

SANPETE STAKE.

The Sanpete Stake Conference was held on the 25th and 26th of February, 1888, at Ephraim, as per appointment. There were present President Canute Peterson and counselors; High Counsellors, and thirteen of the seventeen Bishops of the Stake.

Conference commenced on the 25th at 10 a.m., President Peterson presiding. Opened by singing. Prayer by President Beal.

President Peterson made opening remarks, after which the following Bishops made reports of their respective wards: James A. Allred, Spring City; W. P. Madsen, Mount Pleasant; north; Counselor Barson, Fountain Green; W. T. Reid, Mantle, north. Each gave encouraging reports of the faith and works by the Saints. Recess till 2 p.m.

2 p.m. After the usual opening exercises Bishop Amasa Tucker, of Fairview, Acting Bishop C. W. Lund, of Mount Pleasant South Ward, Bishop John Spencer, of Indianola, each reported his ward.

Presidents Peterson and Maiben each made remarks of instruction and encouragement to the Saints.

Adjourned to 10 a. m. Sunday.

At 7:30 p. m. a Priesthood meeting was held, at which there was a fairly good attendance, at which President Peterson instructed the several quorums in the duties of their callings. President Beal also occupied some time in giving the like instructions with an exhortation to faithfulness.

The business of building a Stake Academy was brought prominently before the conference by the Presidency.

The President instructed the Presidents of the Seventies to enquire into the standing of the members of their quorums; also the High Priests and Elders, and if they find those that are unworthy of being numbered with them to drop them from their quorums, and leave them to the Bishops and High Council to be further dealt with. Adjourned.

Sunday 10 a. m. After the usual opening exercises President Beal passed in review some of his penitentiary experience and exhorted the Saints to faithfulness.

President Maiben read the forty-first quarterly report of finances of the Mantle Temple and made remarks thereon. He believed Ephraim to be the proper place for the Stake Academy.

President Peterson made a few remarks.

Singing and benediction. Recess till 2 p. m.

2 p.m. Opened by singing and prayer. The sacrament was administered by the Bishopric of Ephraim.

President Maiben presented the general Stake and local authorities to the conference; and all were sustained by a unanimous vote.

C. N. Lund was sustained as Acting Bishop of Mount Pleasant South Ward.

Superintendent Maiben's report of Sunday Schools was read.

President Peterson said that owing to the lateness of the time at which some of the Bishops' reports were received it had been impossible to prepare the Stake report to be read to the conference. He instructed the Bishops to allow nothing in the meeting houses but religious services; urged the Saints to be diligent in their exertions to assist in defraying the debts owing from the Temple; spoke upon the necessity of an Academy and the duty we owe our children to give them the benefits derived from such an institution.

President Beal followed upon the same subjects; referred to the yearly contributions to the Temple and said that that building is now nearing completion. A comparatively small exertion by us will place us in advance of our present position.

Bishops Davis and Thorp each made a few remarks. Both expect to take up their residence shortly in the penitentiary.

President Maiben presented the following resolution: "We, the Latter-day Saints, in conference assembled, agree to sustain the proposition of President Peterson and counselor to build immediately a Sanpete Stake Academy in Ephraim City, if agreeable to the wishes of President Woodruff and council." Adopted unanimously.

Conference adjourned to meet in three months in Mantle.

The Mantle band was in attendance and rendered excellent music. We had a pleasant reunion and a good time generally.

GEORGE TAYLOR, Clerk of conference.

