

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

## Its Semi-Annual Conference.

A large attendance of officers and members of the Deseret Sunday School Union convened in the Tabernacle Friday evening, October 5th, Assistant General Superintendent George Goddard presiding.

The combined chorons belonging to the Sunday Schools of the Eleventh and Twenty-first wards, conducted by Brother Thomas McIntyre with Prof. J. J. Daynes at the organ, furnished excellent music during the evening.

Opened with singing, "Glorious things of thee are spoken. Prayer by Elder Wm. Potberingham. Choir sang, "Zion stands with hills surrounded."

The roll was called showing four-teen Stakes represented.

Superintendent George Goddard said that he was pleased to see so many of the officers belonging to our Sabbath Schools present, remarking that it was an evidence that the brethren and sisters had the welfare of the youth of Zion at heart. Brother George Q. Cannon, our General Superintendent, though unable to be with us in person was one with us in spirit, and the deep interest he felt in our labors. He announced that they would depart somewhat from the usual method, and instead of hearing reports from Stake Superintendents would carry out a programme that had been arranged for this meeting.

Elder Karl G. Maeser was then called upon to deliver a brief address on the grading of classes in our Sunday schools. He said to have a successful Sunday school every officer and teacher must of necessity have the interest of the scholars and school at heart, must understand his or her business, and devote considerable time to the acquirement of knowledge and the cultivation of the Holy Spirit in order to perform an effectual labor. The task or lesson on hand for a given day should be thoroughly understood by the teachers beforehand, so that when the time arrives and the classes meet as they are wont to do every Sabbath morning, the brethren and sisters will be able to handle the subjects intelligently, will be able to make any explanations connected with the lessons, and with the Spirit of the Lord to assist them, their teaching will be interesting and beneficial. It is of the greatest importance that the subjects selected be adapted to the various classes in the schools, and that the lessons for the succeeding Sunday be studied before that time. Different subjects may be selected for every Sunday in the year.

It is important that the various classes in our Sabbath schools be graded, beginning with the smaller children, whose ages range from two or three years upwards. These form the primary classes, and the most suitable persons to teach them are our sisters. Being naturally adapted and endowed by the Creator to impart instructions to children, women make the best and most efficient teachers for these classes, providing that they live according to the light and spirit of the Gospel. This, however, will not exempt the brethren from their labors in this direction. The simplest and most interesting stories contained in the Bible and other good books should be selected for these classes, and after relating them in the plainest yet most interesting manner to the children, so that they may understand what has been said, questions may be asked to see that the subject is comprehended. Gain the attention of the little ones by making them interested in what is being taught, and the success desired will be attained.

The next class is the intermediate. Subjects selected for these classes may be of a varied character. The *Juvenile Instructor* is an admirable work for these classes and should be in every school in Zion. The articles of faith, ten commandments, the Lord's prayer, and other subjects of an appropriate nature may be treated upon from time to time in these classes with profitable advantage, as the Spirit of the Lord may direct. We next come to intermediate classes or those further advanced, and which are reading in the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants or other sacred works. First of all it is very unprofitable to read chapters containing names, simply to see whether these chapters can be read and the names pronounced properly. Let subjects be read and studied that are profitable, such as the lives of the ancient prophets, also the sayings of the Savior, including His parables, all of which contain important subjects, and the lives and Acts of the Apostles.

The theological class is for the most advanced students, and the teachers of these classes especially should be familiar with every subject under consideration, and be thoroughly posted on doctrinal points. These classes, if properly trained, are classes of teachers, or should be, in the fullest sense of the word, and should be prepared and ready at any call of the superintendents to take charge of other classes as their services are required. Unless classes are graded properly the desired results cannot be obtained. The success of our Sunday schools depends upon the extent of the Spirit of the Lord in our hearts, punctuality and order in school.

The choir sang: "Our mountain home so dear."

