Supplement to the Deseret-News, JUNE 5th, 1888.

Y. M. M. I. A. CONFERENCE. Full Account of the Proceedings of both days, June 2nd and 3rd.

AN EPISTLE FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

HISTORICAL DATA-GOVERNMENT OF THE ASSOCIATIONS-MUSICAL DE-

The first general conference of the Young Men's Mntual Improvement Associations convened in the Tabernacle in this city at 10 o'clock this morning, Assistant Superintendent Junius F. Wells presiding. A fair sized audience was in attendance. The services opened by a select male choir under the leadership of Thomas

McIntyre singing a glee. The opening prayer was offered by Elder Karl G. Maeser.

A part song by the select male choir

ELDER JUNIUS F. WELLS

reviewed the work of mutual improvement among the Saints, dating back to the organization of a society for the cultivation of literary talent, acquire-ment of knowledge pertaining to theology, etc., under the direction of the Prophet Joseph Smith and pre-sided over by Apostle Heber C. Kimhall in Nauvoo. Allusion was also made to the organization of literary and debating societies among young men and retrenchment societies among the young ladies, which in time gave way to young men's and young ladies' mntnal improvement associations, organized under the direction of President Brigham Young, and which within a courage my boy to say no." "The village blacksmith," etc., seldom find a place. onurch, and had steadily increased in numbers and influence for good. There were present today representatives in instruments that tend to elevate, and bring the young into desirable so-clety and surroundings. The night Superintendency were not able to attend the Conference, as it would be enjoyable to them and comforting to all in attendance for them to be present. However, it was expected that they would be heard from by epistle before the Conference closed. Prayed that the spirit of God might attend to speakers and hearers, that all said and done might redound to the glory of God and advancement of the cause in this better the assembly were encoused.

which the assembly were engaged. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT M. H.

HARDY expressed pleasure at baving the priviexpressed pleasure at baying the privi-lege of presenting a few observations on the government of the associations. Courary to a very popular idea life antedates organization. A thing is organized because it is alive and does organized because it is alive and does not live simply because organized. An organization was some time since effected, but the spirit of the work existed previously. The history of that organized might be read with profit. It must be that many details have to be encountered and overcome. An association must be composed of certain officers. A circular letter issued by President Young before the vegeral organization might tore the general organization might serve to furnish the keynote of the object thereof; it was that the young might be led to seek a testimony of the truth; that acting in harmony with the local authorities of the wards organizations should be effected in every ward, that a president he selected.

general, and those in this respect talbeen accomplished through the medented in particular; in this reduced acting of the Improvement Associacomplishment, by a hearty encouragement of every point of excellence, to give practice, experience and training; that it to aid by its infinence in enumbling and

or how it is snng, so long as the usual amount of singing is indulged in. As well think that it matters not what kind of water we bathe in—filthy or clean—so long as we bath.

All the aims of our associatious tend to one west end—the improvement of the core west end—the improvement of the core was tend.

rendered music becomes harrowing to the soul; degrading instead of elevating the mind; making the speaker nervous and irritable instead of inspiring him on to his theme. Many a one offering prayer, after the first hymn, would, were he to express the feelings of his heart, begin with, "Lord have mercy upon these poor singers." Such must be the result of the want of proper preparation and attention. The cause may be far reaching, extending probably through the entire organization and even beyond. Still the disease, if properly attacked, is not incurable. We are prone to be too aimless and formal in this work. We should aim to have suitable selections, such as would nave a tendency to at once bring the minds of all present to the work they had met to accomplish. ing the mind; making the speaker ner-

work they had met to accomplish. While on this subject let us consider the musical contents of the "programme." We generally have a "song by so-and so" an instrumental solo, etc. These are as generally unsuitable. "Lovie, Darling do you Love me," "We have a speck as we pass by." and such never speak as we pass by," and such aimless, meaningless ditties too often

