

EVENING NEWS

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Monday, December 15, 1884.

THE LATE CONFERENCE.

The instructions given through the general and local authorities of the Church during the late Conference of the Salt Lake Stake were exceptionally good, being clearly adapted to the circumstances of the people and the character of the times.

It was clearly shown that the frequent occurrence of infractions of the requirements of the Gospel and the consequent loss of certain degrees of inquiry in the Church, as complained of in some of the reports, were largely due to a lack of the intelligent and assiduous exercise of the duties of the Lesser Priesthood—Priests and Teachers. Some of the Bishops, it was held, had been lax in the sense of the fact sufficiently that it is one of their special obligations to see that those officers laboring under their direction perform faithfully the duties devolving upon them, the health and life of the Church being largely dependent upon activity and fidelity in that department. It was made exceedingly clear that the Bishops should maintain in their completeness all the necessary local organizations under their supervision and jurisdiction, seeing that every man in his proper place, seeking to use to the best advantage and to develop all the talent possessed by the people under their direction. The Bishop who appears to imagine that he must fill every position and perform almost every duty himself is the least progressive of any, and he is the most useful who seeks to keep those under his supervision the most actively engaged in various avenues of usefulness.

Some of the people appear to have an idea that advice has been given to the effect that dancing should be abolished as an amusement. This is an error, that counsel only has reference to round dancing. It was, however, strongly urged that dancing parties, which should be strictly religious, should not be a source of revenue for any purpose but to be used as a means of raising money, no matter for what object it might be intended to use funds derived in that manner. Other entertainments, properly conducted, however, could be made a source of revenue when necessity appeared to demand it. The instructions given on Sunday morning successively by Bishops Burton and Preston were of the soundest kind, showing that the spirit of their calling in relation to the temporal affairs of the Church, rests down upon them. Waste of property, in leaving valuable machinery out of doors to be spoiled by the action of the elements, careless farming in general, evidenced by poor products raised on good soil, the lack of union in temporal matters in some of the wards, going needless into debt, giving "iron-clad notes" for machinery far in excess of what is required, were all denounced in appropriate terms. The people were advised to store grain against a day of necessity which is approaching, to pay more attention to home industries and manifest less of an inclination to use imported in place of locally-made goods.

The discourse of President George Q. Cannon embodied many striking truths. He defined with remarkable clearness the difference between men who were called of God and those who are impostors or are operated upon by the powers of darkness. People who resort to astrology—algebra doctors—users of phrenology, and all other people who operate in the realm of the occult, or of others by asserting that they are bewitched were denounced in scathing terms, as unbelief and deceivers of the unwary, and the curse of God would rest upon them, unless they reformed.

President Woodruff was specially urgent upon the Saints in relation to going into debt, which should be avoided, that the people might be free and not under bondage. President Taylor's discourse was calculated to inspire the hearts of the Saints with the knowledge that no matter what circumstance might arise. He exposed the wickedness and hypocrisy of the opponents of plural marriage, and predicted that the blight of the Almighty would rest upon those who oppose Zion, while the Kingdom of God would go forward unimpeded to a triumphant issue.

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Saturday, Dec. 14th, 1884.

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The choir sang—

"Arie, O Jerusalem."

Prayer by Elder Edward Snodgrass.

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President Elias Morris reported the High Priests' Quorum to be in a good condition.

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President Wilford Woodruff read from and commented upon the Section of the Doctrine and Covenants, Partridge, the inevitable destruction that would fall upon the world if they

did not turn from the error of their ways, and seek to God for His grace. He defined with remarkable clearness that when the Teachers came to our houses it was our duty to call our families together to listen to such counsel as they had to give. As apostles are such as members. All men should be honored in their priesthood. A Teacher is a very important position in the Church and Kingdom of God. It is the Bishops' prerogative to act in a War capacity, and see that the lesser priesthood perform all their duties. The Presidents of Stakes have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters of discipline. Apostles would not interfere with that or any other calling of the Holy Priesthood which men are appointed to provide. The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles would not interfere upon or ignore any office in the Church. Apostle Franklin D. Richards and myself were appointed to a certain case. This case came before the Teachers, and the Teachers called the offender to appear before the Bishops' court, where the case was investigated. The Bishops' court rendered a decision against the accused, who appealed it to the High Council, and that body sustained the decision of the Bishops' court. The accused came to us. All that we could do was to act as Teachers. We listened to the report of the Bishops' court, and the Teachers, do anything but advise that the decision of the Bishops' court be humbly and obediently obeyed. He promised to do so. President Woodruff read a report of the Salt Lake Stake Sunday schools, which showed that there are forty Sunday schools with over 8,000 scholars and pupils enrolled.

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