

these valleys every year, people who have been brought to a knowledge of the truth by the labors of the Elders that are now before me. Our brethren have preached the words of life to millions of people, and many thousands have given heed to their warning voice, still they are but few compared with the vast multitudes who have been commanded to repent of all their sins, be baptized for the remission of them, and have hands laid upon them for the gift of the Holy Ghost. We are truly blest in the agency which God has given us to receive or reject whatever is presented to us, but we should remember that we shall be held responsible for the use we make of the teachings of the servants of God.

It does not make any difference how the Lord makes known his will, whether by the whisperings of the Holy Spirit, the administration of angels or by his own voice; it is all the same; and he has told us emphatically that his words shall not pass away, but all shall be fulfilled which has been spoken of by the Prophets since the world began.

We have but a little time to labor and to exert ourselves in this kingdom. Thirty years have already passed away since the organization of this Church, and we see a numerous generation rising up before us that have been born in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; it is almost a generation, according to the usual reckoning of mankind since John the Baptist came and conferred the Aaronic Priesthood upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery; and the kingdom has kept growing from that time to the present, perhaps not as fast as it might have done, if all the Elders had been as faithful as our President has been; but still it is progressing rapidly, and it is where the Prophet had his eye upon when he said: "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah behold your God!" How much the Elders have talked of this and of the little stone cut out of the mountain without hands, that was to roll forth until it filled the whole earth. We are now fulfilling those predictions; we are planted here in the mountains in fulfillment of the promises of the Almighty.

In the early days of this Church, the Lord told those who were first called to the ministry that they were laying the foundation of a great work, but they knew it not—they did not then understand the nature of the work to which they were called; still they felt by the inspiration of the Almighty, and their minds were opened to see that they were called to take part in a great work, called to a high and holy calling, but still there was a veil over their eyes so that they could not comprehend it in its magnitude and greatness as we now do. If the Prophet Joseph had arisen up in 1831, 2, 3 or even 1834, when we went up to Jackson county, in the State of Missouri—had he then told the people that this church would be built up and that this people would become a great kingdom, and that the United States would, in less than one generation, be in the lamentable position that we now find them, it would have required a stretch of our faith to have believed him; our minds were not then open to that extent that we could fully comprehend the future. But we can now see that the words of ancient and modern Prophets are being fulfilled: this kingdom is rising in these valleys of the mountains, and it will eventually spread itself abroad through the length and breadth of North and South America. We may now look forward into the great future that lies before us, and it will require just as much of a stretch of faith now as it did in the beginning; to look at the kingdom of God upon the earth, as it is to be built up in this dispensation, so that the word of the Lord may go forth from Zion, the servants of God be clothed with the power of the priesthood to give counsel and to preside over the nations of the earth, when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. It is our duty to live in that way that we can have power to unlock and comprehend the mysteries of the kingdom of God, and we have got this to do in order that we may see that the Lord is at work among the nations for his own glory and for the permanent establishment of his own kingdom.

We ought to be enabled to understand that there is not a single law that has ever been issued from the great E. oheim but what will be fulfilled to the letter, and that not one of those Prophets who have spoken concerning the kingdom of God in the latter days, and the overthrow of wickedness and establishment of righteousness, will fail in their predictions in reference to the dispensation of the fulness of times. When we look back for thirty years, we can see the vast change that has taken place.

With regard to Babylon and the wicked nations of the Gentiles, I will say that all those things that have been spoken concerning them will be fulfilled. We profess to be the children of God, the friends of God, and if the Lord has not got some friends in these the valleys of the mountains, I would like to know where his friends are. I have spoken upon these things, and in reference to the position we occupy before the heavens and before this generation, that we may be stirred up in our minds and be awake to our duties. If we can be made sensible of that which is required of us by our leaders, we shall go to work and do those things that we know will be for our benefit and good, and for the advancement of the cause of the kingdom of God upon the earth. If we are faithful through this warfare in which we are engaged

we shall be satisfied with the reward and with the crown that will be bestowed upon us, and also with the place that we shall occupy when we pass from this stage of existence.