clety and surroundings. The piano and organ are pre-eminent for these qualities, and should be most encouraged. They are the home instruments; aged. They are the home instruments; they are the instruments above all others that layite the son and daughter to stay at home and enjoy the society of father and mother, brother and sister. They are the instruments that best of all nnlock the mysteries of the divine art to the student; either of these with the voice makes a complete whole, and they offer no inducements to street parading either night or day. How many of our young men today. How many of our young men today waste much-nearly all-of their spare time in little bands out on the streets

playing mouth harmonicas, banjos and guitars. The good they derive from the sweet but superficial music from the sweet but superficial music is more than counteracted by the hapits formed and the time wasted. Boys are the parents' home treasures, and home influence is necessary to make noble, useful men of them; If we would guard them against using tobacco, drinking liquors, habitnal street rambling, aimless, superficial enjuyment, and wasting all the precious time of youth on trifles, and encourage them only in that that has within itself no dauger, but on the

That which will be of the most lasting service and at the same time the greatest present benefit should he used. The peculiar aim of our associations calls for a particular style of unsic and

ject; to entertain (not to amuse); to in frivolity and apply themselves to improve each individual member in general, and those in this respect tal-

The statistics of the world showed that the tendency was to dry up the fountains of life, check increase and refluing the tastes and feelings of youth. Its abuses generally consist of indifferent, poor (or wors) renditions of the musical exercises, and in making inappropriate selections. Both are generally the result of an eroneous idea that it matters but little what is sung

PARTMENT — TEACHINGS OF HISTORY — LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS—THE BOOK OF MORMON—SCIENCE IN THE ASSOCIATIONS—HOME LITERATURE — STUDY OF CHURCH DOCTRINES—COURSE OF READING—APPROPRIATE REMARKS BY APOSTLES JOHN HENRY SMITH AND HEBER J. GRANT AND OTHERS, Chair and Men's Mutual Improvement sociations convened in the Taber-cle in this city at 10 o'clock this strongs. Assistant Support of the strongs and our associations of the saying of the Savior that he came not to call the righteous but sincers to repentance, and feit that stronger efforts should be made to reclaim the wayward, to check the downward course of persons who had not yet been brought under the influence of the associations. It was fooling the made an effective means to the desired we made an effective means to the desired when poorly made, decreasing the progress made by the Improvement associations. Was reminded of the saying of the Savior that he came not to call the righteous but sincers to repent ance, and feit that stronger efforts should be made to reclaim the wayward, to check the downward course of persons who had not yet been brought under the influence of the associations. It was fooling the method of the time of meetings is devoted to it; how important then that this one-third should be made an effective means to the desired the moral course of persons who had not yet been brought under the influence of the associations. It was fooling the made an effective means to the desired the moral course of the associations of the trade of the saying of the Savior that he came not to call the righteous but sinners to repent ance, and felt that the came not to call the righteous but sinners to repent ance, and felt that the came not to call the righteous but sinners to repent ance, and felt that the came not to call the righteous but sinners to repent ance, and felt that the came not to call the righteous but sinners to repent ance, and felt that the came not to call the saying of the Savior that he came not to call the righteous but sinners to repent tions or observing the precepts of their religion. Illustrated from his own experience the effect of firmness in refraining from indulgence pro-bibited by our religion and testified that those who would do so would gain rather than forfeit respect by such a course. a conrse. A part song was sung by the male

Benediction by J. Golden Kimball. 2 P. M. — The congregation was called to order by Elder Junius F. Wells, and Professor Evan Stephen's juvenile class sang "Welcome to All." Prayer was offered by Elder Charles Valley.

