

# THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

NO. 24.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1861.

VOL. XI.

## Semi-Annual Conference.

The Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, convened in the Bowery, Great Salt Lake City, on Sunday October 6, 1861, at 10 a.m., President Brigham Young presiding.

There were on the stand: Of the First Presidency, Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells;

Of the Twelve Apostles: Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, sen., John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Ezra T. Benson, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards;

Of the First Presidency of the Seventies: Joseph Young, sen., Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and Jacob Gates;

Of the Presidency of the High Priests Quorum: Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel D. Richards;

Of the Presidency of this stake of Zion: Daniel Spencer, David Fullmer and George B. Wallace;

Of the Presidency of the Bishoprick: Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little;

Of the Patriarchs: John Smith and Isaac Morley;

Reporters: George D. Watt and John V. Long.

The conference was called to order by the President, after which the choir sung a hymn. Elder Wilford Woodruff offered prayer.

Choir sung "I'll praise my Maker while I've breath."

President Brigham Young said when the Latter Day Saints came together in this capacity, they generally wish some instructions which they have not previously had, but he desired to impress the principles upon the minds of the congregation that they had no right to require of the Lord, of a Prophet, an Apostle or other servant of God, any further intelligence until they had improved upon that which they had already received. If we could come to the standard, our lives would be filled up with righteousness, and we should manifest in our every act that the kingdom of God and the building up thereof, was the first thing in our hearts; then the Lord has an abundance to pour out upon us, of knowledge, power and the good things of this life. When we have sought the kingdom of God and its righteousness with all our hearts, then we can attain to the rest, and assist in the building up of the kingdom temporally; we can then go forward and build the temple. We wish to lay before the conference the necessity of the people paying their labor tithing and of assisting the kingdom, instead of taking out of the pockets of the Church. As the first day of our conference is on the first day of the week, which is set apart for the worship of our Father, we will devote it to teaching the spiritual things of the kingdom, and then to-morrow we will attend to the business.

Elder John Taylor spoke of the ignorance and darkness in which we were shrouded before the gospel came to us, and the light and intelligence it has brought to our minds. Reasoned upon in faith and obedience, and the necessity of increasing therein, and said that nothing could secure us the greater blessings of the gospel, but complete submission to the mandates of Heaven.

President Heber C. Kimball made some pointed remarks on the principle of obedience; briefly alluded to the subjects of tithing and consecration, and referred to the Apostolic consecration and the fate of Ananias and Sapphira, who lied to the Apostles. He next alluded to the gifts of the Spirit as bestowed upon the faithful. Upon the first principles of the gospel, he said, we are united, and asked if we were also united in temporal things, and remarked that if we do not become one in temporal matters, we cannot long remain united in spiritual things.

Choir sung: "Come all ye Saints who dwell on earth."

Benediction by Elder Lorenzo Snow.

2 p.m.

Singing by the choir.

Prayer by Elder Orson Hyde.

Choir sung "How happy every child of grace."

The sacrament was then administered by Bishops Edward Hunter, Lorenzo D. Young, Abraham O. Smoot and Jonathan Pugmire.

Elder Orson Hyde made a few remarks about the crops, and the general prosperity of the people in Sanpete County where he had been living.

President Brigham Young showed the propriety of the elders correcting themselves and not always be dinging at the people to do things and perform duties which they themselves neglect. Explained to the conference the principles relative to the people being one in all things. Briefly referred to the present warlike state of affairs in the States.

Elder Orson Hyde gave some valuable and interesting lessons on domestic economy.

President Daniel H. Wells urged upon the people the observance and reverence of the Sabbath, and the necessity of keeping it holy. Said that if we obey the Lord in the days of our prosperity we can the better call upon him in the days of our affliction. It is the duty of the people to strive to see a propriety in the counsels that are given by the servants of the Lord. He referred to the late agricultural fair, and expressed himself highly gratified with what he there saw, and said we ought to take courage and endeavor to improve and increase in all that is good; we should strive to add to the number of home manufactured articles; we should also encourage those who are engaged in the manufacture of leather, nails, hats, bonnets, soap; we should likewise consider the propriety and justice of paying as good pay to the home manufacturer as to the stores. He counseled the Bishops to lead forth in doing these things.

We are laboring to accomplish the union of the people and the concentration of our efforts and means for the bringing about of the purposes of the Almighty. Let us then strive with our mights to fear God, keep his commandments, love, serve and obey him and respect all his institutions, and let us not strive to walk them under our feet as a vain thing.

He counseled the brethren to bring in their tithing to the store house of the Lord, the grain, the vegetables and the molasses. Instructed the Bishops how to organize companies of men and teams and send them all through the winter to haul stone from Little Cottonwood for the temple. The presidency wanted to engage all the masons who felt disposed to come along and work to prepare the rock for laying up in the spring. The Lord has saved these valleys of the mountains for his saints and not for the world. It is the duty of saints to work only for the building up of the kingdom of God.