I will say then, brethren and sisters, with regard to those things we have been exhorted to attend to by President Young from day to day and from time to time, let us attend to them. He has a desire to see the people in such a position that will secure to them the favor and approbation of the Almighty. We ought to strive to understand our high destiny, to learn the mind and will of our Father in heaven, that the heavens may be opened unto us, that we may be filled with light, with truth, and be clothed with the power of God. It is with this desire and design that our President calls upon us to lay aside every thing that has a tendency to prevent us enjoying the spirit of the Lord, and us comprehending those great and glorious principles that we are seeking after. We all ought to make an exertion, when he makes a request upon us, and strive to lay aside all those things that are contrary to the principles of our holy religion, and then we ought to take hold with him and back him up, and sustain with him all the authorities of the church, striving at all times to do what ever the Lord requires at our hands. If we do this, we shall be blest; and, if we do not, we shall meet with a loss. Let us strive to be more attentive to our duties and to listen to the words of the Lord, remembering that if we have not got the spirit of the Lord with us that we have not got the power of God with us.

Let us lay aside all evil practices, all those habits which will prevent our communing with God. We have not yet got power to occupy a throne and to govern according to the laws of heaven; of this we are all sensible. Then if these little things have a tendency to hinder our enjoyments and debase us in the eyes of the Lord, we ought to lay them aside and manifest a determination to do the will of our Father in heaven, and to accomplish that work which is laid upon us to perform. When we have any exhortation from those who lead us, we should ever be ready to carry it out, remembering that the Lord holds President Young responsible for the way in which he manages and directs this kingdom; and, if we obey him, we shall be blest and prospered; but if he gives us commandments and we do not listen to them, the Lord will not hold him responsible for our acts. I think upon these things when I hear our leader giving us commandments to do thus and so, and I feel that I shall lose the spirit of the Lord, if I do not comply. We have got to rise up as a people, and have the power of God constantly with us, or we shall not accomplish that which is required at our hands, for it requires faith, temperance, purity, holiness and the power of God to be with this people, in order to fulfill our mission and perform the work of God. When our Prophets and leaders command us to do a thing, let us obey, and then we shall gain the victory.

I have often heard it remarked when we have had preaching against merchandizing, that the next day the merchants have taken three dollars to where they had previously only taken one. I hope this will not be the case with those who make a practice of drinking whisky and have been counseled by President Young to let it alone.

Brethren and sisters, I do not feel that I want to occupy much more of your time, but before I conclude, I will say that when I do anything that prevents me from enjoying the spirit of the Lord, as soon as I ascertain that, I immediately throw it aside, so that the spirit of God may govern and control me in every act of my life. We came here to build up the kingdom of God, and we should feel the responsibility that is upon us. This is our home; and who of us appreciates the blessings bestowed upon us? We should appreciate them a great deal more than we do, if we were set down in New York or South Carolina for a while, we should appreciate our peaceable home; for here we are not troubled with any of the difficulties which they experience in the States. We can meet together and worship God in peace. It is truly a great blessing to be assembled in these chambers of the mountains.

Let us try to prove ourselves worthy of our high calling as Saints of God. I pray that the Lord will give us power to lay aside every thing that is wrong; to magnify our callings and build up the Kingdom of God. I feel to ask this blessing in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

The Floating Islands of the San Joaquin.

The Stockton Republican says: "These wonderful formations in our district have been the means of saving hundreds of cattle during the recent disaster. We have previously noticed them under the name of 'Float Land.' I suppose to be a part of the 'firm-set earth' has proved to be of this character, and when the poor cattle have been abandoned to their fate, there being supposed to be no hope of saving them, it has risen up bodily and floated, and the cattle have gone on feeding as if nothing was the matter. A singular case occurred during the late flood. On Sherman's Island there were 400 head of cattle, all of which were thought to be certainly lost. While the water was rising one of these islands drifted against the one mentioned, and 100 head escaped to it and were saved. The feed is very good upon them. It may be a legal question one of these days as to who can give clear titles to this sort of floating property."

CONFERENCE AT BIRMINGHAM.

There was a general council of the Elders connected with the European mission, held in Birmingham, England, commencing January 1st, 1862; from the minutes of which, published in the *Millennial Star*, we make the following extracts:

PRESENT:

PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN MISSION:

Amasa M. Lyman, Charles C. Rich, and George Q. Cannon, of the Twelve Apostles.

PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH MISSION:

Louis A. Bertrand.

PRESIDENCY OF THE WELSH MISSION:

Thomas E. Jeremy, G. G. Bywater, and D. M. Davies.

PRESIDENCY OF THE IRISH MISSION:

Jacob G. Bigler and Thomas Cawley.

PRESIDENTS OF DISTRICTS:

London	-	-	John Brown
Scottish	-	-	David M. Stuart.
Nottingham	-	-	James S. Brown.
Cheltenham	-	-	Wm. Gibson.
Norwich	-	-	Elias H. Blackburn.
New Castle	-	-	John S. Gleason.
Birmingham	-	-	Wm. G. Mills.
Manchester	-	-	John M. Kay.
Sheffield	-	-	Joseph F. Smith.
Southampton	-	-	Wm. Bramall.
South	-	-	George Halliday.
Channel Islands	-	-	Philip de la Mare.

PRESIDENTS OF CONFERENCES.

London	-	-	William C. Staines.
Essex	-	-	George J. Taylor.
Staffordshire	-	-	Edward Cliff.
Dundee	-	-	Wm. S. Baxter.
Liverpool	-	-	Edward L. St. An.
Nottingham	-	-	John D. Chase.
Leicester	-	-	Abraham O. Me.
Norwich	-	-	Richard Bentley.
Dorsetshire	-	-	Mark Barnes.
Leeds	-	-	Samuel H. B. Smith.
Sheffield	-	-	John Clark.
Durham	-	-	Samuel Hargraves.
Cheltenham	-	-	Willard G. Smith.
Worcester	-	-	William Thurgood.
Land's End	-	-	William H. Pitts.
Pembrokeshire	-	-	John Gibbs.
Kent	-	-	John Needham.
Warwickshire	-	-	Samuel L. Adams.
Shropshire	-	-	William Hopwood.
Manchester	-	-	William H. Dame.
Preston	-	-	Thomas Liez.
Derbyshire	-	-	Aaron Nelson.
Bedfordshire	-	-	Joseph Ball.
Southampton	-	-	Eugene Henriod.
Reading	-	-	George Reed.
Hull	-	-	Charles Welch.
Newcastle	-	-	William Dallin.
Carlisle	-	-	Henry W. Barnett.
Herefordshire	-	-	William O. Owen.
Wiltshire	-	-	Thomas O. King.
West Glamorgan	-	-	John Griffiths.
East Glamorgan	-	-	Thomas W. Rees.
Monmouthshire	-	-	Richard Palmer.

TRAVELING ELDERS.

Thomas C. Stayner, Warren S. Snow, Geo. Peacock, Francis M. Lyman, Reuben A. McBride, Parley P. Pratt, George W. Grant, Joseph C. Rich, Henry Duce, George Reynolds, George Cooper, Joseph W. Morgan, John R. Morgan, Israel Bale, Charles R. Jones, John Lindsay, William Shires, Edward Pugh, W. W. Jeffs, E. T. Edwards, James Payne, J. D. T. McAllister.

Council was called to order by singing—"Come, let us anew our journey pursue."—Prayer by President Lyman.

Elders Kay and McAllister sang "The Standard of Zion."

President Lyman then addressed the conference at some length, stating the objects for which the meeting had been called, some of the principal of which were to hear from the Elders concerning their respective fields of labor and to impart to them such instructions as might be considered necessary for their good in preaching the gospel and presiding over the Saints, that when their work should be accomplished it might be well done.

After the close of Pres. Lyman's remarks, he called upon the Elders for a representation of the respective districts over which they presided:

Elder Wm. G. Mills represented the Birmingham District, which comprises the Birmingham, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire conferences. He said: In the Warwickshire Conference, presided over by Elder Samuel L. Adams, the Saints are increasing in the possession of the Holy Spirit, and are willing to do the will of God. There is a good feeling manifested by the strangers who attend the meetings; and they are baptizing steadily. The Traveling Ministry are doing everything in their power for the spread of the work, and the Saints administer what they can for the same object; and if they have any sorrow with regard to what they do, it is because they cannot do more. The Staffordshire conference was presided over by Elder Edward Cliff, whom the Saints love. The blessings of the Covenant are enjoyed by them. And though they are not baptizing many in that conference, they are steadily adding to their numbers. They are a good people and are glad to have such a man as

brother Cliff to preside over them, because he is economical in his expenditure and consults the interests and wellbeing of the people.—The work there is on the increase.

