

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BY

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG,

At the General Conference, on Tuesday Morning, April 8th, 1879.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

The privilege that we enjoy of meeting together again in Conference I believe is highly appreciated by the Latter-day Saints. The dry details of our reports are somewhat tedious I am aware; but no doubt many are interested in the reports of their several stakes, for there is a feeling in the hearts of this people that causes interest to be felt for all the stakes of Zion, and I believe that the present organization together with the reports that are made quarterly, semi-annually and annually are drawing the people together in their interests. We are better acquainted with each other than ever before within my recollection. Our general assemblies bring us together, and pleasant reunions are made, and the good Spirit of God being disseminated among us makes us feel more like the children of one common parent than when we are widely dispersed and seldom behold each other's faces.

Many reflections have passed through my mind during this Conference. I have listened with interest to the remarks which have been made, and to the reports which have been read. Zion is growing; financially and in numbers. It is wonderful! I was astonished, as well acquainted as I have been with this people for the number of years that they have inhabited these valleys, to know that one-third of the entire population of this Territory—as far as the Latter-day Saints are concerned—are children under eight years of age. But such is the fact. These reports do not take in the entire population of this Territory. There are quite a number of children over eight years of age who have not been baptized, and consequently they are not represented in these reports. I presume that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of cases in the midst of the Latter-day Saints where we have neglected to administer the ordinance of baptism to our children, who, according to the revelations of God, ought to be numbered among the members of this church. The instructions which we have received are plain and pointed; perhaps I may not be a competent judge for all mankind, or for my brethren, yet to me they are full of the inspiration of the Lord and are calculated to lead and guide his children in the path of everlasting life. And it does seem impossible to me for any man, or any set of men, to refute the testimonies that have been borne to this Conference.

It is proper and consistent that we look for counsel to those who are advanced in the knowledge of the Gospel. We should do the same in regard to law or politics. If I were to go to Washington among the politicians of the country and set myself up as a politician, pretending to understand all the ins and outs of political life as, say, one of the representatives of our nation, I would find myself greatly deficient, and I would gladly seek some experienced man on whom I could rely to instruct me in regard to these things. It is true, I might read the Congressional Record, in which the speeches of our statesmen are published; I might go to hear them delivered, and exert myself otherwise to inform myself; yet though through diligence and perseverance I might acquire very considerable knowledge of this kind of business, yet I would lack a most important part, namely, the experience, and I would willingly and gladly avail myself of the teaching of an experienced man. If I were to start in the business of law, it would be reasonable to suppose, of course, that I, like the seventy men or more who follow that business in this city, would have a smattering of legal knowledge; but like them too, if a more experienced man were to come along, and especially if he were a genius in his profession, I would gladly learn of him and it would afford me pleasure to listen to him. This is the case in all things. Suppose a member of my family is sick; I am at once prompted with a desire to consult some experienced nurse who is more competent than myself in administering such things as one in that condition ought to receive. Perhaps a finger of

one of my children may need amputating. I might take an ax and cut it off in my way, but I could not do it like our Dr. Anderson, for instance, a man who is a skilled surgeon. I would naturally yield my way to theirs in regard to these things. And so it is through all the branches of business transacted in this life—The influence, opinion or knowledge of somebody else controls or affects that of ours.

To-day we may be acquainted with a man who is really excellent in his profession, but another man comes along who can surpass him, and the former is glad to learn of the latter. And so we may follow it through until we come to the subject of religion. But the moment that subject is touched men rise up, no matter how ignorant they may be with regard to the principles which are calculated to exalt mankind, and say, "I must think for myself; no man must be trammelled in those matters; every man must have the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of his own conscience." So say I; but I do know, and we have indubitable evidence of the fact, that the men who stand at the head of this people are skilled in the things pertaining to the building up of the kingdom of God in the last days. This fact is proven to the satisfaction of the Latter-day Saints, to those at least who have followed them for the last 15 to 30 years. We know that they understand more about these things than we do. When questions arise, whether in politics, finance, morals or law, requiring the judgement of sound and experienced men, or when circumstances arise in our individual lives which are perplexing and of such a nature as to exhaust our ability, we naturally seek the counsel of these our brethren; and our experience has proven them to be masters of the situation; that they are skilled in their profession and abundantly able to direct us. Why should I not follow the leaders whom God has placed over me? Why should not this privilege be granted me? Is it more inconsistent in me in showing my principle and desire for right in following these men than, in acquiring the art of mechanics, in being taught by a more experienced mechanic? or in politics or law or surgery, by men who are farther advanced in those professions than myself? Certainly not. And besides this the Spirit of God which I have received, which is an unmistakable guide, bears witness to me that it is right for me to be taught of them and that their teachings are the teachings of heaven to the children of men, and that they are calculated, if lived up to, to lead men back into the presence of God the Father. Yet I, in connection with this whole people, am accused of yielding my own will and free agency to an overbearing priesthood, thus becoming their dupes and slaves. This is in short, the judgment generally passed upon the Latter-day Saints by the whole American nation. And while they say this of us, their better sense would tell them that they do the same in law, in morals, in mechanism, in politics, etc., directly, and in religious matters they do the same indirectly. Well, for one, and in saying this I speak the sentiments of this whole people—I intend to follow the men appointed and ordained of God to lead and direct his saints, as they follow Christ. "Know ye not," says the apostle, "that to whom ye yield yourselves to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness."

