



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Thursday,.....Oct. 12, 1865.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Semi-Annual Conference which has just closed, was very numerously attended from the various settlements throughout the Territory. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out in great abundance upon the speakers and the people assembled, and the teachings given during Conference were highly instructive, varied in character and adapted to the present wants of the Saints, as will be seen by a perusal of the following minutes. The singing by the choirs, and the music by the bands between meetings were excellent and cheering. The feelings enjoyed by the assembled Saints can be better understood by those who have experienced them than expressed.

THIRTY-FIFTH SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Conference convened in the Bowery, C. S. L. City, on Friday, Oct. 6th, 1865, at 10 a.m., President Brigham Young, presiding.

There were on the stand, Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, of the First Presidency; Orson Hyde, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Geo. A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards and George Q. Cannon, of the Twelve Apostles; John Smith, Patriarch; Joseph Young, Levi W. Hancock, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, of the First Presidency of the Seventies; John Young, Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum; David Fullmer and George B. Wallace, of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion; Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, Presidency of the Bishopric; George D. Watt and Edward L. Sloan, Reporters, and a large number of Bishops and Elders.

In front of the stand were seated the Tabernacle choir, under Prof. Thomas; the Logan and Richmond choir, led by br. Thomas Horsley; the Smithfield choir, led by br. Robert Fishburn; the Spanish Fork choir, led by br. W. Jones, and the Ogden choir, led by br. W. Pugh.

Meeting called to order by President B. Young. Anthem, "Jerusalem my glorious home," by the Tabernacle choir.

Elder John Taylor offered the opening prayer.

Logan and Providence choir sang "Hark ye mortals, etc."

President Heber C. Kimball prayed that the peace of God might be upon all the Saints and upon all who love the Lord Jesus. He spoke of the inclination of many to try and justify their wrong doings by pointing to the failings of others; and of the obligation that rests upon all to receive the truth. We will live for ever if we lay a foundation to do so, building on the truth. He treated on various principles of the Gospel and their practical application by the Saints. Pointed to the New Tabernacle and showed the necessity of its being speedily finished that we might have a house large enough in which to meet and worship God. The principle of tithing is enjoined by the Lord and the Saints are required to observe it; through practical obedience to that principle they can accomplish all the works of a public nature required of them. The government of God on the earth is the only one recognized by the heavens, and obedience to its authority, living in the practice of righteousness, is necessary before the Father and the Son will take up their abode with us, and the Spirit of the Lord abide with us. We are the offspring of God and partake of His attributes, and it is our right to know what is true; if we do not know the truth we cannot be led by those who are ap-

pointed to guide and direct in the things of the kingdom of God. Spoke of the sacred nature of the ordinances administered in the house of God, and of the serious consequences of trifling with them. The building of the Temple and Tabernacle would be but a little work for this people to perform; but if the Temple was finished to-day are we as a people prepared to enter into it? God will choose a people from among us on whom He will bestow His choice blessings. Referred to his mission to England and to the few of those who were then baptized who are now in the faith, showing that we must love and live in the truth in humility and obedience to obtain salvation. Exhorted the people to continue in serving God, and in the midst of all their amusements and recreations to be humble and prayerful and seek to have the Holy Spirit with them. No man has the right to sin, no matter what his office, calling or position may be. The right of government in the church rests with br. Brigham, and though the world may talk against "one-man power" they practically endorse it by appointing one man to preside over a community as a governor or president, giving him power to govern them and veto legislative enactments. He encouraged the Saints to study the revelations of God, and spoke of the holy influence which accompanies that study; testifying that the individual who reads and practices the revelations which have been given will be filled with the Holy Ghost. The gospel is a system of progress, and if we continue in the principles of the doctrine of Christ, we will go on to perfection.

Smithfield choir sang "Joy to the world."

Elder A. Randall gave a brief account of his trip to the Sandwich Islands, from which he had just returned, of the kindly manner in which the natives had treated them, of the views of the white population there concerning the missionaries, and of matters and things in general. He had started on the 15th of last May with the company that left at that time for the Islands. He did not think his mission was ended; but as he had been asked why he was back, he gave it as a general answer that he had come up to conference.