at most of the higher points along the route has been covered with "the beautiful" to the depth of several feet. By the way, it seems a pity that the waters of Utah Lake, so much needed for irrigating the thirsty soil of Salt Lake County, should not be held back instead of being allowed to run to waste down the Jordan until the proper season arrives for its utilization. It is said by those who claim to know that if planks were put in the dam of the Utah & Salt Lake Canal across the Jordan River bed clear to the top of the piles, so far from causing the Utah Lake to rise it would not even check the ripple in the river. If this be true (as it is said the survey made by Colonel Locke some years ago at the instance of Utah County people and those of other civil engineers since then have demonstrated) the hubbub raised by owners of land on the shores of Utah Lake about that dam being the cause of the overflow of their lands and the claim for damage as a result were without substantial foundation, and notwithstanding the compromise agreed upon on that hypothesis, a reconsideration should be had and the use of the Lake as a natural reservoir for the benefit of Salt Lake County during such a season as the present be allowed to the utmost extent possible without injury to Utah County. To effect this a lock higher up the river would probably be required. Sufficient loss was sustained by owners of land under the Utah and Salt Lake Canal last year through failure to get water for their crops to more than equal the value of the land along the shores of Utah Lake liable to be submerged by high water. Since then another assessment of \$2 per share has been levied upon their water stock for the purpose of having the canal deepened, and now another failure of crops is probable from want of water to fill their canal.

I had some idea of stopping over in Emery County a short time on my way to Colorado when I left home, but on reaching Price was deterred from doing so by the prevalence of a snowstorm at that point and the improbability of finding ready and convenient transit to other towns.

The talk among passengers in the train en route was very largely about the Salt Lake real estate boom, which seems to be creating a good deal of interest elsewhere as well as there. Cards of Salt Lake real estate dealers are to be found at every station along the way and travelers eastward from Salt Lake are eagerly plying with questions as they alight from the train about the progress of the boom. Colorado towns, apparently taking the cue from Salt Lake, are doing their best to work up booms of their own. Residents of Grand Junction are confident that their village is going to attain a rapid growth, as it possesses superior facilities as an agricultural and grazing region and two other railroads, heading for Salt Lake City, have been surveyed through the townsite, upon which it is hoped that work will soon be in operation. Real estate, however, is said to be very cheap there yet. Canon City, the place from which I now write, is also indulging in hopes of a boom. It is a well-built, substantial looking place, the capitol of Fremont County, and has a population of about 3,000. It sports three weekly newspapers, enjoys such modern conveniences as the electric light and a complete system of sewerage, is the centre of a good grazing region, has valuable coal mines located near by with an extensive output, and is also the site of the State prison, an imposing structure which is said to have about 125 inmates, who are very generally employed in burning lime in huge kilns situated near the penitentiary, making bricks and cutting stone, a very good variety of which is found in abundance close at hand.

From here I go to Pueblo, still lower down the Arkansas river, and thence to Denver.

Respectfully, L.

SELF-TAUGHT MEN.

Some of Their Excellencies and Advantages.

It is an old adage that they do most by books who could do most without them; and he who chiefly owes himself for his own progress is the substantial man. Previous to the great discovery of printing, learning and all the refined and useful arts were confined to a distinct class and beyond its exclusive pale, all efforts at knowledge or intellectual elevation were well nigh impossible.

The gradual extension of learning by means of the printing press, and the consequent revolution in our social and political institutions have produced a total change in the means of access to knowledge. Intelligent perseverance and industry may now surmount almost every obstacle arising from humble station or limited opportunities; and we are accordingly familiar in the history of our most distinguished men, of the greatest difficulties overcome and the highest ranks of learning, genius and social position achieved by those who started unendowed by all the advantages of an noble sphere.

It is not surprising that among such self-taught men, originality of thought and indomitable energy of purpose should more frequently appear, than among those who, surrounded by all the luxuries which wealth secures, are indoctrinated into the habits and received opinions of a class and are scarcely aware until they enter on the

great arena of life of the precise character of their own mental faculties or the relative power of their will and self-endurance.

With all their disadvantages, therefore, we may justly affirm that those, who, by their own innate energy, have to force their way upward from poverty, ignorance, and obscurity to the positions for which their capacities fit them, possess some peculiar advantages over all other classes of men. Whatever of character they possess has been tried in the school of severe discipline. They have breasted the billows in a great measure alone, and have confidence in their own powers and self-endurance.

Not so with the ordinary student. His powers may have been tasked for a while; but at last, the weight was lifted by the shoulders of others. The ordinary student may remain in perplexity for a time, but at length, in many cases the doubt is solved by a teacher, and a clearer eye penetrates the dark cloud for him.

