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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 24, 1904

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-fifth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, commencing on Thursday, October 6, 1904. A general attendance on that day of the officers and members is requested and expected.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

CONFERENCE NOTES.

The General Priesthood meeting will be held in the tabernacle on Friday night, commencing at 7 o'clock.

The special Priesthood meeting usually held on the day after conference consisting of the General Authorities, Stake Presidents and Bishops, High Councilors, Patriarchs, Presidents of temples and Presidents of missions, will be held in the Assembly hall on Saturday, the 10th, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. The members of the General Boards of the Sunday School Union and Y. M. M. I. Association are also invited to this meeting.

The General Conference will adjourn on Friday afternoon to Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

Sunday School Union will convene in the Tabernacle on Sunday night, commencing at 7 o'clock.

CLINCHING EVIDENCE.

We give place on another page of the "News" today to a letter from New York about the baptism of the only surviving son of the late Sidney Rigdon, the once celebrated associate of the Prophet Joseph Smith. We draw attention to it as one more bit of corroborative evidence against the story, still repeated by the ministerial enemies of the Church, that Sidney Rigdon was responsible for the Book of Mormon, having adapted it from a romance called "The Manuscript Found," written by one Solomon Spaulding.

Apart from the fact, more recently established by the discovery of that manuscript, that there is no resemblance of any kind between it and the Book of Mormon, and that it is impossible that one was formed out of or suggested by the other, the history of Sidney Rigdon, of his career with the Campbellites, of his first acquaintance with the Prophet Joseph, preceded by the introduction of the Gospel and the Book of Mormon to him by Elder Parley P. Pratt some time after its publication, has been attested by numerous witnesses, and thoroughly establishes the falsehood of the story invented by "Mormon" haters and repeated from numberless pulpits, Sidney Rigdon's own straightforward statement with that of Parley P. Pratt and others, duly attested, settled the matter long ago with all unbiased investigators who desired the truth.

It is well known that after the death of the Prophet Joseph, Sidney Rigdon, who had for some time pursued a rebellious course, was cut off the Church and retired from Nauvoo to Pittsburgh, but that he never denied his former testimony concerning the Book of Mormon nor the divinity of the Prophet's mission. Now comes his son with the account of his father's witness to the last, concerning the falsehood of the story told by preachers and echoed by editors, about his alleged connection with the production of a book that remains a puzzle to the learned, because they will not admit the possibility of divine revelation in the present age.

However, no matter what they may reject, it is clear from the positive proofs so abundantly furnished, that the whole Spaulding story and the purported complexity with it of Sidney Rigdon, is a fabrication out of supposed incidents that never occurred, and is utterly unworthy of rational belief or serious consideration. The anti-"Mormon" agitators will have to turn to something else, in their frantic endeavors to account for the origin of the record of ancient America bearing the title of the Book of Mormon.

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Dispatches from Chicago of recent date give particulars of the abandonment from Dowie's Zion City of a number of his followers, thirty-five leaving in a bunch, because of his new assumptions. It is stated not only that he announced himself as "the first Apostle" of his church with eleven others to be selected by him, but that he appeared in robes in imitation of those of the Hebrew High Priest, which had been made to his order in secret, and thus proved "the last straw" of the load of his conceits which had become a burden to the seceders.

It is strange to outsiders that so many otherwise sensible people could swallow the story that he was Elijah the Prophet returned to earth. How that ancient Prophet could be reincarnated—even if the doctrine of reincarnation were true—seeing that Elijah was not disembodied but translated,

taken up bodily in "a chariot of fire," should have been a startling query with believers in the Bible who were attracted by Dowie's pretensions. And having accepted that inconsistency, it would seem that the matter of dress and similar assumptions would not have made so much of a commotion. But it is evident that doubts must have arisen as to his Elijah claim and hence the further objections that proved effective.

As to his impudent declaration of his Apostleship there might well be serious inquiry. The first Apostles were called and ordained by Christ himself, who received that authority from the Father. "He glorified not himself to be made a High Priest," but was appointed by direct revelation. Whether he was ordained, as some suppose, under the hands of Moses and Elijah—translated beings—is not stated in the New Testament, but that they appeared to him in the mount of transfiguration and spoke to him of his sacrifice on the cross is recorded, and that this manifestation was witnessed by Peter, James and John who were afterwards placed at the head of the Apostleship and of the Church. At any rate, "no man taketh this honor unto himself," unless he be an impostor.

It may be asked how did Joseph Smith claim the Apostleship and by what right do men in the "Mormon" Church profess to hold it? The answer is, by virtue of direct revelation from on high and the actual ordination to that office under the hands of Peter, James and John, sent by divine authority in these latter days to confer it upon men. That authority has been continued in the way divinely directed down to the present time, and the promise is given that it will not be taken again from the earth until the purposes of God are accomplished in the redemption of mankind.