Elder James E. Talmage then spoke upon normal training of Sunday School teachers, and showed the necessity of teachers being efficient before being intrusted with the training of the youth of Zion, and remarked who would ever think of placing a piece of intricate machinery, such as an engine for instance, in the hands of a person unacquainted with it, and send him out with passengers or anything else. The consequences of such an act would certainly bring death and destruction. The children of the Saints and the human family are far more precious than these things, then how essential it is that our training be such that we can impart the words of life and salvation to them. Our parents and the older portion of the community have done a good work in their day, and as we are expected to do our part, let us with the facilities within our reach and the guidance of the Holy Spirit equip ourselves for the important work that devolves upon us in the Sunday School cause.

Superintendent Goddard then very briefly reviewed the labors of the Union during the past year. He could not help reflecting upon the rapid progress that had been made in our Sabbath Schools since the Union was organized. During the year we have tried, both in this country and in England, to procure samples of charts suitable for the instruction of our primary classes. But failing to find any that we could fully recommend, we are now taking steps to publish large, illustrated charts on Bible and Book of Mormon subjects that, we trust, will meet the present needs of those who are teaching our little ones. We have also just issued a Hymn Book of 250 pages that has been specially prepared for our Sunday School. It contains all the hymns and songs worthy of preservation that have been published by the Union, as well as many others, some of which have not appeared before. This first edition of 5,000 copies has been gotten up in such good style and the price placed so low that it will be welcome in every Sunday School. In far off New Zealand we have fifteen Sunday Schools organized among the Maori Saints. In response to a request from the president of that mission the Union had donated \$50 worth of publications to be translated into their own tongue and sent to them as soon as they can be got ready. Also in answer to a similar call a donation of books has been sent to our Sunday Schools in the Sandwich Islands, where this work is progressing.

Supt. John Morgan next delivered a short address on "The Government of Sunday Schools." He contrasted the difference between order and disorder. He urged the brethren and sisters to cherish the Holy Ghost in their hearts, and so live daily as to merit and enjoy this, the richest of all boons. He said the first thing to be observed in our coming together on the Sabbath morning was to be punctual; keep good order in the schools and not on any account allow running to and fro inside the school rooms. A spirit of kindness and patience should characterize all the acts of the teachers. If order is observed by the children when entering the school room of a Sabbath morning, and while there, and also during their dismissal, the influence for good will be felt in the whole wards and villages where the Saints reside, but on the other hand, if this principle is not observed, who knows but half of the ward or village will be upset by the noise created through a failure of the Sunday school to carry out this important lesson. Let us as Superintendents and Teachers be punctual ourselves at the Sabbath school, be consistent in everything, at the hour set for commencing the exercises, tap the bell at the minute if there are only five persons present, and above all be kind to all whom we come in contact with, and particularly the children intrusted to our care in the school or at home.

The choir sang "The children's song prayer."

The names of the general officers of the Union were then presented to the meeting and were unanimously sustained as follows:

George Q. Cannon as General Superintendent with George Goddard and John Morgan as his Assistants. Levi W. Richards, Secretary; John C. Cutler, Assistant Secretary and George Reynolds, Treasurer.

The meeting then closed with singing by the choir, and benediction by Elder Richard Ballantyne.

## LAND REVIEW.

## The Chinese and the Public Domain.

Editor Deseret News:

The Chinese question is just at present the all-absorbing topic of public and political discussion, and a bill prohibiting the immigration into this country of Chinese persons has been passed by Congress, and is now before the President, who will probably sign it now that official information of the rejection by the Chinese government of the treaty recently proposed, has been received.

Quite a flutter of excitement was created a few days ago by the announcement in the public prints that

Assistant Commissioner Anderson, of the General Land Office, had rendered a decision to the effect that a Chinaman who in 1887 declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States could legally initiate a homestead entry.