Another attribute of this class is independence of purpose. By severe thought and well directed study they have formed independent habits of judgment. They may err in opinion, or their purposes may be formed on insufficient grounds; but in general they are not accustomed to form their conclusions without due investigation, nor yield their free agency at the call of party or sect.

Many of this class have moreover an invincible perseverance. The resoluteness with which they resolve finds a counterpart in the untiring execution of their schemes. Difficulties only excite a more ardent desire to overcome them. Defeat awakens new courage. Affliction nourishes hope. Disappointment is the parent and precursor of success. A resolution so strong is sometimes formed that it seems to enter into the nature of the soul itself. It swallows up the whole man, and produces a firmness of determination, an iron obstinacy of pursuit which nothing but death can break down. It is said of Disraeli, lately one of the leading statesmen of the world, that when he first attempted to address the House of Commons, he could neither command their attention nor respect. But he was not thereby discouraged. He simply said, "Gentlemen, the time will come when you will listen to me," and every one conversant with English politics knows how well he fulfilled that promise. When John C. Calhoun was in Yale College he was ridiculed by his fellow-students for his intense application to study. "Why gentlemen," he replied, "I am forced to make the most of my time that I may acquire myself creditably when I get to Congress." A laugh followed. When he answered, "Do you doubt it? I assure you if I were not convinced of my ability to reach the national capital as a representative, within the next three years, I would leave college this very day." Was it not Mohammed, a camel-driver, who founded a new religion and changed the face of empires? Was not Pope Gregory a carpenter's son, Sixtus V. a shepherd, and Adrian VI. a bargeman? Was not Copernicus the son of a baker, and Kepler the son of a tavern-keeper? Was it not an obscure monk who split in twain the Catholic church, and a still more obscure countryman of his, who, by the invention of the printing press revolutionized the whole intellectual aspect of society. Clarkson was apparently a man of no promise, he toiled on long amid scorn and obloquy, yet lived to accomplish his purpose—the extinction of the slave trade, though it had been controlled by millions of capital and backed by the governmental policy of the British Empire. Who has not read of Arkwright, the barber's apprentice, the manufactures resulting from the splendid achievements of whose mechanical genius bore the English nation triumphantly through the wars of the French Revolution, and are now declared to be of greater value than all her colonies from Hindostan to Labrador.

The biographies of these men and a thousand others, whose names embellish the pages of history, plainly show that those events, which would have proved insurmountable obstacles to many, were to these men only an excitement to urge with fresh impulse their onward course.

Another characteristic of self-taught men is, that they commonly devote themselves to some important practical object. They do not waste their powers in the pursuit of trifles. It is not self-taught men, but those who have ample time and means of subsistence, who are beguiled into merely speculative regions, or who devote themselves to undertakings of doubtful utility. The case is different with those who are dependent on their own efforts for everything. The first directions of their minds are not so much to the sciences as to the arts. Carpentry, in its various forms, the development of new countries, the manufacture and improvement of implements and the construction of labor-saving machinery of various kinds, often attract their attention and give a shape to their whole subsequent life. It is to this fact doubtless that self-taught men are distinguished for invention in the arts. Their necessities have given a readiness to their minds, enabling them to seize on those combinations of thought from which discoveries of great importance have sometimes followed. They have also that power of patient application, which is alike important to discovery. No inconsiderable number of self-taught men have in this way, conferred invaluable benefits upon mankind. Watt, Fulton, Franklin, Whitney, Davy and Edison will be cherished names in the centuries to come.

Self-taught men have also the faculty of clearly communicating their knowledge to others. In this respect they make excellent teachers. They have worked their own way up the steep of knowledge, and they can point out the paths they have traversed. Their attention was not absorbed by the movements of their guide—for they had none. The various objects which they met, they clearly marked and defined. Whatever were the general principles which they adopted, they were not taken upon trust, but were well considered. These individuals may not be able always to explain their progress logically or scientifically, but they can do it intelligently and to good purpose. They have also, in a striking degree, the ability to employ familiar illustrations. For the sake of throwing light upon their course, they have not sought for the images of poetry or listened to the personifications of the orator; but they have collected graphic illustrations and facts which common people can apprehend and relish, and which are gathered from the rocks and fields, and all the incidents of ordinary life. No treatise on astronomy has ever been so popular with all descriptions of learners, as that of the self-taught astronomer, James Ferguson. Again Sir Humphrey Davy, the self-taught chemist, was perhaps the most popular lecturer that ever addressed a British audience. This was owing not more to the enthusiasm of his character, and the perfect knowledge of his subject, than to the clearness of his expositions and the transparency and beauty of his illustrations.