Kelley.
Professor Evan Stephens' juvenile class then sang "Jerusalem." LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS

Elder James A. Laugton read an essay entitled "Libraries and Readessay entitled "Libraries

While the subject upon which I dis-While the subject npon which I discourse today is not a new one, it has received comparatively little attention in our Territory. The thoughtful person caunot but recognize in this a grave subject and a wide one. I shall, however, only attempt to bring before you a few simple thoughts, which press themselves upon me; hopeful that if lerr in my judgment, you will profit by my errors, and, if I am right, you may benefited by a confirmation of

Enter the library and you stand in the resence of thousands upon thousands
of books and manuscripts, collected
rom all ages and climes. Tier upon
ier and case upon case they range
hemselves around you and above you; and with a volceless eloquence invite to a pernsal of their pages. You have reain the words of Emerson, a company of the wisest and wittlest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years. They contines has thousand years. They have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette; but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out to us, the attractory of another age. Such in he strangers of another age. Suca, in

rief, is a library.
The student of history caunet fail to note that these consulting-rooms have been a powerful agency in the develop-ment and culightenment of mankind; that the progress made in civilization and the spread of that universal knowledge which so enriches the world today, is attributable in a great measure to the founding of libraries and the gathering together of books—the repositories of knowledge. When we consider that all that has been effectively thought said or done, from effectively thought, said or done, from creation's dawn down to the present time, has found its record in the pages of books, we will understand that to collect, arrange and set in order these instructors is a noble task, a task that has always borne wholesome fruit and tended to enrich the heart of the

graphs answer most of the purpose of a personal intimacy; and we should not perbaps, wonder at the prices paid for a signature, a few verses from a poet's pen, or several sheets of paper containing the original farewell address of a great and good man like Washington,
The value of books as a means of

men. It is self-evident that more knowledge is derivable frum reading, and reflection upon what is read, than from any other source. A literary taste is at once the most efficient instrument of self-education and the riches of both Indies," said Fendlon, "If the crowns of all the kingdoms of Europe were laid at my feet, in exchange for my love of reading, I would spurn them all." Next to a good college, a good library may well be chosen as a means of education. A book, in reality, is a "voiceless teacher," and a great library is a virtual university. Its benefits extend to all classes; for by promotting universal education a people are rendered more competent to secure their own welfare and the welfare of those dependent upon them. Literary biography is crowded with instance on one of the great men who attribute much of their success in life to the public library of their native town or city. Lord Macaaley having and life to the public library of their native town or city. Lord Macaaley having maked an eminent soldier and diplomatist, who enjoyed the confidence of the first generals and statesmes of the grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of their intellects made so by the inspiration of God. A thorough system of grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of their intellects made so by the inspiration of God. A thorough system of grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of their intellects made so by the inspiration of God. A thorough system of grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of the grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of the grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of the grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of the grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of the grading should be carried on the first generals and statesmes of the grading should be carried on the first general state of the first general state of the first gene age, to what he owed his accomplish-ments, was informed that he ascribed it to the fact that he was quartered, in his young days, in the neighborhood of an excellent library, to which he had access. The late Belgian Minister, M. Van de Weyer, in his evidence before the select committee of the House of Commons on Public Librarles, said respecting their advantages in the cause of education, "We have found in our young men a great change in their habits, and a progress in the development of their minds, since the in

elepment of their minds, since the in crease of our libraries."
Without libraries it would be imposble to attain more than a moderate amount of knowledge on any great branch of art, literature or science. Take the young man of our Territory today, who has tasted, to some extent, the sweets of literature. He has a keen, vigorous appetite for knowledge; an earnest desire to be abreast with his an earnest desire to be abreast with his age. Such a young man is not content to feed upon a few shoice authors even though each be a library. The means with which to purchase books he has not, and is thus left without the tools, so necessary at this period—the threshold of life—for his development and happiness. Place now a good library at his disposal and what a wholesome effect it would have upon him, and through him upou those with whom he hrough him upou those with whom he ningled. There are many individuals who de-

