

THE OCTOBER CONFERENCE.

THE semi-annual Conference which has just closed, will long be remembered by the Latter-day Saints who attended it. There were more people assembled during the session than at any previous occasion. On Sunday not only was the great Tabernacle filled to overflowing, but large numbers could not gain admission to the building. In the afternoon the Assembly Hall was thrown open, and the two commodious edifices were insufficient for the immense host and therefore crowds remained in the grounds or retired from the Temple Block altogether.

The instructions imparted were especially characterized by a force, and vigor, and freedom of utterance, that betokened the presence of that inspiration without which the finest efforts of oratory are vain and of little worth to the Saints. The speakers and the hearers were in harmony. The eagerness to listen, the joyful expression upon the countenances of the congregations, the glistening eyes and murmurs of approval that accompanied the fervent addresses delivered, were tokens of the value which the people placed upon the teachings they received.

These utterances were doctrinal and practical as well as exhortative. They were luminous and pointed. Errors were exposed, reasons for the faith were given, wrong-doing was rebuked, righteousness was exalted, the necessity for union in all things was plainly portrayed, and there was no mistaking the meaning of what was said, for it was uttered in the power and demonstration of the Spirit.

The filling up of the vacancies in the Council of the Twelve Apostles was gratifying to the body of the Church. It was generally desired that this important Quorum should be complete. The selections made, we believe, were heartily endorsed by the people; not only through the visible token of assent, but in the heart and mind of the Church. The brethren chosen are exemplary, talented and experienced, are representative men and of such a calibre and spirit that they are likely to work in full harmony with their brethren of the Apostles and the First Presidency. This is essential to the proper working of those governing authorities in the Priesthood, and we rejoice with the Church in the wise selection, and in the full organization of the two leading quorums.

The omission of the presentation of reports was pleasing to all with whom we have conversed on the subject. Reading them usually consumes valuable time which the body of the people would much rather have occupied with instructions from the servants of the Lord. Still, it must be perceived, even by the strongest objector to hearing long arrays of figures, financial and statistical, that reports should be made by the various Stakes and Societies to the General Church Authorities, and that they should be accurate and complete. We are sorry to learn that there is neglect in this direction at every Conference. That is a matter that can easily be remedied, and we hope that at future Conferences every Stake and Ward and Association will be fully and correctly reported, upon the blanks which are furnished to them to fill. That would be a simple matter if each responsible person would respond in proper season.

The vigor, and spirit, and clearness of mind of President Wilford Woodruff, now in the eighty-third year of his earthly pilgrimage, were remarkably noticeable and matters of general congratulation. The sustaining power of Omnipotence was visible in his ministrations, and the desire is universal that he may yet be spared many years to guide Israel and minister before the Lord.

The Conference, we feel assured, will bear excellent fruits. The faith of the Saints has been confirmed. Their spirits have been refreshed. Their understandings have been enlarged. Their determination to remain steadfast, no matter what opposition or persecution may arise, has been made stronger than ever. And the fire that burned in the hearts of the assembled multitude will be carried to the remotest parts of Zion, and be felt in spiritual light and warmth in every settlement.

It was a grand occasion and was a testimony that God is with His servants and His people, and that come what may He will bring them and His great work on earth to a complete and glorious victory.

A VACANT OFFICE.

WE UNDERSTAND that Probate Judge John A. Marshall has resigned his position and ceased to act in his office. This will occasion much surprise and not a little regret. We believe that this gentleman has discharged the duties of Probate Judge of Salt Lake County to the

satisfaction of both classes of this community, or as nearly so as is possible, considering how high party feelings run in this Territory.

The question naturally arises, What is the matter? We are firmly of the opinion that, as the Judge is a Democrat and the Administration is Republican in politics, party influences have had their weight in this resignation. It is stated that the Judge cannot afford to give up his law practice for the emoluments of this office, and as it is not lawful for a Probate Judge to be a practicing attorney at the same time as he performs his official functions, he had to choose either one position or the other, and he has chosen.

It is regrettable that he did not see his way clear to finish up the business immediately in hand before retiring. There are bills to be paid that require his signature, pending matters before the court that needed deciding upon, and his sudden cessation from active duty cannot fail to cause some confusion and for a time paralyze public affairs of the county.

The office of Probate Judge of Salt Lake County has become very important and quite lucrative. It will be a nice place for some Republican not so learned in the law as to secure much public patronage, and yet sufficiently legal in mind to undertake the duties of the post. Let us hope that a fair selection will be made, and that a fit and proper person will be selected by the one-man-power at Washington, for an office that of right, in a Republic, should be filled by the votes of the people.

ENTIRELY OFF THE TRACK.

THE St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* from time to time gives considerable space to mention of Utah affairs. Usually its information is inaccurate, and its editorial comments very wide of the mark. Occasionally it gives place to a relation of facts, and once in a while attempts to discourse on them with some degree of fairness.

Recently it has discussed the Declaration of Principles of the Peoples' Party in this city, and the Report of the Utah Commission to the Secretary of the Interior. In this its assertions are in some respects erroneous and its conclusions unwarranted.

It is a mistake to say that the principles enunciated in that Declaration are "broader and more progressive than ever emanated" from