It is quite certain, however, that whatever may have been the foundation upon which the rumor was based, and whatever may have been the opinion of the Assistant Commissioner upon the subject at the time of the publication, no such decision was promulgated, and that officer is now firmly of the opinion that unless a Chinaman can conclusively show that he had declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States prior to the amendment of the Naturalization Laws in 1875, he can never become qualified to make an entry of public lands under any of the laws where citizenship is a pre-requisite.

It appears that the district land officers in one of the Territories permitted three Chinamen, who had filed their declarations of citizenship in 1883, to make a mineral land entry, and the case came before the Assistant Commissioner for consideration. His judgment was emphatically recorded against the legality of such an entry, and an order of cancellation was made at once; no holding for cancellation with privilege of appeal, was made, but the entry was canceled outright, without a word in the decision about the right of appeal, on the ground that only citizens of the United States and those who had legally declared their intentions to become such, can make entry for mineral lands, and that as the Revised Statutes as amended by the act of 1875 excluded Mongolians from the privilege of becoming citizens, the entry was illegal and utterly void.

Very few Chinamen have ever become citizens of the United States. I am informed that out of the thousands that have come here only sixteen were ever naturalized. If this be true, and no change occurs in our naturalization laws, the public domain will not be absorbed to any great extent by Chinamen unless those sixteen prove unusually prolific in offspring.

HENRY N. CORP.

## THE FINAL DECREE

In the Church Cases by the Supreme Court of Utah.

TEMPLE BLOCK ORDERED RELEASED.

The Reference to the Teaching and Practice of Plural Marriage.

In the Supreme Court, Territory of Utah.

The United States of America, Plaintiff vs. The Late Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints et al Defendants.

Finding of Facts by the Court, upon the pleadings and evidence, and Final Decree.

This cause coming on this day for final hearing and determination by the court, upon the bill of complaint herein, the answers of the several defendants, and the replications thereto, the petition of William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder, trustees for the unincorporated sect of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the petition of intervention by George Romney, Henry Dinwoodey, James Watson and John Clark on behalf of themselves and others, and upon the answers to said petitions, and upon the evidence on file in this cause, including the agreed statement of facts entered into and accepted as evidence by the consent of all parties to this cause and each and all of the parties to this cause being represented by counsel, and the court having duly considered the same, and being fully advised in the premises, it doth find and declare the following facts to have been established in this cause:

1. That the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was, from the 19th day of January, 1855, to the 3d day of March, 1887, a corporation for religious and charitable purposes, duly organized and existing under and in pursuance of an ordinance enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Utah and approved by the Governor thereof on the said 19th day of January, A. D. 1855, a copy of which ordinance is made a part of the complaint herein.

2. That on the 19th day of February, 1887, Congress of the United States passed an act entitled, "An act to amend section 5552 of the Revised Statutes of the United States in reference to bigamy, and for other purposes, approved March 22nd, 1882," which purported to disapprove, repeal and annul the said charter, and act of incorporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints aforesaid, and passed as aforesaid.

3. That immediately before the passage of said act of Congress of February 19th, 1887, the said John Taylor was, and for a long time prior thereto, had been, the qualified and acting Trustee-in-Trust of said corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; that after the passage of said act of Congress of February 19th, 1887, the said John Taylor claimed to hold and continued to exercise the powers conferred upon said Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by said act of incorporation, until his death, which occurred on the 26th day of July, A. D. 1887.

4. That at the date of the passage

of said act of Congress of February 19th, 1887, and for a long time prior thereto, there were no assistant trustees of said corporation, none having been elected, appointed or qualified since the year 1877; that said Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, F. D. Richards, Brigham Young, Moses Thatcher, F. M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant and John W. Taylor were, at the commencement of this suit, counsellors and advisers of said John Taylor, and continued to his death counseling and advising him respecting the management, use and control of the property hereinafter described.

5. That since the passage of said act of Congress of February 19th, 1887, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has existed as a voluntary religious sect, of which the said Wilford Woodruff is the acting President, and has had duly designated and appointed by the Probate Court of Salt Lake County, in said Territory, in pursuance of the act of Congress aforesaid, the following named trustees: W. B. Preston, Robt. T. Burton and John R. Winder, to take the title to and hold such real estate as shall be allowed said religious sect by law for the erection and use of houses of worship, parsonages and burial grounds.