sire valuable information regarding their chosen vocations. After a per-son has chosen a profession he desires to educate himself in that particular branch thoroughly, and if need be, to the exclusion of all other reading. In order to do this, he must read not only the text of his profes-sion, but the notes and com-mentaries; he must read the his-tory and the philosophy, the fact and tory and the philosophy, the fact an he fiction; in short, everything tha has even a remote bearing upon his sub ject should be read; but where the pub or library does not exist such running-town of literature would be to many a matter of impossibility. Again, how precious are the minute_fragments_ef time, which are wasted by the young, especially by those who are toiling in the mints of knowledge. If the cosy, the mints of knowledge. If the cosy, cheerful reading room connected with the library answered no purpose other than the gathering from the streets and by-ways of those who squander time—"the stuff of which life is made," it would be a sufficient argument in its favor. We cannot doubt what the library is a nucleus arround which all that is good, inteliaround which all that is good, intellectual, refining and progressive will rally. Every town, city and village should have one, and every family should have the germ of one. A home without books or music—think of it—a house without furniture, a valley without rivers or helphiling brooks. without rivers or babbling brooks; a forest without birds or sunshine. Let me here advise all young men to begin making a collection of books. In this connection, I beg of you all to read Washington Irving's delighting sketch

libraries in each county seat, and also less extensive ones in every town and those emineut in literature and sound of jndgment. They should be best in every kind prepared in the most per-fect, possible, divided into pleasant volumes, light in the hand, beautiful

ments; to illustrate, for young readers biography is better than history, history than philosophy, and descriptive poetry than metaphysical, here he may go to the central library, which should supply him with the master-pieces of literature. Even the ripest scholar is puzzled to know what books he shall read among the myriads that claimour for his attention; for this reason, I caunot but think, that every library should be supplied with a pro-fessor of books and reading. It is not enough to merely introduce the student to these quarries of knowledge; he should be taught where to sink his shafts and how to work them. A librarian should be a scholar, and a "ripe and good one," that he may properly direct the minds of the inex-perlenced. In conclusion I desire to say that there are many useful and excellent modes in which a man may benefit his kind. He who relieves the sick and the poor, is a benefactor of his species, but he of all others, is engaged in the noblest work, who seeks to elevate intellectually, morally, and religiously the minds of his fellows.

Owing to the indisposition of Bessle

would be incomplete without tributary | multitudinous forms for an untrained village. The books found upon the gan a systematic course of reading shelves should be carefully chosen by an instance in which the period fell below thirty. Their reading, they said, before that time had all been promiscuous. If they had begnn with the essence of history, biographies, there is no reason why they might not have trached a systematic and complex reached a systematic The value of books as a means of culture is at this day recognized by all volumes, light in the hand, beautimit and strong, and thorough examples of knowledge is derivable from reading, and reflection upon what is read, than from any other source. A literary should have its treatises, biography, bistory, poetry, fiction, travel, sclenting to be a source of the property of the pro

> Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morn-Bancroft's History of the Pacific States, an eucyclopedia, and one or two judiciously selected illustrated ournals, some good results would be attained by the hyestment.
> How painful, and yet how illustrative it is to cuter a friend's home and tive it is to enter a friend's home and have pointed out to you a library bought to be in the literary fashion. You are told that he bas this or that anthor complete. They are books probably he himself has no patience to sit down and read, much less has his children that patience. It would be torture to them. Thus more than one-half our private libraries are selected, and private libraries are often obtained with much less disoiten obtained with mnca less dis-cretion. This, hower, bears but indi-rectly upon my subject, and yet I can-

ationship to the already existing in-redients of the brain. If that which we read be not assimilated in the brain, it affords just about as much ntellectnal nourishment as scraps of caper would physical nourishment, if aken into the stomach. They would pass through the system, but that's all. And the intellectual, like the physical appetite, is the best indicator of the

sang the hymn:

sang the hymn:

Hall to the brightness of Zion's glad mornmorning!

Joy to the lands that in darkness have lain.

These lands?

