

# THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY  
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50  
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50  
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . October 17, 1891.

## THE LATE CONFERENCE.

THE general conference which closed on Tuesday, Oct. 8th, was, in several respects, a notable gathering of its kind. The attendance was unusually large throughout the entire session of three days. On the first day (Sunday) the multitude was so great that it was necessary to have recourse to an overflow meeting, which was held in the afternoon, in the Assembly Hall. Like the Tabernacle, that building was excessively crowded, and yet many hundreds of people were still left on the outside, being unable to gain ingress to either structure. This feature of the conference dashes to pieces the predictions and hopes of those who have imagined and desired the speedy demise of "Mormonism," which we understand to be simply the fulness of the restored Gospel of Christ.

The enunciations of the speakers were of a decidedly practical turn. There was scarcely any effort to explain what might be termed abstract theories. The teaching chiefly related to the practical duties of life, their nature being such as, when carried into effect, would improve the general status of the community. Among the themes introduced and expounded were, the nature, responsibilities and obligations resting upon those on whom the Priesthood had been conferred. The exercise of genuine Christian charity toward all people, was forcibly enjoined; the necessity of looking after the poor, with special reference to providing them with employment, was insisted upon as one of those duties of the Saints regarding which the Lord had made His mind specially manifest in numbers of revelations. The duty of being scrupulously honest and living up to all agreements, without regard to whom they are made with, was vigorously urged. Some of the speakers dwelt emphatically upon the need of maintaining peace and union in families, the duties of each member in relation to the others being explicitly delineated. Those who addressed the vast assemblages, as a rule, bore strong testimony to the divine character of what is called "Mormonism," assert-

ing that they had received manifestations of the power of God on the subject.

The changed condition of public sentiment concerning the Latter-day Saints, indicated by the widening of a disposition among honorable non-"Mormon" people, both here and elsewhere, to accord them their rights, was spoken of with satisfaction. It was confidently stated that as the true character of the community became known this improved feeling would become broader and deeper. The chasms which divide citizens from each other were deplored as something that should not have an existence.

The general assembly of the Church was most decided in its stand against the calumnious misrepresentations of the Utah Commission, embodied in their report to the Secretary of the Interior. It was evident that the Saints had reached the conclusion that they had been slandered long enough without raising a protest and presenting refutations of libelous infamies, and that hereafter they proposed to pursue the policy of active resistance, by denouncing falsehood and exhibiting the truth. This determination was held to be a duty the community owed to themselves, to their children, to the nation and to the world at large. This resolution is a most healthful one in many other respects besides being self-protective. But the latter consideration alone is of sufficient importance to render the duty imperative. It is a fact demonstrated everywhere that a host of people can be found who would have no hesitancy in kicking a sheep without cause. Only a few, however, care to venture on administering that kind of injustice to a lion. The sentiment of the Saints in taking emphatic action in reference to the false representations of the majority of the Utah Commission was not essentially of a retaliatory character. It was simply an uprising of resolution in opposition to falsehood and unfairness and in favor of truth and just treatment.

It is to be hoped that the spirit of the preamble and resolutions passed at the recent Conference will never abate until the refuge of lies is swept away from those who—whether through ignorance, malice or the promptings of ulterior motives—undertake to slander and misrepresent the people. We do not think that the genius of the action referred to will slumber when any future conspicuous occasion for its being awakened shall arise.

The entire railroad mileage of Great Britain is now 20,073 miles, or less than one-eighth of that of the United States.

## DEATH OF PARNELL.

THE Irish leader, Parnell, is dead. The news is quite startling because it was unexpected. His sudden decease has caused a sudden revulsion of popular feeling. His faults are condoned, his sin is ignored, his mistakes are brushed aside, and regret at his death and sympathy for his sorrowing mother and bereaved wife overshadow everything.

Parnell, though not a very great man, yet exhibited many of the qualities of a leader, and the force of circumstances pushed him to the front and gave him fame and influence. He accomplished a good work for his country by bringing its needs and sorrows before the attention of the whole world. The freedom of Ireland, which will come surely before very long, will be largely attributed to the labors of Parnell in conjunction with those of that grand old statesman, W. E. Gladstone.

Like many prominent men who have erred in a similar way, Parnell was involved in unlawful associations with a woman who dominated his affections and influenced his whole life. The exposure of his liaison was the beginning of his downfall. It was the crime of being found out that told against him. His marriage with Mrs. O'Shea, while satisfying the proprieties, did not cover up the facts in the case, and the past career of the couple was too gross to be concealed by the veneer of divorce and the polish of wedlock.

It is likely that the death of Parnell will do more for Ireland just now and in the immediate future than his life would have effected. Sympathy for him and his family seems to include kind feelings for his country and the cause he lived for. And any movement that may now be made in the direction of relief for Ireland and justice to the Irish will receive favorable consideration. And the name of Parnell will be numbered among those patriotic sons of Erin, who live in story and shine in history as the champions of freedom, the liberators of Ireland.

## TERSE WORDS FROM "TRUTH."

"TRUTH," a journal published in New York, very often gives utterance to sentiments that are worthy of its name. Once in a while it touches on Utah and the "Mormons" and usually exhibits a spirit of tolerance that is commendable. It also draws comparisons sometimes between "Mormon" ways and those of people who sneer at the "Mormons," which, while in strict conformity