

make merry with wine and dessert. At the dances the sexes enjoy themselves separately—the men in one room and the ladies in another. At night sweet maidens sing the pathetic airs of Russia, Roumania, Servia, and Italy; youths gathered from Great Britain whistle Scotch and Irish jigs; old men from Germany and Poland smoke long pipes, while groups here and there chat merrily in French, Spanish or Syriac.

RELIGIOUS NOTIONS AND EDUCATION.

In a manner the gathered Jews are of a literary turn of mind. They read scientific works of a light or popular character, are well acquainted with the Talmud, Old Testament, and almost without exception they have read the new one, either in Hebrew, as published by the Bible Society, or in some modern tongue. They generally speak three or more languages which they have acquired without any regard for grammar. They most commonly read and delight in historical novels translated from French, English, or German. As to religion, according to the words of their mouth they believe in an immaterial god, bodiless, etc. However, when closely pushed they fortify themselves behind Rabbinical sophistries, one of which is that when the sum of the letters composing the Hebrew word "Elohim" is added together the number sixty-six is obtained—the sixty-six elements of nature; in other words, that Elohim and Nature are equivalent terms, translating the first verse in Genesis thus: "In the beginning Nature (or Elohim) created the heavens and the earth." Hell, or Sheol, is merely the grave. The devil is merely a fiction; the resurrection is not literal. Some even claim that man has no soul; that the blood of man is his soul, etc.

"The 'law' is supposed to be kept strictly. Sabbath breaking is apostasy; but I soon discovered it is frequently kept only on the 'outside.' For instance, lighting a pipe or cigarette on the Sabbath is punishable by excommunication, as it is forbidden to kindle a fire on the Sabbath. Even to blow out a candle, extinguish a fire, or wind up a watch is unlawful; consequently, the lamps are left burning from Friday before sunset until Saturday night, when the people go to bed, while in secret many will smoke, cook and work noiselessly and have the house well locked by key.

NON-COLONIZING JEWS.

There have ever remained some Jews in Palestine. These are quite Oriental in their manners of living and trading among the Arabs, Turks and Armenians. Many Jews from Russia are settling over the whole land as retail merchants, and thrive well by dint of economy and live free from oppression. Some of these Russian or Polish Jews claim to be too pious to live or amalgamate with the European Jews of other countries, and as proof of their piety wear "payesse," i.e., long locks of hair, in front of their ears, because a passage in the "law" says: "Ye shall

not cut the locks above your ears as the Moabites do." These Jews also make a different use of the "typhillim" or phylacteries than the "commoner" Jews do. There are many factions in Judaism, but on the whole a Jew looks upon any other Jew as upon a brother, and they are all working to one end. Thousands of Jews are looking with as great interest as the Latter-day Saints upon the colonies, and probably as soon as the scattered Jews are convinced that colonization is practicable and they have time to gather, thousands will flock here. Notwithstanding their unbelief, their gathering as well as the rumors of wars and convulsions of nature are all to be looked upon as signs of the speedily coming "day of the Lord." Let us then wish our Jewish brethren God-speed in their gathering, and not tire in doing good and co-operating in the establishing of the grand latter-day tableau which is to precede the reign of righteousness. C. U. L. JAFFA, Palestine, Sept. 25, 1889.

BOX ELDER CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly Conference of Box Elder Stake was held in the Brigham City Tabernacle on Sunday and Monday, October 27th and 28th. President Rudger Clawson presided.

On Sunday, at 10 a.m., after singing and prayer, Apostle Lorenzo Snow addressed the Saints. There never was a time, he said, when we needed the Spirit of God more than at the present. He spoke of the blessings of God unto this people from the time they entered into the valley, and thought the Saints would yet be tried in a way they did not think of. We should be prayerful and seek to have the Spirit of God with us, so that we may not be led astray by any temptation that might come in our way.

Elder John N. Pike said everything transpiring in the world today pointed to the fact that the coming of the Savior is near at hand. The prophecies uttered by the Prophets of old are being fulfilled.

Bishop George Facer bore his testimony to the truth of this work, and said we shall all be tried and tested whether we will be true Latter-day Saints or not. Let us remember that God lives. We may learn His mind and will by listening to His servants and the whisperings of the Holy Spirit.

At 2 p.m. the Sacrament was administered by the Priesthood of the Fourth Ward.

Counselor Charles Kelley presented the general authorities of the Church as submitted to the last semi-annual conference, also the authorities of the Box Elder Stake, all of which were sustained by unanimous vote.

President Rudger Clawson quoted "Brave your dangers; no retreat." This is what we should do. Let us perform our duty come what may, pray to God, keep His commandments, and be sincere in our interest in this work; try to maintain all the power and privileges which God has given unto us.

Elder Seymour B. Young said some persons had wondered why the Lord did not reveal Himself to some learned preacher instead of to an unlearned boy; but that was not the will of God. He was to perform "a marvelous work and a wonder." He chose the weak men to confound the mighty. This boy and other unlearned persons were given the principles of the Gospel, line upon line and precept upon precept, until they became the most learned of men and the best of Prophets. These mighty men and prophets are still continuing their labors in the spirit world, even as Jesus went to the spirit world to preach to the spirits that were disobedient in the time of Noah.

At 7 p.m. a Seventies' meeting was held. The general public were invited.

On Monday, at 10 a.m., Counselor A. Madson spoke of the importance of not going into debt or mortgaging our homes. We should live within our means, so that if adverse circumstances should come our neighbors and friends should be willing to help us.

Bishop P. C. Jensen exhorted the Saints to be united, to love each other, and to have peace in their families.

Elder A. Vance, principal of the Stake Academy, spoke of the necessity of educating the young in the principles of life and salvation as well as in other branches of education.

Patriarch Samuel Smith said that all blessings are ours if we live for them. He advised the Saints to keep from all evil and set a good example before their families.

Elder Seymour B. Young said we should listen to and obey the counsel given by those who are set to preside over us. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and other things are bound to be given unto us.

At 2 p.m. Apostle Lorenzo Snow spoke of our pre-existence before we came to this earth.

Counselor Chas. Kelley said we should be united, remember the commandments of God, and the counsel received during this Conference.

It was moved and carried that the Tabernacle be completed.

After singing, conference was adjourned for three months.

O. PETERSEN, Clerk *pro tem*.

SIUNG WOON, the newly appointed Chinese consul to the port of New York, is a plain-looking gentleman and wears his shirt on the outside of his trousers, like the rest of his brethren. He cannot speak a word of English.

DAYTON, O., Oct. 19.—This afternoon some unknown person opened the door of Police Commissioner Richard C. Anderson and fired a shot at him, wounding him in the thigh. A Jamestown, O., telegram is received saying a man has been arrested at that place answering the description of the would-be murderer and will be held.