We are now confronted with the question of how we shall study the good of Mormon to secure the best and speediest results for the young people. In the current volume of the Prayer by Superintendent John F. Allred, of Sanpete Stake. Elder Evan Stephens and Sister Agnes Thomas sang a duet,

God bless our Mountain Home, with chorus by the ladies and chll-

Shreeve:
The Book of Mermon is the most
The Book of Mermon is the most perfect historical work in existence. What the Bible is to the old world, the Book of Mormon is, and more, to this hemisphere. Within its covers are contained descriptions of the peopling of these lands of North and South America; of the rise and fall of nations; of the extermination of races, and of the most sublime method of government ever given to manking rectify upon my snoject, and yet I cannot suppress a wish that one of the
subjects to be treated on this occasion
had been: Books—how to get them
and how to use them.

In opening my remarks I showed
that the mental appetite which incites
one to read must be voluntary, and
that the brain food must bear some relaterable to the desarter visits relaterable to the desarter visits relaterable to the most sublime method of
government ever given to mankind.

The enemies of the most sublime method of
Golden Bible. They mean to be sarcastic; but they are only truthful. It
is a golden bible; for truth is prectous
as gold. In the words of the Prophet
Joseph Smith, "The Book of Mormon
is the keystone of our sacred religion." At this hour, more than ever, it is important that the young people of Ziou should be instructed in the prin-Zion should be instructed in the prin-ciples of the Gospel which God has revealed by the ministrations of an-gels, and by His own voice from the heavers. The spirit of inidelity is rashing like a tidal wave upou Chris-tian lands, and some of its effects are felt even here, among the youth of our recently house. Some of these may

| The content of the

quired of those connected therewith.

Heremarked that an important question which should occupy the attention of members and especially of officers of associations, is, How can the young associations, is, How can the young make themselves useful to society, to make a living for themselves and others and leave an honored name belind them? He had noticed that many of the young spent much time and means in the smoking of cigarettes, assess idleness, drinking, etc., failing to benefit themselves or others. The time would come when such would feel to say to their mitre studions, industrions and thrifty fellows, "Drvide with us your substance!" It was of such material as loafers that anarchists were made. Such should be reached after and reclaimed by the associations.

Stepheus', invenile class sang "Good night."

The closing prayer was offered by Supt. Phillip Stringham, of Uintah Stake.

There was another large congregation assembled in the Tabernacle at 8 foclock on Saturday evening. The There was another large congregation assembled in the Tabernacle at 8 o'clock on Saturday evening. The meeting was called to order by Elder Junus F. Wells.

The ladies and children's chorus

people. In the current volume of the Contributor, commencing with the November number, a programme of exercises is given for the Improvement Associations to follow. Among other things it gives the subjects which are intended for lectures, namely: The Bible, Testament and Book of Mormon. These exercises have been laid out on a very simple but effective older. STUDY OF THE BOOK OF MOR.

MON.

The following lecture on this subject was delivered by Elder Thomas A.

Shreeve:

The Book of Mermon is the most perfect bistorical work in existence. to work to. As many of the young people as possible should be urged to join the Book of Mormon classes, and it should be pointed out to them that these principles are only to be learned by degrees, and that it will require unceasing labor and systematic work to graduate in this study. The details are so vast in their character that diligent investigation is necessary to become thoroughly acquainted with the internal truths which the book contains. Each member of the class should be encouraged to read it through at home. I care not how fast for the first time, so long as he is able to get a general so long as he is able to get a general idea of the historical thread; to know what the book is about; who wrote it; why it was written; and how it came why it was written; and how it came into our possession. To secure the best results, the young men need aguide and helper. Therefore, I think a teacher should be appointed to take charge of the class. He should be a man of taith, with a tnorough understanding of the subject, having the Spirit of the Lord with him; a man having tact and inteiligence to rear young and guide untrained minds. The more he knows, the better; because his The story of the shows of the selection of Bessis Dean, the duet which was to have been augn by that lady and Neile Druces of the properties of the story by the selection of th