6. That at the time of the passage of said act of Congress (February 19th, 1887), there was no outstanding debts of or any claims against said corporation, so far as appears to the court from the evidence herein.

7. That at the time of the passage of the act of Congress of February 19th, 1887, the said corporation owned, held and possessed the following real estate, viz.:

[Then follows a detailed description of the Temple Block, the Gardo House, the Tithing Office, Historian's Office and grounds, etc.]

The legal title to the real estate first above described, known as the Temple Block at the time said act of February 19th, 1887, went into effect, was in John Taylor as trustee-in-trust for the said corporation, which said trustee-in-trust subsequently and on the 30th day of June, 1887, attempted to convey the same to William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder as trustees by a certain instrument in writing in the words and figures following, to wit:

[Here follows the deed, conveying the property from John Taylor to the three trustees.]

[The following is a synopsis of the description of property and the manner of its acquisition.]

The said Temple Block was taken possession of by the agents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, then existing as a voluntary unincorporated religious sect when Salt Lake City was first laid out, and surveyed in 1848, and since said date has been in the possession of said Church as a voluntary religious sect, until it became incorporated as aforesaid, and then as a corporation; that at the time the same was taken possession of as aforesaid, it was a part of the public domain, and continued to be such until said land was entered by the mayor of said city, along with other lands, on the 21st day of November, 1871, under the townsite act of Congress entitled "An act for the relief of cities and towns upon the public lands," approved March 21, 1867. That on the 1st day of June, 1872, the same was conveyed by the mayor of said Salt Lake City to the trustees-in-trust, in whom the title remained until the act of Congress of February 19th, 1887, took effect.

The facts in regard to the possession and acquisition of the balance of said real estate above described, are as follows: The second property above described and known as the Gardo House and grounds, was owned by Brigham Young individually at the time of his death in 1887 and was thereafter conveyed by his executors to John Taylor as trustee-in-trust, for a valuable consideration: that subsequently, on the 24th day of April, 1878, the said John Taylor transferred the same to Theodore McKean, on a secret trust for said corporation, who held the same until the 2d day of July, 1887, when he attempted to convey it to Trustees Burton, Winder and Preston for the sum of one dollar. That said Gardo House and grounds were used and occupied by said John Taylor, President of said Church, from 1878 up to the time of his death, as a residence.

The historian's office and grounds were taken possession of by Albert P. Rockwood in 1848, and was a part of the public domain, and continued to be such until November 21, 1871, when the townsite of Salt Lake City was entered. That on October 3d, 1853, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, through Brigham Young as trustee-in-trust, purchased Rockwood's claims and erected thereon the building which has ever since been known as the Historian's office and residence; that from 1848 till his death, George A. Smith was historian and lived in said building with his family; that the books, papers and records of the Church have always been kept in said building from the time of its construction to the present, at the cost of said Church; and that said office has been and is necessary for the use of said historian in the discharge of his duties; that in 1872, George A. Smith obtained the title of said premises from the Mayor of Salt Lake City under the townsite act; and that after his death the same was conveyed to his wife and one of his daughters, who afterwards

transferred the same to Theodore McKean for a valuable consideration; that the said McKean has held the property since that date on a secret trust for the use and benefit of said corporation.