We live in an age of progress and change, when there is a peculiar call for the devotion of the highest powers of genius and intellect to the direction of the future. It is not piety alone

which is needed, nor strength of body, nor rigor of mind, nor firmness of character, nor purity of taste; but all of these combined.

J. H. W.

The Third Bank Robber.

Ever since the attempted bank robbery in Nephi, the officers and other interested parties suspected that another, or others than the boys Justesen and Allred, were connected with the affair. Their suspicions led them to make plans for the detection and arrest of these parties, have recently matured and proved very effective. Everybody is now satisfied that there was only one man connected with the robbery other than Justesen and Allred—E. A. Billington, of Spring City—and he passed through Nephi yesterday in the custody of Deputy Clawson.

The two boys held out firmly for some considerable time that they were alone in the robbery, but it seems that Justesen is the best one of the lot—at least the one least accustomed to crooked ways—and he finally admitted that there was a third party, named

Billington. A scheme was concocted which brought Justesen and Billington in conversation, supposedly to the latter private, which was overheard by force concealed parties. During this conversation the plan was rehearsed and Billington was heard to plead not to be given away by Justesen, and new no doubts are entertained but that he was the originator of the whole scheme and that he will suffer equally with the other two if not more. On Wednesday evening, about two hours after the conversation referred to, Billington was arrested and taken before Commissioner Johnson. He waived examination and bonds were placed at \$5,000. He tried hard to raise the bonds but could not get them, so little sympathy does the man have over there. Suspicion has been resting on him ever since the robbery was attempted, from those who knew him and in fact he is a man of very poor character. Rumor has it that it is through his influence that many of the young men of Springtown and vicinity who together have gained the name of a "tough crowd" have been ruined, and the only sorrow that is felt is for the young wife he has recently married. She is an estimable young lady and now is almost distracted. Billington hails from the States.—Nephi Ensign, March 2.

—A very severe hailstorm took place at Alameda last Friday morning, some of the ice that fell remaining unmelted for half a day.

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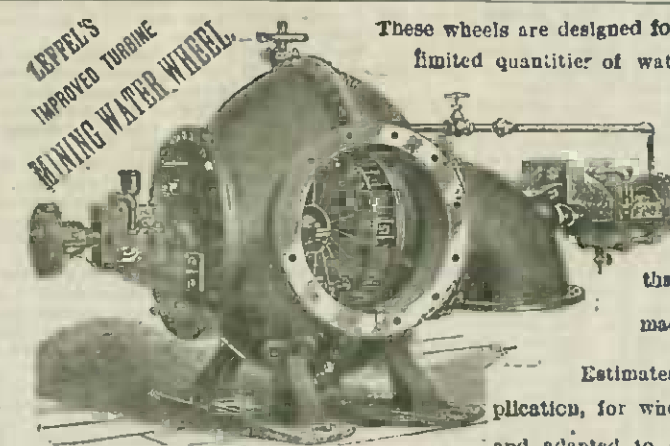
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—OVID G. SPARKS,
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NOTES TAKEN ON THE WING.

The Little Giant Route—More Snow Wanted—Waters of Utah Lake—Room Talk.

CANON CITY, Col., March 1st, 1888.

Editor Deseret News:

A ride over the famous "Scenic Route," from Salt Lake into Colorado, is sufficient to convince one of the fact that the snowfall thus far this winter has been so exceedingly light that there is liable to be a scarcity of water for irrigation purposes during the coming season. At no place along the route—not even upon the Marshall Pass where the road bed attains an altitude of 10,550 feet—did the snow appear as viewed from the train to be more than a foot in depth; whereas, during previous years at about this season the surface