Men may thrust themselves forward as "called of God," and may imagine themselves so authorized and figure for a time in that character. But that is not "the way of the Lord," and He will not acknowledge or sustain it. Neither will believers in the sacred Scriptures accept it if they understand what they read. False prophets and false Christs will arise in the latter times and deceive many. They are signs of the approaching consummation. "The wise will understand" and be able to detect the false from the true, and God will manifest the truth to the honest and sincere inquirer who exercises faith in Him.

The theatrical trumpery that impostors assume in their ministry of sacred things, is offensive to a thoughtful mind and is more highly so to the Eternal Father, who accepts no ministrations of ordinance or ceremony that He has not established, and who will repudiate every human device and mortal assumption. People who reject God's simple truth lay themselves open to man's deceptions. When the heavenly light is dispelled, the benighted are liable to be led by the will of the wisps that lure the soul into the quagmires of error and darkness and death. "Beware of them who come unto you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves," or who masquerade in sacerdotal frippery, and seek to fleece you for their own gain!

WORLD CHURCHES INDICTED.

The question why the modern churches of the world are not a vital, moral force in society, will not down. Those optimistically inclined endeavor to explain away some of the most troublesome facts, but without a great deal of success.

The Universalist Leader has recently revived interest in the subject. According to that journal, the cause is to be found in the fact that the church has ceased to be a church where the people may come for worship and receive the divine influence into their souls. The church, we are told, has become a social center, a lecture hall, a school, a college, a literary society, a place of amusement, a bazaar, a library, an institution of philanthropy, a nursery, a kindergarten, a soup kitchen, an employment bureau, or a political caucus; it has abandoned its own peculiar field and entered other fields for which it is wholly unfitted.

The result is most deplorable. According to the journal quoted,

"We witness today the abandonment of one after another of the civic virtues until our municipalities are the reproach of the world; our legislatures, state and national, corrupt almost beyond belief. In fact, we are eye-witnesses of public degeneracy which should appall us."

From this dark picture of public morals the writer turns to the social aspect of society. His verdict is:

"The world has gone pleasure-mad; the object of all work is to get money for physical gratification; the cars and steamboats are jammed with crowds seeking artificial excitement, and in the summer the churches are closed, once for weeks, now for months; once to give the minister a rest, now to give the people an opportunity for cheap pleasure. Thought is given alone to physical gratification until all moral sense is paralyzed, and the one desire is to keep up with the procession of revelers headed by the Newport crowd, where we have the exhibition of the best educated, the most highly cultured, the best fed and best dressed and wealthiest fruit of our national life, and are forced to say of it that with all these envied 'advantages,' not in the worst slums of a great city, nor yet in the deepest wilds of savage Africa, is there to be found greater debasement of human life or more unparalleled debauchery of morals."

This is a terrible verdict. But we are also told of the cause of this condition. On this point the writer says:

"And you ministers are responsible for this absence of soul life. You have sold your divine birthright for a mess of pottage. You have not been stuck to your calling, you run after every scheme of saving the world by fiat, or by vote, or by purchase, or by organization, or by institution, when there is no other name under heaven by which the world can be saved except Christ Jesus; and if you do not believe that, what are you doing in the Christian ministry? You know ten times as much about the Bible as the Fathers did, but you do not know as much Bible; you know all the theories of prayer, but you do not pray. You are the victims of every fad; you had rather quote Browning than Jesus Christ; you had rather lecture on the North Pole than to preach the gospel; you had rather write a popular novel than to write a sermon; you ride your hobbies, you get up excursions, you give entertainments, you take up an agency

or run a hotel, anything, everything except sticking to your calling."

And again:

"The Christian church, is being starved to death by its friends. Emaciated and weakened, this once regal figure stands with outstretched hands, pitifully pleading the privilege to live. Once dominant, now dependent; once autocratic, now apologetic; once loved and respected, now lonesome and rejected."

The worst of all this is that it is true. And there is no other remedy for it than a mighty revival, through Divine agency, such as has at intervals in the history of man taken place and given to all human activities a new direction. There is no other remedy than the coming, among the dead bones, of the Divine spirit of prophecy that alone can bring order out of chaos, and kindle the flame of life in the midst of death. And this work is being done even now, through the proclamation of the Gospel.

It is encouraging to know that there can be no doubt as to the final triumph of truth over error, right over wrong, good over evil. Whatever the appearances may be at present, Christ will ultimately be the acknowledged head of the nations of the world. The waves may rise and fall, but every new wave will roll on a little further than the previous. To the eye of faith the redemption of the world is as certain as if it were already accomplished. The old churches may have to be swept out, as the money changers and cattle vendors were driven from the sacred precincts, but the work of redeeming mankind will go on, until the frantic shouts of "crucify!" are heard no longer, but instead the glad "Hosannas!"

GREAT DAY OF ATONEMENT.

From all over the country come accounts of the celebration, a few days ago, by the adherents of the Moslem faith, of the great day of atonement, also called Yom Kippur, or Yom Hakippurim. The day was observed earnestly by the devout Jews in all lands, although it cannot be kept according to the letter of the Moslem law, as long as the nation is in a state of dispersion.