The part of the Tithing office and grounds were taken possession of by agents of the Church in 1848, when Salt Lake was first laid out, and ever since that time have been used by said sect in receiving and distributing tithing and voluntary contributions of property; that prior to July 1st, 1862, buildings and other improvements of considerable value had been built thereon by the Church; that at the time they were taken possession of it was part of the public domain—on the 21st of November, 1871, said land was entered under the townsite act. That Brigham Young, then President and Trustee-in-trust of the Church, claimed said land under the townsite law and it was conveyed to him by Daniel H. Wells, then Mayor of said city; that in November, 1873, Brigham Young transferred the same to George A. Smith, as trustee-in-trust; that at his death, the legal title to said premises vested in Brigham Young and his successor, and the executors of the Brigham Young estate transferred the property to John Taylor, who in April, 1873, transferred and conveyed the same to Edward Hunter upon a secret trust for the use and benefit of said corporation; that Hunter on the 24th day of April, 1878, transferred and conveyed the same to Robert T. Burton on a secret trust, for said corporation, and on the 2d day of July, 1887, the said Burton attempted to convey the same to W. B. Preston, John R. Winder and Robert T. Burton, as trustees.

That the other piece of property known as part of the Tithing office and grounds was possessed, acquired and owned as follows: That in 1848 Newel K. Whitney, then presiding Bishop of the Church, took possession of lot 5, block 88, plat A, Salt Lake City survey, and in the same year Horace K. Whitney took possession of lot 6 in said block; that some time in the year 1856 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by its agents, took possession of the south half of said lots, and placed thereon yards and corrals, and have continued to occupy the same down to the present. That in 1870, the foregoing lots became a part of the townsite entry. The said Church, in 1871, filed an application in the proper court for a title to the south half of said lots, and the heirs of Newel K. Whitney also filed an application in the proper court for the south half of said lot 5, and Horace K. Whitney filed an application in the same court for the south half of lot 6. The court awarded the title to the said premises to Brigham Young, as trustee aforesaid. That in 1872, Brigham Young, trustee, obtained a deed from the heirs of Newel K. Whitney to said south half of lot 5, and in consideration thereof paid them \$7,000, and at the same time he also obtained a deed from Horace K. Whitney of lot 6, and paid therefor the sum of \$2,000. At the time the act of Congress of February 19, 1887, took effect, the legal title thereto was held by Robert T. Burton on a secret trust for the use and benefit of said corporation; that on the 2d day of July, 1887, he attempted to convey the same to Trustees Winder, Burton and Preston, by a certain instrument of writing.

The remainder of said real estate, held, owned and possessed by said corporation as aforesaid was acquired by it after the 1st day of July, 1862, by purchase, but the legal title thereof was at all times held by persons in trust for said corporation upon secret trusts, and not by the corporation itself.

That at the time the said act of Congress of February 19, 1887, took effect, said corporation owned, held and possessed the following described personal property to wit: One large safe, one medium-sized iron safe, twenty-five arm chairs, eleven rotary chairs, ten upholstered chairs, two desks, one letter press, 800 shares of \$100 each of the capital stock of the Salt Lake Gas Company, 4,782 shares of \$100 each of the capital stock of the Deseret Telegraph Company, one promissory note, dated March 2, 1887, due and payable to John Taylor, trustee-in-trust, or order, two years after date, calling for the sum of \$13,333 33; bearing 6 per cent interest from date, signed by Sharp and Little; one promissory note, dated March 2, 1887, due and payable to John Taylor, trustee-in-trust, or order, two years after date, and calling for \$1,000.00, with 6 per cent interest from date, signed by LeGrand Young; one promissory note dated March 3d, 1887, payable to the order of John Taylor, trustee-in-trust, two years from date, calling for \$4,833 33; with interest at 6 per cent from date; signed James Jack; one promissory note, \$5,000, with 6 per cent interest—signed H. B. Clawson; 30,158 sheep; \$237,666 15 money, proceeds of sales of miscellaneous property. That since said personal property came into the possession of the Receiver heretofore appointed in this cause, he has collected as rent from the said real estate, \$2,850; as dividends on said gas stock, \$4,900; as interest on said money, \$2,233 60.

That the said corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was in its nature and by its statute of incorporation, a religious and charitable corporation, for the purpose of promulgating, spreading and upholding the principles, practices, teachings and tenets of said church, and for the purpose of dispensing charity, subject and according to said