The Shropshire conference has Elder W. Hopwood for its President, whom the Saints love. He does as much good as he can under the circumstances. It is but the fragment of a conference, compared with what it was some length of time ago. There, too, they are baptizing some.

Birmingham conference is presided over by myself, and is an important place. The conference is large and influential, and the work has spread rapidly in it. I do not say this because I am laboring in it myself, but the blessing of God has attended our efforts. The Saints, as a general thing, love their Presidents, and are increasing in faith and good works. Baptisms are frequent in every Branch, and we could not get a better hearing anywhere than we do here. Strangers come to our meetings, bringing their Bibles with them, and follow the remarks and quotations made, and after a few times attending, get baptized. The Spirit of the Lord is with us, and the brethren manifest confidence in all the authorities. I can say that, taking the District as a whole, it is in first-rate condition.

Elder John Brown represented the London District. He said: I have been laboring during the past twelve months as President of the District, which comprises the London, Kent, and Essex conferences, presided over by Elders W. C. Staines, John Needham, and George J. Taylor. I have had much pleasure in laboring with the brethren in that District, and our labors have had a good effect. A good feeling prevails which is manifested not only among the Traveling Priesthood, but also the Local Priesthood and the Saints, and all are endeavoring to spread the work. We have been at considerable expense in keeping halls open to the public. The brethren have been successful in preaching out-doors and in-doors, many having been baptized. In out-door preaching, many would stop and listen and pass on; yet a few stopped and inquired who have since embraced the truth.—The Saints feel well towards those laboring in their midst, and obey their counsel. They desire to gather home, and answer liberally to the calls made upon them. It gives me much pleasure to labor among such a people. The brethren are united together, and their efforts are directed to the spread of the work in their fields of labor. Everything is in good working order in the conferences comprising the District; and, if it is not working right, I do not know of it. I feel first-rate myself in the work of God, and desire to keep peace with it in its onward progress.

Not having received a later number of the *Star* than Jan. 18th, in which number the conference minutes were commenced but not concluded, the reports from the other Presidents of Districts cannot be given, but in a notice of the conference made by the Birmingham *Daily Post*, of Jan. 4th, it is stated that in the afternoon, Elder D. M. Stuart reported the Scotland District, containing three conferences, in good condition, that hundreds had been added to the church in that country during the past year, and the prospects were good for a future increase; also, that Elder Wm. Gibson reported the Cheltenham District, Elder James S. Brown, the Nottingham District, Elder John M. Kay, the Manchester District, and George Halliday, the South District, in each of which, the work was progressing. An address from President Lyman, on the importance of continually acquiring knowledge that the power of the Elders to do good might be increased, and a brief account by Elder J. D. T. McAllister of the prospects in the States, where he had been laboring and from whence he had but recently arrived in England, concluded the first day's session.

The *Post* concludes its notice of the conference as follows:

The conference resumed its sitting on Thursday, when Elder Bigler reported the Irish Mission, which he said had been attended with unfavorable results. Elder Blackburn from the Norwich district, said they had steadily increased their numbers, and Elder Gleason represented the Newcastle-on-Tyne district as being in a good condition. Representatives of the Welsh, Sheffield, Channel Islands, and Southampton districts also spoke, and Mr. Lyman followed with an address on "practical religion and the importance of forming correct habits." Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Cannon and Lyman on the practical duties of the Elders, in which they looked with confident anticipations to the future which lay before them for usefulness and greatness.

On Friday the foreign reports were received, and it was reported that the baptisms during the past year, in connection with the Scandinavian mission, numbered 2,000. From returns, in some cases imperfect, handed in at close of the council, it appeared that 2,500 had been baptised in the past year in Great Britain, and 2,200 in the Continental missions, making the increase 4,700. 1,976 persons had emigrated in the year, and a much larger number would go this spring; while the number of Latter Day Saints now in Great Britain was about 15,000.