Spanish Fork choir sang "Hark, listen to the trumpeters."

Prayer by Elder E. L. Sloan.

2 p. m.

"Mortals awake" was sung by the "Ogden Choir. Prayer by Elder Geo. Q. Cannon. Singing, "How beautiful in Zion," by the Tabernacle Choir.

Elder Erastus Snow gave an account of the Southern settlements. Three years ago last spring St. George was surveyed and located; since that time twenty more settlements have been located on the Rio Grande and Rio Virgen, including two on the Muddy and one on the Beaver Dam, comprising what is called "Our Dixie." Small settlements are strung along the Santa Clara. The difficulties to be encountered in settling that region, and which have been measurably overcome, were graphically and briefly described. During this past season they have raised considerable wheat, barley, oats and corn. Elder Snow expressed his appreciation of the kindness bestowed upon the people south by their brethren in the north; the breadstuffs furnished from the north were a great blessing indeed. In the thinnest settled portion of that country they have raised this season sufficient breadstuffs to last them till another harvest, with the strictest economy; while the more thickly settled portions,—St. George and surrounding cities—what may be called the populous part of the country, have not more than one-half or at most two-thirds sufficient breadstuffs to last them for the coming year. The culture of cotton is improving, in quantity if not in quality, but the best seeds imported deteriorate. They have raised considerable sugar cane, made molasses and traded with the northern counties adjoining for breadstuffs, by this means they have helped themselves to a great extent. The speaker treated upon the manifestations of the providences of God towards His people, and of the principle of union exemplified among the Saints and the disunion that is rampant throughout the world.

Singing by the Logan and Providence Choir.

Elder George W. Grant expressed his genuine pleasure at meeting with the Saints "at home," he having returned a few days ago from his mission to England, on which he had started in the Spring of '61. He spoke of his labors there, and of the great desire of the Saints to gather.

Elder C. C. Rich gave a brief description of the settlement of Bear Lake

Valley. Some 2 years ago he had gone there with a company. After viewing the country, they made a commencement to settle the valley in what is now called Paris. A year ago last Spring Pres. Young and company had visited the valley and blessed the people and the country. Last year they succeeded in raising about 4,000 bushels of wheat, though the frosts had injured some. Bear Lake Valley is between 70 and 80 miles long and about ten miles wide including the lake, and is a fine timber and grazing country.

He spoke of the great mercies of God to this people, and exhorted them to suffer no evil influence to have power over them.

Anthem by the Smithfield Choir: Prayer by Elder Jacob Gates.

Saturday, 10 a. m.

Pres. D. H. Wells, who arrived this morning from Europe, was on the stand. Singing, "How beautiful upon the mountains," by the Spanish Fork Choir. Prayer by Elder W. Woodruff. Singing by the Ogden Choir.

Elder W. W. Phelps spoke a short time on the blessings resulting from abiding in the truth.

Singing by the Tabernacle choir.

Elder Orson Hyde touched upon the influences to be encountered by the Saints in coming here, and the happy feelings participated in by those who persevere in faithfulness; spoke of the increase of settlements in Sanpete county and the forming of two new counties there,—Sevier and Piute counties; and reasoned on the principle of cultivating a smaller quantity of land than many are inclined to do, and cultivating it well, in preference to laboring on an extent which cannot be properly worked and irrigated; speaking in like manner of the number of stock owned and kept by individuals, advocating the wisdom of keeping no more stock than can be well fed and properly cared for. He urged that above all things we should seek to have the spirit of God to guide us continually. Referred to the great blessings bestowed upon Abraham, and showed that we are heirs to the same promises and blessings, if we will do the same works. Bore testimony in great plainness to the destructions that are rapidly coming on the wicked; and the onward progress of the work of God if we continue faithful.

Singing by the Logan and Providence choir.

Elder George A. Smith referred to the first conference held in this valley, eighteen years ago, which convened under the shade of a hay-stack, and said it would require a rather large hay-stack to afford shade for the congregation before him. He spoke of the extent, number and growth of the settlements throughout the Territory, and endorsed the teachings of Elder Hyde on the cultivation of land. Treated on the Southern settlements and the energy of the people; and stated that mechanics, especially blacksmiths are needed in various of the villages and settlements south; advising any who might be going there to take breadstuffs with them for their own consumption, there still being far from any abundance there.