May the blessings of God rest upon this people and the peace of heaven be with them in all their locations and settlements, and give unto us strength to continue faithful in the cause of truth, that we may do our part towards the building up of his kingdom, and at last be saved with the faithful, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The fishing schooner *Ida E. Baker*, of Gloucester, Mass., is lost with a crew of 12 men.

Herr Seyderitz, conservative, has been elected president of the Reichstag in place of Herr Forckenback, resigned.

The *Alaska* has been ordered to return from Sitka to San Francisco.

It is stated the King of Spain has signed a decree re-establishing the state of siege in the Basque provinces.

Correspondence.

SMITHVILLE, Pima County, Arizona, April 24, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

A small company of us are making a place here on the south side of the Gila River, and although few in numbers, we are not discouraged, as we fully expect to have plenty of neighbors before long, as there is room here for at least 150 families. There are about six sections of good land unclaimed close by us and plenty more within a few miles. We shall have to irrigate it, but there is plenty of water in the river to be had by making a ditch several miles in length, but it can be mostly done by the use of teams. The ground is soft and easily worked; it is covered with large and heavy vegetation.

We have laid out a town here and a few of us are beginning to build houses. We have a well dug 30 feet deep, the water is pretty good. We have also a public corral for cows. We have rented a farm for the summer, as we shall not be able to get the water on to our own land in time to raise anything this year. But we hope to have a beautiful city here after a few years by the help of our Heavenly Father, and the brethren we expect will come from Utah to settle with us.

We are all well in camp and have been greatly blessed. We have come over as rough a road as ever was traveled over with teams and wagons, and came without accident or breachage of any kind, for which we are truly thankful. We consider that we have found the best place in Arizona for building a city of the saints. The land is rich and fertile, the climate is fine, lucerne grows the year round; they cut from seven to nine crops a year. There is plenty of good water. We have cottonwood and mesquite for firewood. There is timber in the cañons, but the roads are very rough, not having been worked, but we think our people can soon remedy that. We have named our town Smithville, in honor of President Jesse N. Smith who organized us into a branch before we came over the mountains to this place.

I think our branch clerk will write full particulars to you before long, but as I know there are a great many of our friends in Utah who are watching the papers for a word from Arizona, I just send this short sketch for the present. We are all very busy getting material together for homes and trying to do the best we can. Provisions are high, but the market is as good for us as for others, as soon as we can begin to raise anything to sell; the Indians are perfectly quiet; we have not seen one since we came to our present location.

Your brother in the Gospel,
WM. R. TEEPLES.

Mulberry Planting.

PROVO, May 8, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

Now is a good time to sow the seed of the mulberry. After digging and pulverizing the soil, drill the seed rather shallow and keep it moist and do not irrigate late, so that the wood may get ripe before heavy frost; mulch them and not uncover too soon in the spring; it should be done the first two seasons. When removed from the seed bed plant them about six inches apart in the nursery, and when planted out the second year plant them upon the hedge row system, rows 8 feet apart and in the rows 4 feet apart.

The kind for silk is the *Multa Alba* or white mulberry; the seed can be obtained of Mr. Smith, First South Street, Salt Lake City. The seed is fresh and good, some having been sprouted under my own eye.

Cuttings of the *Alba* are rather difficult to raise; the *Multicaulis* is very easy, but is worthless, and was the cause of the failure in 1839 in the United States, a description of which is given in a work published by the American Silk Association at the Centennial, called "The Multicaulis Mania."

D. GRAVES.

Correction.

MANASSA, Conejos Co., Colorado, May 5, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

In a communication from Bro. Hans Jensen and myself, published in the Semi-Weekly NEWS No. 28,

it reads in one place as follows: "The climate is somewhat cold and windy, it being from 7,000 to 8,000 feet above the level of the sea." It should have read: "The climate is somewhat cold and windy, owing to the high altitude of the valley, it being from 7,000 to 8,000 feet above the level of the sea." And in another place it reads: "Manassa the present terminus of the Denver and Rio Grande R. R." It should read: "Alamosa the present terminus of the Denver and Rio Grande R. R.," etc.

Respectfully yours, &c.

HANS JENSEN,
per JOHN H. HOUGAARD.

Fatal Accident.

PAYSON CITY, May 15, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

A most lamentable accident happened on the street here on the 13th inst.

A young man by the name of James A. Shelton, in attempting to mount a horse and before he was fairly seated, was thrown to the ground, lighting on his head. He was taken up apparently lifeless, and carried to the house of Bro. John Hulsh, where he partially came to, but remained unconscious till death relieved him of his sufferings, which took place eighteen hours after his fall. A surgeon was in attendance immediately, but could do nothing. No joint was out of place or limb broken.

