be able to talk fluently and with ease. The great orator, Demosthenes, who only became so capable of stirring the hearts of his hearers by arduous labor, had a large looking glass in his house, and he would stand before this and in through his exercises. The great orators of today have only become such by working and practicing till they have achieved success.

While in England I had the pleasure of visiting Hawarden Castle, the home of Mr. Gladstone—the "Grand Old Man." He never wastes his time. In reading books he does so slowly and thoughtfully, and marks passages he desires to remember. I went to the little church a mile from his home, where he walks every morning at seven o'clock and has his prayers. I saw his Bible, which was well worn and soiled with the constant use of years. He is a fine orator, a great

man. He only became of so much use to mankind by laboring hard, and using all his spare time in the accumulation of knowledge.

When the Elders come nearer to perfection in mental training we will have a bright memory, our judgment quick and ready to act, and we will be attentive and sharp to observe. This can only be attained by work and active disciplinary practice.

In learning to become wise our minds become active and powerful like the ship with a captain who sees that he has plenty of coal on board to work his vessel across the ocean. To discern accurately and think correctly is the object of mental training. I have noticed in listening to the Elders talk that they who speak with earnestness and force, with a little wit thrown in once in a while, make the most converts; and the Elders who cultivate the Spirit of God in their hearts are the ones who speak with the most earnestness and power, and are the most successful in their labors.

JOHN C. CUTLER, JR.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

FILLMORE, Utah, August 25, 1896.—Millard Stake Quarterly Conference was held at Deseret Sunday and Monday, August 23rd and 24th, 1896, President Ira N. Hinckley, presiding. There were present: Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of Apostles; Elder Jonathan G. Kimball of the First Council of Seventies; Elder Levi Richards of the Sunday School board; Elders Ira N. Hinckley and David R. Stevens of the Stake Presidency; members of the High Council, a majority of the Bishops, president of the quorum, etc.

The weather was fine, and the meetings well attended both days. Scipio Ward was the only one not represented; this was on account of sickness.

Sunday, 10 a. m.—President Hinckley called the meeting to order, and after singing and prayer, he made the opening remarks expressing his pleasure with the opportunity of meeting with the Saints in quarterly conference; gave a report of the condition of the Stake which was in the main very good. The Stake Presidency had, since last conference, visited every ward in the Stake, and held ward conferences.

Bishops Milton Moody of Deseret, William H. Pratt of Hinckley, John Styler of Oasis, Ay Stephenson of Holden, T. C. Callister of Fillmore, Peter Anderson of Oak Creek and L. N. Christianson of Leamington, gave favorable reports of their respective wards.

Elder F. M. Lyman said the discontinued associations ought to resume their meetings some time in September, and not wait till along in winter. It would be best whenever changes were made in future to arrange so that a president could have his counselors in the same ward where he lives so that they could meet often and counsel together.

2 p. m. After the opening exercises the Sacrament was administered by the bishopric of Deseret, while the choir sang a sacramental hymn, after which Elder Levi Richards spoke a short time upon the duties of parents to their children, and the importance

of Sunday school work. He advised parents to accompany their children to Sunday school occasionally.

Elder J. G. Kimball spoke about the importance of faith, as we cannot please God without it. We do not need to be rich to please him, but if we center our hearts upon money we will lose the Spirit of the Lord. If we criticize evil doing we will not become popular, but it is not always good to court popularity. He prophesied that the Lord will yet bless the Deseret land forbidding as it looks, if the people will keep His commandments.

Sister Zina D. H. Young of Salt Lake made a few excellent remarks, and after singing and prayer conference was adjourned till next day at 10 a. m.

Monday, 10 a. m.—After the opening exercises Elder David R. Stevens spoke a short time on the general duties of the Saints, etc.

Counselor N. M. Stewart of Meadow reported that ward as in a very good condition. Some of the people had sustained considerable damage from floods.

Elder James Abraham reported the Kanosh ward in the absence of the Bishop, who was too sick to attend.

Tue General and local authorities were presented by Elder Christian Anderson, and they were all unanimously sustained.

Patriarch C. N. Smith of Sevier Stake spoke upon early Church history; referred to the land of Jackson county and some of the predictions concerning it.

Elder F. M. Lyman read from the Doctrine and Covenants the revelation concerning the New Jerusalem, and said the Lord is very reliable and will fulfill all His promises, but man is very unreliable, and many break their covenants. The Lord cannot establish His Zion with a rebellious people. It is wrong to drink tea and indulge in other things forbidden, and the example set by many in this regard is demoralizing, but these offences are mild compared with the grosser sins, such as adultery, etc. Sins are generally first committed in the heart.

Two p. m.—After the opening exercises Elder Levi Richards again addressed the conference, and spoke of the gifts in the Church as the signs of faith in individuals; where there are no gifts there is no faith.

Elder Christian Anderson spoke about the necessity and effect of the ministry of the Priesthood in the Church. In the Gospel are remedies for every evil. The sins of parents are visited upon their children on natural principle; and according to the laws of nature.

Elder J. G. Kimball related some of his experience in his own impressive manner, and gave some excellent instructions to the young—married and single. Spoke also on the principle of repentance and forgiveness.

Elder F. M. Lyman read from the Doctrine and Covenants in relation to the proper preparation for baptism, and commented very instructively thereon. Before baptizing applicants there should be called a special meeting for the purpose of instructing them and they should be required to covenant that they will serve the Lord and keep His commandments. Bishops should see that no person is baptized who has not re-