Singing by the Smithfield Choir.

Prayer by Elder E. T. Benson.

2 p. m.

Singing, "From all that dwell," by the Spanish Fork choir. Prayer by Elder Geo. Q. Cannon. Singing by the Ogden choir.

Elder Geo. Q. Cannon then presented the authorities of the Church to the conference who were unanimously sustained by vote in the following order:

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Heber C. Kimball his first, and Daniel H. Wells his second counselor.

Orson Hyde, 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, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards and George Q. Cannon, members of said Quorum.

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

William Eddington, John V. Long, John L. Blythe, John T. Caine, Joseph W. Young, Howard O. Spencer, Claudius V. Spencer, John Squires, William H. Folsom, Emanuel M. Murphy, Thomas E. Jeremy, Geo. W. Thatcher, 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 Harriman,

Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, members of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies.

William Squire, President of the Elders' Quorum; James Smith and Peter Latter, his counselors.

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

Samuel G. Ladd, President of the Priests' Quorum; William Carmichael and Robert Price, his counselors.

Adam Spiers, President of the Teacher's Quorum; Henry I. Doremus and Martin Lenzi, his counselors.

James Leach, President of the Deacon's Quorum; Warren Hardie, his counselor.

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works; John Sharp, his assistant.

William H. Folsom, Architect for the Church.

Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor; Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells and Edward Hunter, his assistants and agents for said Fund.

George A. Smith, Historian and general Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff, his assistant.

Singing by Tabernacle choir.

Elder John Taylor spoke a few minutes on the propriety of continuing the Conference for a few days longer.

Pres. B. Young instructed the Saints that it is as necessary for us to remain together to receive the blessings God has in store for us, as it is for the farmer to wait for the fruits of his labors after he has planted the seed; and wished the Saints to remain together till the Spirit of God should say it is enough; all keeping their business and worldly cares away from them, and uniting in prayer and worshipping God till we receive the blessings we have desired in coming together.

Elder John Taylor moved, "That we continue this Conference until the Spirit of the Lord, through His Servants, says it is enough." Carried unanimously, the vast congregation rising to their feet.

The President said, "May the Lord bless you for ever and ever; Amen."

Logan and Providence choir sang, "Hard times come again no more."

Elder John Taylor spoke of the objects for which the gospel has been revealed,—namely the salvation and exaltation of all who will obey its principles. Urged the importance of attention to temporal duties as well as those that are called spiritual, all being comprised within the gospel. The first duty devolving upon us is the sustenance of these natural bodies or we would die and our power for good in this probation would cease. Reasoned on the impossibility of receiving and understanding of the truth of the gospel except through the ministrations of the Priesthood and the light of the Holy Spirit; and on the malignity that is manifested against us, showing that it is because we have received and will hold to the truth that the hearts of the wicked are stirred up in wrath against us. We will cleave to the truth, and serve the Lord, let the consequences be what they may. He pointed out the blessings that have been received by following the counsels of the Servants of God in the most ordinary things of life, and exhorted the people to continue in the path of counsel in all things.

Singing by the Smithfield Choir.

Prayer by Elder George A. Smith.

Sunday, 8th, 10 a. m.

Singing by the Spanish Fork choir.

Prayer by Elder Orson Hyde. Singing by the Ogden choir.

Elder George Q. Cannon stated that he had not met with the Saints here at a Semi-Annual Conference for sixteen years, and he prized the privilege at the present time very highly. He touched upon the importance of our thus assembling together to worship God, and on the inexhaustible mine of wealth that we have in the gospel,—a wealth that will endure eternally, not like that perishable wealth of gold and silver which we see eager hunters seeking after in the mountains and canyons around where they imagine it is to be found. Reasoned that the gospel satisfies every want of man's nature, physically, mentally, socially, morally and politically; and that there is nothing that we ought to possess which can be offered to us as an inducement to do wrong, that we will not ultimately obtain by obedience to the gospel.

Singing by the Tabernacle choir.

Elder George A. Smith in a highly interesting discourse treated on the first settlement of these valleys by the Saints, the difficulties to be overcome,