Bro. Shelton was born near Mount Airy, N. C., Dec. 17th, 1855, where he lived with his father, Wm. Shelton, till winter before last, when he made his home here. In North Carolina he was highly respected, being loved and honored by all who knew him.

In 1868, when a mere boy, he heard the gospel at his native home. And it was then he determined, if he lived to reach manhood, to gather with the Saints and make his home with them.

December, 1877, he arrived here from North Carolina and immediately applied to me for baptism, for which we had to cut the ice.

Shortly after becoming a member of the Church, he was ordained to the Lesser Priesthood, which he magnified, as all the members of his quorum testify that no more faithful member or worker was to be found, both in spiritual and temporal duties. And before his death he was ordained to the Melchizedec Priesthood.

Although the busiest time of the year, a large assemblage of the Saints met at the Church at ten a. m., the 15th, attending the funeral. And from the Church to the cemetery, his remains were followed by the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Societies marching on foot and dressed in mourning. Also a numerous cortege of our best citizens in carriages and wagons. Although he had not a relative in all Utah, the death of no citizen has been more lamented, no citizen has had more respect and honor manifested towards them in their last moments and during the funeral services.

While he lived here he made friends more numerous, and more speedily than one in a hundred.

I have written the above by request of many friends of the deceased, coupled with my own wishes as a tribute to real worth.

Yours respectfully,
H. G. BOYLE.STOCKHOLM, Sweden,
April 23, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

One year ago last November I arrived here having been appointed to labor in this conference as a missionary. During the first winter I traveled through the northern part of this conference sometimes as far as 450 miles away from this city, the greater portion of the distance being traveled on foot. I held a large number of meetings and several embraced the truth. Later in the season I made a short trip to Upland and in two weeks thirty were baptized. I held also a large number of meetings, and thus both in public and private I had the opportunity to clear off the prejudices on the minds of our friends. The greater number of those that were baptized belonged to a set known by the name of syndria (sin free), since then more than that number of the same sect has joined the church.

Early last fall I was appointed to succeed brother A. Hansen in the presidency and consequently I have labored in this city mainly with the exception of a five weeks' trip to Westeras, Eskitstuna and Orebro in which time I held twenty-five meetings, and met with many that eagerly went forward to investigate the doctrines of the Latter-day work. Here in the city we are having a hall used for meetings, our meetings are quite numerous and the hall is filled to its utmost capacity. The people are orderly and attentive and I am certain as earnestly seeking the Lord as any people could do in any land or clime.

This winter we have invariably baptized some every week and not a few times have we been obliged to break our way through the ice, the mercury being down to 22 deg. below zero. There are at present four of the Utah Elders laboring here as traveling missionaries and I am happy to say that they are manifesting the greatest care and energy in promoting the advancement of the work of God.

The winter has been quite severe and at this moment the snow is falling, though not so fast as it did this morning. A few days ago the snow fell in such quantities that the railroads even in the southern part of Sweden, were obstructed, and in several places the telegraph wires were obstructed also.

The NEWS is a very welcome visitor, and its columns are perused with the greatest of interest.

I can say that I have enjoyed my labors in the ministry; I have not suffered for the want of anything; both Sain's and strangers have treated me with the greatest of kindness, and the watchcare of the Lord has been with me and my faith and confidence in Him and His great latter-day work are greater than ever before. And seeing the poverty, and hardship in this world, it fills one's heart with gratitude to our Heavenly Father for our mountain homes and the many blessings we as a people enjoy.

Your brother in the covenant,
JOHN LARSEN.COALVILLE, Summit County,
Utah Territory,
May 12, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

I left the shores of England in the year 1869, for Utah, and settled down in Coalville. After residing there a little over six years, I was called, at the general conference in April, 1870, to go on a mission to my native country to preach and to bear my testimony to the truth of the gospel. I felt my weakness and inability to perform this duty, my spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak. But being strengthened by the blessings pronounced upon my head by Apostle Orson Pratt, I took courage, and can say in truth from the time I started until my return I was greatly blessed in every way.

I left Echo on the 6th of May, 1876; arrived in Liverpool on the 27th, (all right); was appointed to labor in the Nottingham conference under the direction of P. D. Lyman, whose good teachings and sound advice I appreciated very much. He was released to return home in October, 1876, when I was appointed to succeed him in the presidency of that Conference. I did so until I was released to return home with the first company, which left Liverpool on the 25th of May, 1878, making my stay in England two years, lacking two days. I labored with great pleasure, but my heart was often grieved very much in finding so many of my brethren and sisters surrounded with so much poverty, good men and women who have been toiling for years, faring hard. They have been kind in feeding and clothing the Elders in this part, and have the same good desires now, but have not the means. They want to come home, but have not the means. Some are getting into years and never can come by their own means, some have friends out here who would do well to write to their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends and relatives. If circumstances are such that they cannot help them, it would do them good to receive a letter. In the Notts. Conference one Brother Carter living in Sleaford, has two sons out here, has not heard from them for several years; two of our brethren living in the Whitwick branch, by the name of Foulkes, have a sister here and have not heard