

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE.

Tomorrow, October 4, the sixty-seventh semi-annual conference of the Church will begin its sessions in this city. Already there have arrived numerous representatives from the organizations of the Saints throughout these valleys—from Canada, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Mexico and other places, and from all parts of Utah. This semi-annual gathering, which on the Sabbath day requires both the great Tabernacle and the Assembly Hall to accommodate it and, then there is located a room, is of representative people in Church affairs, who assemble to transact business pertaining to the general conferences, and to receive instructions and admonitions which the Lord imparts through His divinely commissioned and inspired servants.

In this age the work of the Lord has made wonderful progress since its inception in the early part of the century. The advancement is not measured alone by the great number of people who have become members of the Church; for this would be a superficial guide to a work that is carried on both among mortality and in the spirit world, although in point of membership long strides have been made by the Church. But its influence and its teachings have a much broader scope than in mere membership. They have proceeded as spiritual forces in all directions, and in the two-thirds of a century since the Church was organized an effect of the doctrine promulgated has been to revolutionize the religious ideas of professing Christians in every land. The man who knew professed Christianity as it was at the opening of the present century would scarcely recognize its dogmas today, so much have they been broadened, modified and corrected by contact with the teaching of pure doctrine by Mormon Elders. The Lord has been thus operating for the increase of light and intelligence, so that all who will may be brought to a knowledge of the truth.

During the period since the Church was organized in latter days, the doctrine revealed by the Lord has been adhered to persistently, as the perfect law of liberty in the Gospel. The ideas of the world have been brought nearer to it in their progress, but it remains the perfect, transcendently beautiful Gospel plan, unchanged and unchangeable because it embraces all that is good and pure and true, all that is progressive and exalting. The Lord Jesus came in the meridian of time, having authority from His Father to accomplish a certain purpose, which He did; He also gave authority to His organized Church in those days to attain a certain result, which was done; and in preparation for His second advent and the hour of judgment He has given authority to His organized Church in latter days to fulfill a glorious mission, in which it is sure to triumph. He organized His Church to remain on the earth to the full end of its purpose; it has been preserved

to violate; the work of the Lord has never been overthrown and His hand is not turned backward; and the Church of His institution in organized form on the sixth of April, 1830, is the one which holds its sixty-seventh semi-annual conference in this city this month.

There is no doubt among the Latter-day Saints that in this conference, as in all others, the inspiration of the Almighty will be with His servants. That is the aim of their faith and prayers for those who are placed in authority, and the supplications of Israel will be heard and answered; the spirit of prophecy which is the testimony of Jesus will rest upon the Church authorities, on whom He has conferred His Priesthood; and whatever the trials, the hardships, the pleasures or the prosperity of the Saints, of one thing they are assured at their conference, viz., that they will be occasions of great rejoicing because of the Spirit of the Lord that is poured out thereat, to the guidance, blessing and happiness of those who love and serve the Lord.

"SOUND CURRENCY" FOOLISHNESS.

"Sound Currency" is published semi-monthly by the sound currency committee of the New York Reform club. It is in the interest of the gold standard, and we have no objection to its believing as it pleases in the way of financial policy; nor do we have any compunctions of conscience in disagreeing with its views. But we do object to its method and statements in an issue of the pamphlet that is being widely circulated in the West, partly because they are foolish, but chiefly because they are untrue and therefore disreputable. One effort in the issue referred to is to make use of anti-Mormon sentiment in the present campaign. On this point it may be conceded that in some respects the attempt is original in directing the sentiment against bimetallicism, but in its principal aspect there is nothing either new or beautiful about it, since it bears the characteristic stamp of all anti-Mormon literature, that of base misrepresentation.

On the front page of the number of Sound Currency referred to is this quotation from the Book of Mormon:

Now these are the names of the different pieces of their gold, and of their silver, according to their value. And the names are given by the Nephites; for they did not reckon after the manner of the Jews who were at Jerusalem; neither did they measure after the manner of the Jews, but they altered their reckoning and their measure, according to the minds and the circumstances of the people, in every generation, until the reign of the Judges; they having been established by King Mosiah.

This passage appears in the eleventh chapter of Alma, credited to the eighth chapter in the pamphlet, Sound Currency, which follows it on the next page with this statement:

The only supernatural authority which has been found for the almost universal

practice of trying to make two unequal things equal is that which is printed above from the Book of Mormon. The authority must stand on its merits. The fact, however, of the failure of the efforts to use silver and gold as the standard of value, as if their equality could be compelled, leaves this solitary utterance of alleged inspiration in a bad way.

By reading the quotation from the Book of Mormon it will be seen at once that the assertion of "supernatural authority" cannot be anything other than a wilful misrepresentation, for the quotation explains explicitly that the coinage value of the Nephites of that day was "established by King Mosiah," who was by no means a "supernatural" being but a good and wise king who stood at the head of a prehistoric American government, and who established the measure of values referred to about 100 years before the dawn of the Christian era; and the subsequent history of that nation proves his standard to have been very satisfactory, for there never was any quarrel over the financial issue, even in the long period of the republic which followed his death, and in which the people acknowledged and adopted the laws he had made, because of the wisdom and justice of the same. Thus the disreputable character of the Sound Currency statement regarding the Book of Mormon is shown beyond dispute.

Still further evidence is given on this matter in other passages in this same chapter which Sound Currency fails to quote, since they effectually refute the allegation that there was a "failure of the efforts to use silver and gold as the standard of values" or that there was any effort at all to make either or both of those metals the standard. If the writer for the Reform club's periodical had quoted the verse preceding the one he uses, and also one after it, he would have presented his readers with the following:

And the judge received for his wages according to his time: a sennine of gold for a day, or a sennum of silver, which is equal to a sennine of gold; and this is according to the law which was given.

A sennum of silver was equal to a sennine of gold; and either for a measure of barley, and also for a measure of every kind of grain.

There is not anything in the whole chapter to intimate that the people used silver and gold "as a standard of value," or either of them. On the other hand the plain statement is that the precious metals were not the standard, for the reckoning and measure of the pieces or coins of both gold and silver were altered from time to time as stated in the original quotation by Sound Currency. But the coinage bore their relative value to each other, as they do in the United States today: then a sennine of gold and a sennum of silver were of equal value, as a gold dollar and a silver dollar are of equal value today. Carrying the matter still farther, it might be said that the real standard of value, as shown in the chapter under discussion, was not a metal at all, but was a measure of grain, and that standard was based upon a day's employment; for the judge received for his day's wages a measure of grain, or a sennum of silver, or a sennine of gold—the primary stan-