Choir sung "O happy souls who pray."

Dismissed by Elder W. W. Phelps.

EVENING, in the Tabernacle.

Choir sung "Praise ye the Lord, 'tis good to raise."

This being the first meeting in the Tabernacle since it was repaired, enlarged and made suitable for public worship, President B. Young offered the following dedication prayer:

Our Father, a God our God, we present ourselves before thee on this occasion, in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we dedicate ourselves unto thee and to thy service, for building up thy Kingdom upon the earth, for the promotion of righteousness, for gathering the House of Israel, and for establishing thy Zion, until the laws of Zion shall become the law of all nations. We are so dedicated unto thee our friends, our families, our brethren and their families and friends, with our flocks and our herds, and our possessions as thy people. We dedicate unto thee thy Kingdom in every nation, and among all people where thy gospel has been preached, and thy Kingdom established. We dedicate unto thee this house that we now occupy, and the ground upon which it stands; as it has before been dedicated unto thee, we again dedicate it unto thee with the addition and improvements that have been made upon it. We dedicate to thee the foundation walls, the foundations upon which the timbers and floors rest; we dedicate to thee the walls above the foundation, the adobies, and all the wood work, the timbers, and the lathing and plastering on the walls, the doors and the hangings thereof, and we desire that they may be opened and shut by the Saints of the Most High; we dedicate unto thee the timbers of the roof, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging—the brace timbers that strengthen and sustain the roof, with the lathing and plastering of the ceiling, also the shingles, and the boards upon which they are fastened, and the nails and bolts of iron that bind the whole together; we dedicate unto thee the window frames, and the sash, and glass, and the trimmings thereof, and all the conveniences pertaining to this building, both those that are on the ground and those that are in the ground; we dedicate unto thee the sleepers and the flooring above them, and the nails that bind them together, and the sash that rest upon the floor; we dedicate unto thee the pulpit and the platform upon which it rests, and the seats, and everything that pertains to the stand; we dedicate unto thee the organ and the foundation upon which it rests, and all its appurtenances and conveniences; we dedicate unto thee the new portion of this house, the foundation upon which it rests, and its conveniences above and below, together with the former portion of this, our place of worship, which thou hast permitted us to erect, wherein to worship the name of the Lord of Hosts. We ask thee, our Father, in the name of Jesus Christ thy Son, to let thy presence and thy power dwell in this hall, and suffer not thine enemies to ever occupy it.

Thou art acquainted with our faith and

our hopes, with our labors of love, with all that we possess for all things are open before thee. Let righteousness and peace dwell here, that thine holy angels may take up their abode here and dwell with us. Let great peace, the peace of God that passeth understanding, dwell upon thy people that enter this house; may the spirit and power of the Holy Ghost rest upon male and female, old and young and middle aged, that come here to worship thee in spirit and in truth; and let thy servants who speak to thy people in this house be inspired by thy wisdom and with thy power, and be filled with the revelations of Jesus Christ; let them thus be blessed at this time, and in all time to come.

Bless thy Saints in every land and climate, and all that pertains to them. We pray thee to bless thy Priesthood in all their abiding places and in all their fields of labor. Pour out thy Holy Spirit upon the faithful of thy servants, and preserve those who are laboring in foreign lands, who travel from nation to nation, from people to people, and from land to land, to gather and save the honest in heart. May great peace and great power be upon them and round about them by day and by night, and let them not be hurt by any power. Give them every qualification that is requisite to their respective calling and standing before thee and the people among whom they minister. Give them money and means, food and raiment, and the hearts of the people. Give them abundance to gather up the poor and bring them home to Zion.

Bless the inhabitants of this Territory. We thank thee for the land in the chambers of these mountains; we thank thee for the mountains, for the canyons and the rugged rocks, for the sandy deserts, and salt wastes, that surround and embrace these hiding places for the poor and meek of the earth; we thank thee for the pure streams of water that flow from the canyon gorges, that gush forth in the mountain tops and come to us a healing, cooling, reviving beverage; we thank thee for the healthy, thriving vegetation of these fat valleys of Ephraim, for our bread and meat, for our habitation and our raiment, for our families, friends, and connections, for the society of thy people, for useful animals, and for all the conveniences and creature comforts of life, all of which we dedicate unto thee our Father and our God.

We ask thee to bless the Quorums of thy servants who have assembled this evening with the High Priests' Quorum; may we all feel one in Christ; and let thy spirit of wisdom be continually with us as thine Elders, that none may feel in their hearts some of Heber, some of Willard, some of Jeddy, some of Daniel, some of Joseph, and some of Brigham, some of John, some of Paul, and some of Christ. Bless us with understanding, that our capacities may reach to the heavens and our minds be opened to behold heavenly things, and things upon the earth, and things under the earth, that we may be acquainted with the power by which thy works are organized and sustained. When we meet as High Priests, as the Twelve Apostles, as Seventies, as Bishops, as Elders, as Priests, as Teachers, as Deacons and as members of this thy great latter day kingdom that is growing upon the earth according to the words of thine ancient prophets, may we meet as members of the same body. And in all our communications may we have the spirit of intelligence to receive as well as to give, and all be benefited together.

