

among the Saints and said: Do not take your troubles and difficulties into the Bishop's court or into the High Council. The moment you do this you lose your agency—you surrender it to these courts, and they must decide for you. Settle your difficulties among yourselves.

The Lord has revealed to me that many of the Saints are tried in their feelings because of the manifesto and because of the testimony before the Master in Chancery. He has therefore told me to ask the Saints this question: "Is it better for the Latter-day Saints to continue in the practice of plural marriage at the sacrifice of their temples, tabernacles, meeting houses, etc., and to see their husbands and fathers go to prison, than to discontinue this practice that we may retain our temples in which to perform ordinances both for the living and the dead?" That is the question the Lord told me to ask the Saints. As sure as the Lord lives, if we had not discontinued the practice of plural marriage, our temples would have been taken from us, husbands and fathers be sent to prison and we would have witnessed much suffering and trouble in Israel. (Read the 40th chap. of Isaiah.) All that Isaiah has said will come to pass. Zion is here.

I want to say to the Saints that the course which the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles is pursuing is inspired of God. The Lord showed me word by word, step by step, what would have occurred had we not taken the course we did. What we have done was inspired of God, and He will take care of us. It has been thought by some that the First Presidency and the Twelve were out of the way—that they did not know what they were doing; but I want to say to the Saints that we know exactly what we are doing. I would have stood and seen every temple taken from us if the Lord had not commanded me to do as I did.

What could I do, what could Joseph Smith have done—poor weak men, as we are—to build up a Church upon the ancient pattern of Apostles and Prophets, and do that which all the Christian world together could not, unless we were inspired of God. And why cannot the Christian world do it? Simply because they cannot impart that which they have not received.

No man who has a plurality of wives is required to break his covenants. He should feed, clothe and support them and educate their children.

President George Q. Cannon was the next speaker. He said: I can bear testimony to the truth of what has been said. It is of God. I know that President Woodruff has been led by inspiration. I have heard him say that he would rather go out and be shot than to say or do anything improper in relation to the principle of plural marriage. Here were the Saints on one side determined to take a certain course, and the nation on the other side demanding that the practice of plural marriage should cease. Many people spoke to me about it, urging the necessity of some action; but I said there was only one man on earth that could speak the word. The word of the Lord has come to us through that man to cease this practice. This

principle, in many instances, has been abused. This is evidenced by the fact that some, because the law encourages it, have forsaken their wives, have turned them out and have ceased to support them—wives who have been true and faithful to them. How mean and cowardly it is to take this course. Such men will not be worthy of wives in eternity. The Lord will judge us. He knows the motives that actuate us.

There will be men who never had a wife, and again men who have had but one wife, who will enter into the celestial Kingdom of our God. (President Woodruff said that is true, and some who have had several wives will not.) God knew our hearts and the opportunities we have had of obeying His commandments and will judge us accordingly. I say this for the consolation of the Saints.

A certain man among us, who is usually pronounced in his views, was very much exercised when he read the manifesto. He sought a testimony and learned from God that it was right.

The Lord knows our sacrifices and sufferings and has accepted our offering.

On the 28th but one meeting was held. Three and one half hours were spent in a most interesting manner. President Lorenzo Snow dilated on the course marked out for the Saints by the predictions of ancient and modern Prophets. Present predictions will be valued by our posterity as we value the predictions of ancient times. Spoke on obedience and sacrifice. Said it brought forth honor, glory and immortality.

President Willford Woodruff related some instances where the power of God had been manifested in a miraculous manner while he was on a mission in England in 1840.

Elder Seymour B. Young gave several illustrations from Church history of the fruits of obedience, and of the painful results of disobedience to the commandments of God. Wherever the servants of the Lord go, they should remember that they are representatives of God's people and citizens in His Kingdom.

The sacred quartette "God in Mercy Hear our Prayers" was rendered by ladies' voices in a most creditable and pleasing manner.

Presidents Cannon and Woodruff occupied the remainder of the time giving words of instruction, counsel and advice to the Saints.

A good spirit prevailed throughout the entire conference and all in attendance seemed highly edified and well paid for meeting together.

NELS JENSON, Clerk.

BRIGHAM CITY, Oct. 27, 1891.

#### TOOELE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Tooele Stake was held in Tooele City on Sunday and Monday, 25th and 26th inst. On Sunday at 10 a.m., meeting was called to order by President Gowans, besides whom there were present on the stand the counselors and a number of Bishops of the Stake. President Gowans offered a few remarks referring to the increase of faith and united action which prevail among the Saints throughout the Stake. He instructed them in the line of duty.

Elder Moroni Picket of the Cassia Stake, and formerly a resident of the Tooele ward, spoke encouragingly to the Saints, urging the proper education of our youth, and consistent lives as taught in the Gospel they have espoused.

Elder A. J. Stokey depicted evils that existed in our communities by which the youth are ensnared and led astray. He urged upon parents and men of influence to array themselves with a view to stem the tide of evil in its incipency.

At 2 p.m. Elder S. E. Woolley, D. Hunter, Alvin Walters, C. L. Anderson and Wm. Robinson each made appropriate remarks on the first principles of the gospel, education, attending to meetings and duties in general.

On Monday morning Bishops James L. Mathall of the Grantsville ward, Thomas Atkin of the Tooele ward, Jno. G. Shields of the Lakeview ward, H. D. St. Geor of the Clover ward, and D. H. Caldwell of the St. John ward reported the organizations and members under their supervision as progressive, with but few exceptions.

Elder G. H. Richards endorsed the reports of the Bishops and gave some good advice.

At 2 p.m. Bishops John C. Sharp, O. P. Bates and Joseph Yates represented the wards and branches over which they preside, and reported favorably.

Elder A. G. Johnson stated that the Sabbath schools of the Stake were doing a good work.

The statistical report for the past six months was presented by the clerk, and the general authorities of the Church and local officers of the Stake were unanimously sustained.

President Gowans gave especial praise to our choir for their good singing.

GEORGE ATKINS,  
Clerk.

#### VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

The Virginia Conference was held on Sept. 12th and 13th, near Batesville, Albemarle County, Virginia. There were present J. G. Kimball, President of the Southern Mission, and the following Elders from Utah: W. J. Poulton, E. J. Eardley, John K. Orme, J. M. Campbell, Thomas Butler, David Fullmer and Richard C. Harvey. The first day the conference was addressed by President Kimball and Elders J. M. Campbell, David Fullmer and E. J. Eardley, all testifying to the truth of the everlasting Gospel as revealed in the latter days. On Sunday the following Elders addressed the meeting: W. J. Poulton, R. C. Harvey, John K. Orme and J. G. Kimball.

The Elders reported their labors during several council meetings held, and received valuable instructions from President Kimball regarding their duties. Brother Harvey was appointed President of the Virginia Conference, and Elder David Fullmer was honorably released to return home on account of ill health.

We had a good time and were treated with kindness by the people in the neighborhood, for which we feel grateful.

E. J. EARDLEY, Clerk.  
BATESVILLE, Sept. 14.

Queen Victoria strictly prohibits smoking about Windsor Castle.