The day was, it is thought by some, originally set apart as a day of expiation for the sin of idolatry, in the matter of the golden calf, but later the great law-giver ordained it as a yearly festival, for the purpose of general absolution. To the people it was meant to be a day of fasting and prayer, and one of the most remarkable ceremonies on that day was the entrance of the presiding High Priest into the Holy of Holies. This ceremony can, of course, not be performed under present conditions, and it is easy to understand that with this left out, and with the mission of the sacrifices peculiar to the day, little more than the name remains.

And yet, it is well for the children of Israel to fast and pray, honestly and humbly, on that day, and on others, for the redemption of the nation. The Jews will never be at home among the nations of the earth, as long as they endeavor to be faithful to the cult of the fathers. In Russia fanaticism may break into flame any time in the future, as it has done in the past. Even from enlightened Germany come reports of persecution. At Sasnovitch, it is said, a city close to the Russian frontier, more than fifty Jews were murdered a couple of weeks ago, while more than 100 were seriously, some mortally, wounded. This slaughter was coincident with the celebration of the Jewish New Year. Sasnovitch has a population consisting of Jews, Germans and Russians. With sunrise of Sunday there started an anti-Semitic riot rivaling in barbarism and bloodthirstiness the massacres in Kishineff. The butchered Jews, so the story goes, were set upon by the rioters after life was extinct. Their bodies were mutilated and dismembered, the rioters using axes and knives to chop off arms and legs and even the breasts of women. And these severed members were cast to the dogs in the street.

In all probability the mob was stirred up by the silly fables about the Jews, to the effect that these capture and kill Christian children, because they need the blood for their services. The circulation of such tales has often been used by agitators as a means of stirring up the mob, because they hoped to profit by robbery, in the melee. The world is obtaining more and more light, but the persecution of the elect race goes on, in one part of the world or another. The call, therefore, is to the Jews to humble themselves before God of their fathers, that He may fulfill His promise and restore to them the land of promise, and their national autonomy. All true Christians are one with the Jews in this, for their restoration will mark the era of the regeneration of all the earth.

Ensign Stake conference tomorrow! Tibet is but a tidbit for the British lion. The autocrat of the breakfast table—the miller. It's poor policy to abuse people you can't use. The greatest bargain counter in the country is the "pie" counter. The man who steals a purse may

steal trash, but trash is not always cash.

General Stoessel can surely hold out as long as the Japh hold off.

Those workmen in the Eternal City are just striking to make a Roman holiday.

In the South negro voters are put on the black list instead of on the registration list.

Devilish have not been added to the list of food fishes. Why not? Devilish ham is a staple food.

Instead of calling himself John Alexander I why doesn't Dowie call himself Alexander the Great II and be done with it?

Meetings on Sunday in the Assembly Hall at 10 a. m., in the Tabernacle at 2 p. m., and in the yards at the usual time in the evening.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has had a genuine American experience. He has been in a railroad wreck; and with his own special train, too.

Kuropatkin announces that the Japanese again have assumed the offensive. The fact is that the Russians find the Japanese the most offensive people in the world.

Speaker Cannon has been calling Boston one of the "has beans." And the Boston papers do not think it at all nice of him. Perhaps not nice but true.

John Redmond says that the Irish race is dying out. If he will only read the census report of foreign born population of the United States he will see that he is wrong.

All the officers and members of the Elsin Stake of Zion are requested to meet in quarterly conference tomorrow, in the Assembly Hall at 10 a. m. and in the Tabernacle at 2 p. m.

"For goodness sake, do not let the coal barons hear of this theory that 'breathing coal dust is a cure for consumption,' or they will require the consumer to pay them for conducting a health-cure," says the Chicago News. This may explain the cause of the rise of the price of coal in Salt Lake City.

According to an interview with Professor Eli Metchnikoff of the Pasteur Institute which appears in the October number of the Fall Malt Magazine, the nearest approach to the elixir of life is sour milk. This may be the antidote for sour grapes, which shorten life.

Governor Terrell of Georgia has sounded a clarion note on the dangers arising from lynching. He says: "The people of Georgia should realize that unless these lynchings are stopped there is grave danger of their leading to legislation by Congress which would take the matter out of our hands and cause offenders to be tried in the United States courts. Of course this would be an interference with state rights, but Congress would seek to justify it on the ground that the state courts had failed to afford any remedy." And the people of every other state where lynchings are of frequent occurrence should take heed of Governor Terrell's warning.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"Rays of Living Light on the One Way of Salvation," by Elder Chas. W. Penrose, the well known series of brief papers on the principles of the Gospel, has now been issued from the Desert News press, in pamphlet form, convenient for distribution among inquirers. It is a very thorough discussion of the subjects that generally present themselves to honest minds, when the claims of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are presented to them. Faith, repentance, baptism, the gift of the Holy Ghost, authority, apostasy, restoration, the Book of Mormon, revelation, salvation for the dead—these are the truths set forth clearly in the light of the Scriptures. The whole forms a very neat pamphlet, clearly printed. It is safe to say that it will be very widely circulated, and, undoubtedly, it will be a valuable help in the missionary field.—Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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