We dedicate all unto thee, and ask thy blessing upon all the subjects of our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

Choir sang another hymn.

Bishop E. D. Woolley arose and said that we had met in the name of the High Priests' Quorum, but as there was no business calling for the immediate action of that body, the meeting would be devoted principally to preaching. He regretted that br. John Young, sen., the President of the Quorum could not be present, owing to a recent accident by which he had been so unfortunate as to sprain his ankle, but it afforded him pleasure to communicate Uncle John's blessing and good wishes for the brethren of the Quorum and for all Israel.

Elder Phineas H. Young remarked that through his whole life he had not felt a more striking interest in the things of the kingdom of God than at the present time. Spoke of the power and authority of the Melchisedec Priesthood to regulate and preside in all spiritual matters, and the duty of the Aaronic Priesthood to control temporal things, under the direction of the Melchisedec. Gave his views upon the doctrine of consecration.

Elder Samuel W. Richards observed that he had met many times with the High Priests' Quorum, and the brethren knew his feelings and sentiments in regard to those things that belong to the building up of this kingdom, and the establishment of peace and truth upon the earth. Endeavored to show the propriety of striving to learn from the experience of others, as well as from our own, and prayed the

Lord to assist us to perform every duty required at our hands by the servants of God.

Elder George D. Watt reasoned upon the inseparability of our temporal and spiritual existence. He spoke in strong terms of the necessity of the Latter Day Saints observing the law of consecration, and said that all our means should be laid out and expended with a view to an increase. He alluded to the influence and power of wealth.

President Brigham Young made some remarks on the vibrations of sound, the advantages and conveniences of the Tabernacle now over what we enjoyed before it was repaired.

Spoke of the natural body having to go into the grave in order that it might be purified and prepared for the resurrection; desired to see the people become of one heart and one mind, and said it was truly gratifying to know that the Elders were, in some degree, learning to put their means in the right channel. Reviewed the history of Elders coming home from missions, some coming rich, others as merchants, some as teamsters and some with handcarriage.

Made a few appropriate remarks on the gathering of the poor Saints from the nations of the world.

Choir sung "All hail the glorious day."

Benediction by Elder F. D. Richards.

MONDAY, Oct. 7, 10 a.m., Bowery.

Choir sung "Come ye that love the Lord."

Prayer by Elder Ezra T. Benson.

Choir sung "Arise O glorious Zion."

President Brigham Young said we would now take up the business of the conference, such as the building of the Temple, sending teams east next spring, and many other little items that were necessary to be considered. Said it was his intention to call upon a number of Swiss and other brethren to go into the Southern part of the Territory, probably about two hundred families, to raise cotton, indigo, grapes, figs and such other articles as cannot be raised in the northern counties. Flax, hemp, wool and silk, he observed, we can raise here as well as they can be raised in any other part of the world.

It was also his desire to have something done respecting the Missionary and Perpetual Emigrating Funds. The first business in order was the presentation of the various authorities of the Church.

Elder John Taylor was called upon and he presented the authorities of the Church as follows:—

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Heber C. Kimball, his first, and Daniel H. Wells, his second counselors;

Orson Hyde, as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, sen., John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Chas. C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards and George Q. Cannon, as members of said Quorum;

John Smith, Patriarch of the whole Church. Daniel Spencer, President of this Stake of Zion, and David Fulmer and George B. Wallace, his counselors;

William Eddington, James A. Little, John V. Long, John L. Blythe, George Nebeker, John T. Caine, Joseph W. Young, Gilbert Clemens, Brigham Young, jun., Franklin B. Woolley, Orson Pratt, jun., and Howard Spencer, as members of the High Council;

John Young, President of the High Priests' Quorum, Edwin D. Woolley, and Samuel W. Richards, his counselors;

Joseph Young, President of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and Jacob Gates, as members of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies;

John Nebeker, President of the Elders' Quorum, and Elathan Eldredge and Joseph Felt, his counselors;

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop; Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, his counselors;

Lewis Wight, President of the Priests' Quorum; William Whiting and Samuel Moore, his counselors;

McGee Harris, President of the Teachers' Quorum; Adam Speirs and David Bowman, his counselors;

John S. Carpenter, President of the Deacons' Quorum; William F. Cook and Warren Hardy, his counselors.

Brigham Young was presented as Trustee in trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints;

Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works;

William H. Folsom, Architect for the Church. Elder Truman O. Angell resigned the office of Architect in consequence of poor health, and recommended br. Folsom for his successor.

Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor;

Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells and