

At the afternoon services, after the usual introductory exercises, Bishop W. H. Warner, of the Nephi First ward; Bishop James H. Newton, of the Mona ward; Bishop T. H. G. Parkes, of the Nephi Second ward; Bishop Robert Stephens, of the Jubah ward, and President Joseph W. Noble, of the Nebo branch, reported on the spiritual condition of their flocks, and the various organizations.

Elder Allen was present from Park City, and by request, related his experience in gathering the Saints together in that place, and of the branch organization. From twenty-eight souls the number has been swelled to six hundred. The members are active, active and liberal, and the result is progress and good meetings, that are attended by many strangers.

Elder J. M. Smith occupied the remainder of the afternoon in an instructive and eloquent discourse on caring for the poor and helpless in our midst. The principle of tithing was referred to and a greater obedience to its requirements was enjoined upon the Saints. In concluding his remarks, Elder Smith spoke of the monument that is being erected to the memory of the late President Brigham Young. It will not add to the greatness of that remarkable man and Prophet, said the speaker, to perpetuate his memory in the cold granite and marble, because his noble deeds are enshrined in the hearts of a grateful people, and in tens of thousands of hearts out in the world that are learning to love and respect that great Pioneer for the goodness and nobility of his nature. But a monument will tend to keep alive his memory in the rising generation, and will be a testimony to the world that we are grateful for his services to the Saints and to civilization. The people were reminded that their assistance is needed to complete the work.

Sunday forenoon the Nephi tabernacle was well filled. After singing and prayer, Bishop Nells P. Rasmussen reported the condition of the Levan ward as being most excellent.

Elder James W. Paxman, counselor in the stake presidency, spoke of the general duties of the Saints, and reminded them that we are now laying the foundation for a future life, and that it will require our utmost strength to make that foundation so strong and secure as to last eternally.

Elder Reuben Goddard, of Fountain Green then addressed the Saints on the need of yielding obedience to every requirement of the Gospel, of the spirit of kindness that should dwell in the hearts of the people one towards the other.

Elder John Henry Smith said it is easy to guide our boat when floating with a placid current that is free from obstructions. But when the stream is swift and jutting rocks are on every hand, it requires skill and labor to avoid disaster. When we are forced to pull upstream, it requires strength and determination to succeed. It is thus with our experiences in the Gospel. It is easy to drift with public opinion and never dissent from the opinions of others, even if we know they are wrong. Those that refuse to drift, that refuse to falter, that dare rebuke evil, are deserving of praise and blessings. In the experiences of the

majority, the effort to live their religion is beset with difficulties, but those who persevere will find the obstacles will vanish, the clouds will be dispelled, and the blessed sun-light break through the gloom by the spirit of faith. Elder Smith then contrasted the Gospel as revealed by the Prophet Joseph Smith with that of the world. Also spoke of the obstacles that beset those who obey the Gospel out in the world, and contrasted them with the comparative freedom from difficulties in the paths of those that are reared under the influence of kind parents and patient teachers here in the land appointed for the gathering of God's chosen people.

At the afternoon services Elder James W. Paxman presented the general, Stake and local Priesthood, all of whom were unanimously sustained.

Elder B. H. Roberts, who had arrived on the morning train, addressed the large congregation on the harmony that exists between the Gospel and the advanced scientific thought of the world. The speaker pointed out that the learning of the world is making skeptics of its devotees, because they cannot harmonize the operation of so-called natural law with the religious ideas that have come down to the present generation; ideas that are more or less mixed with the traditions and superstitions of the past. Draper's "Intellectual Development of Europe" was referred to as a noble effort to remove those difficulties. The speaker, by a study of those laws that govern in the universe, had arrived at conclusions entirely opposite from the skepticism that influences those that have not, as yet, learned the principles of the true Gospel of Christ. Elder Roberts then pointed out the natural and divine truth, that in order to receive the blessings that we desire, we must first obey the laws upon which those blessings are predicated.

Elder Smith followed in a powerful discourse on the principles of charity. If we could look into the hearts of the majority of those that sin, our own hearts would bleed for the anguish they suffer. The purpose of the Gospel is to emancipate every one from their sins and weaknesses, and to bring them back into the presence of the Father. The just Master, who has experienced the trials of this life, sees one of His children make a misstep, reaches out a helping hand. The Saints should imitate the example of the Master.

The conference closed with a meeting in the evening which was occupied principally by Elder Roberts in a lecture on the evolution of thought on the organization of the universe as accepted during the dark ages, and the great truths of science as they are known at the present time, and he moved by irresistible logic that they are in entire harmony with the truths taught by Abraham, and later by the Prophet and Seer, Joseph Smith.

J. F. GIBBS,  
Clerk pro tem.

#### ITEMS FROM SHELLEY.

SHELLEY, Idaho,  
August 1, 1895.

On Sunday last two Sunday school missionaries from Riverside, Blackfoot,

were present at our Sunday school—Elders C. C. Richardson and Junius Nuwak. They have been laboring faithfully for the past six months and we all feel the loss of their company as they have been released from their missionary duties in the schools. Both of them spoke highly of the Sunday school at Shelley. They came some forty-eight miles to get here and were always there on time.

On Tuesday evening the folks here had a feast by a visit of Stake President J. E. Steele, with R. L. Bybee his first and G. S. Mulliner his second counselors. Meeting called to order by Bishop J. F. Shelley. After singing, prayer was offered by Elder Cutler Galloway. Singing.

Elder G. S. Mulliner was the first speaker; he gave a brief account of visiting the wards, and followed with excellent choral instructions.

Elder R. L. Bybee was the next speaker and gave the Saints great encouragement.

Elder J. E. Steele, president of the Stake, was the next speaker. His remarks were brief but to the point, most of them were on the business of the ward organizations.

Elder J. F. Shelley, Bishop of the ward, made the closing remarks. Singing; benediction by Elder J. F. Shelley. LONDONER.

#### TEXAS CONFERENCE.

TEXAS, July 14, 1895.—Realizing that the Saints whose homes your valuable columns reach are ever praying and anxious for the welfare of their sons who have been sent forth as ambassadors of the Gospel of our Lord to carry the glad tidings to the world, I take pleasure in penning you a report of the first conference held by the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the "Lone Star State," the 6th and 7th of July, 1895, at the Grubb settlement, Hopkins county, Texas.

Though young, our conference bids fair soon to resemble the state whose name it bears. Beginning one year ago with two Elders it now numbers twelve, and from the freedom of speech and the houses enjoyed by us, and the many friends who are earnestly investigating the principles of the Gospel, it is reasonable to suppose that a great work will be done in this part of the Lord's vineyard in the near future.

On Friday, the 5th, we were very much disappointed on receiving a telegram from our beloved president, Elder E. S. Kimball, stating that he would be unable to meet with us on account of sickness.

Conference convened Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, Elder A. S. Campbell, president of the conference, presiding. The Elders present were A. S. Campbell, Heber Anderson, A. C. Dailey, M. O. Miner, C. S. Hall, S. R. Wilcox, David Chidester, D. P. Overton, R. H. Smith, Fred Smith and S. H. Wells.

Elder H. W. Perry was taken with the chills, consequently was unable to attend the first day, but through the blessings of the Lord he enjoyed the privilege of meeting with us on Sunday.

Services began by singing. Prayer was offered by Elder Wells. Singing.