

tender American citizens protection in their rights.

An appeal was taken, however, to a higher official, the American minister, John E. Risley, where an entirely different reception was met with. The fact of the applicants being Mormons was no objection to Mr. Risley; they were American citizens, asking for their rights as such. He received them with courtesy, and after hearing the matter stated that their religion made no difference to him—that he was pleased to see them as his countrymen, and would render whatever assistance was necessary and he was able to give. This was all that could be desired; and the two Elders are now laboring with freedom in Sweden. An appeal also was made to the Danish minister of justice, who courteously assured the Elders that an investigation would be made into the actions of the local judge. Thus the outcome has been beneficial thus far, and is quite likely to result in still greater freedom to the Elders by barring a judicial persecution of them in future.

MORMONS IN ARIZONA'S LEGISLATURE:

The Arizona Star, in referring to the legislature convened in that territory this year, makes the following remarks:

It must be said to the credit of the legislative members who are identified with the Mormon Church, that not one of them, so far as the Star can learn, is tainted with even a suspicion of dishonesty or any kind of legislative venality. They seemed to be at all times guided by a conscientious desire to serve the best interests of the territory and the people. This is a credit mark which the people of the Latter-day Saints of this territory have cause to be justly proud of.

The lesson is obvious. A good Mormon, or Latter-day Saint, in meeting the most solemn requirements of his religion, must be an honest, upright, energetic, patriotic citizen. The Mormons who were elected to the Arizona legislature only did their duty as citizens in deserving the foregoing encomium upon their course; yet it is highly gratifying to note a recognition of the fact that they have let their light so shine that men, seeing their good deeds, give honor where it is due.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The members of the Church who were able to attend the General Conference just closed have been the recipients of another time of refreshing for the Saints. The timely and practical character of the instructions given at these conferences make them of inestimable value to the Church, and at the recent Conference such instructions were conveyed with vigor and impressiveness by those who addressed the congregations. The Spirit of God was given in rich abundance to the speakers, inspiring them to bring forth topics of special importance to the Church at this time, and enabling them to present subjects with the pe-

culiar force that Saints recognize as accompanying the divine word.

The marked progress made in Church matters throughout the world, as shown by reports rendered at the Conference, is of a specially gratifying character. From these reports it is evident that the Church never was in such an advanced condition, so far as relates to the spread of the Gospel. In all its career it has made supreme efforts to extend the Gospel message; but it never has been so well equipped for the work as now, and the way never has been so clear among the nations as at present. The power of the Almighty has been manifest in bringing to pass the present conditions, for the furtherance of the cause of truth. Hence the Church is increasing rapidly in numbers and influence in the world, and the good work for salvation goes speedily on.

So far as relates to the developments among the gathered Saints, the organizations directed by the Church are accomplishing a mighty work of progress; and at the Conference were considered the various questions that press in local affairs, while instructions relative thereto were issued by the authorities. An observance of these instructions will produce a change in some of the unsatisfactory conditions that exist in regard to material matters, and the temporal state of the people will be improved greatly thereby; while their spiritual advancement will be accelerated by heeding the counsel given.

In the Conference the voice of divine inspiration admonished the Saints of their duties, warned them of errors and dangers that lie in the path, and exhorted them to renewed diligence in observing the Gospel laws. The advice thus given is the counsel of God to the Saints; it is harmonious with His revealed word, and uttered by His divinely commissioned servants. In this dispensation the Lord has called and ordained men to officiate in His name in the ordinances of the Gospel, and through whom to communicate His will to the people as concerns the Gospel laws affecting their souls' salvation. Those men are selected from among the people, according to divine rule and direction, and in respect to their obligations and rights under the earthly government in whose jurisdiction they reside, they are neither relieved nor deprived of the same; the call to officiate in the holy Priesthood does not relieve them of their obligations to the state, neither does it deprive them of their rights as citizens; it is their legal and moral duty to the state to fulfill those obligations and exercise those rights; it would be an interference with the state to require them to do otherwise. But they have had added to them and have accepted voluntarily the sacred responsibilities attaching to an ordination to the holy Priesthood, and must bear the same. The Saints also are required to perform a part in building up the kingdom of God. These matters were presented to the Conference in a clear and forcible manner, that the Saints might comprehend their duties and discharge the same.

It was a pleasing feature of the Conference to have on the last day the

presence and ministrations of President Willford Woodruff, and the greeting he received indicates the great affection the Saints have for him. For two or three weeks he has not been in the best of health, and this condition at his advanced age made it somewhat doubtful whether he would be able to attend. By the divine blessing he was able to be at the meetings on the 6th; and his health is steadily improving.

The spirit of the whole Conference was one of rejoicing and thanksgiving for the blessings of the Lord and of urging the Saints to give closer observance to His commandments. This spirit will permeate all the branches of the Church, and must result in increased power among the Saints and a more thorough conception of and preparation for the momentous events that are pressing close upon each other in these days.

THE CITY COUNCIL.

One important item before the City Council at its Tuesday evening session was the proposition to appropriate \$3,000 in aid of the Pioneer Jubilee celebration. Considering the fact that this city is the pivotal point of the Pioneer events in the State, being the first place of settlement and also the location for the central celebration, the amount asked for is not large. In appropriating public funds the Council is restricted within certain limits; and one of these is to make and carry out regulations, not repugnant to the Constitution and laws, to promote the prosperity, good order, comfort and convenience of the city and the inhabitants thereof. There is no question that the holding of the celebration here next July, and the honoring of the Pioneers who founded this city, will be an event conducive to the prosperity of the municipality and its inhabitants as a whole; while the providing of grounds and of other necessities in connection with the display to be made on that occasion, and of directing affairs to have perfect discipline in the arrangements would be in behalf of good order, comfort and convenience of the city and its inhabitants under the circumstances, and would be an assistance which the Jubilee commission would appreciate highly. This would be strictly in accord with the corporate needs and welfare at such a time, and could not be accomplished with less than the amount named. It would be further a very graceful act of the city could make the Pioneers its special guests during the celebration exercises. The public will be willing for a little pinching of expense in some other quarters to enable the Council to take becoming action regarding the Jubilee.

Another matter before the municipal colone at last evening's session perhaps was not so pleasant a theme, to some people, to discuss as is the first mentioned item, but was equally a matter of public concern. That was the action on the Mayor's nomination for chairman of board of public works. The majority of the Council were unfavorable to the nominee, and therefore rejected him, which they had a perfect right to do, and for reasons