

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, HELD AT GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, STATE OF DESERET, SEPT. 6, 1850; PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG, PRESIDING.

Present of the First Presidency—Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards.

Patriarchs—John Smith, Isaac Morley.

Of the Twelve Apostles—Orson Hyde, P. P. Pratt, G. A. Smith, E. T. Benson.

Presidency of the Seventies—Levi W. Hancock, Zera Pulsipher, Henry Herriman, A. P. Rockwood.

Presidency of the Stake—Daniel Spencer, W. Snow.

High Priest's Quorum—John Young, R. Cahoon.

Presiding Bishop—Newel K. Whitney.

The High Council of the Stake.

Thomas Bullock—Clerk of Conference.

The Conference was called to order by Elder G. A. Smith.

The Choir sung a hymn—prayer by P. P. Pratt; singing.

Pres't. Young then stated to the congregation that the morning would be occupied by exhortation, teaching, and preaching, and instructions through the day. The business before the Conference will be concerning the different quorums and authorities of the Church; the propriety of strengthening the San Pete Settlement, and a call for volunteers to return with Father Morley; a delegation of elders to Germany, and the various States in that country; that he purposed, once more to lay the law of tithing before the people; praying that he might have the spirit to communicate, and the people to understand; and that on Saturday afternoon, Elder Hyde would deliver a lecture on education, to the Chancellor and Regents of the University.

Isaac Morley then expressed his thankfulness for this opportunity to meet the Saints: my heart is

full of blessings for the people.—I want a company of good men and women to go to San Pete, and I do say, that no man shall dwell in that valley, who is in the habit of taking the name of God in vain.

Pres't. Young said, I have it in my heart to ask the congregation, if Father Morley shall have the right and privilege to select such men as he wishes to go there?

Moved that he have that privilege; carried.

Moved that he select one hundred men, with or without families; carried.

Pres't. Young said, it is as good a valley as you ever saw; the goodness of the soil cannot be beat; there is only one practicable road into it, and that is up Salt Creek; the inhabitants there, are 'No. 1;' and when I was in that valley, I prayed to God that he never would suffer an unrighteous man to live there.—I am going to bring before the people the necessity of keeping up the fund for the emigration of the poor. I declare openly and boldly, there is no necessity for any man of this community to go to the gold mines, to replenish the fund; we have more property and wealth than we are capable of taking care of. If a man is not capable of improving one talent, what is the use of his getting more? He is like the foolish child, that could hold but one apple in both his hands, and in reaching for more, he lost what he had. If men only knew how to control what they have, and were satisfied, they would do much better.

I will commence at the north and go to the south settlements, and pick out 25 of our inhabitants straight before me, and another man may take 50 of those gold diggers, off hand, and they cannot buy out the 25 who have tarried at home. Before I had been one year in this place, the wealthiest man who came from the mines, Father Rhodes, with \$10,000, could he buy the possessions I had made in one year? It will not begin to do it: and I will take 25

men in the United States, who have staid at home and paid attention to their own business, and they will weigh down 50 others from the same place, who went to the gold regions: and again, look at the widows that have been made, and see the bones that lie bleaching and scattered over the prairies.

Brother Joseph suffered himself to be dragged about the country by a mob, and was dragged into something like 46 or 48 law-suits, yet he triumphed over all of them, and then they murdered him in cold blood, in Carthage Jail, without any shadow of crime attached to him. I then swore that I never would fee a lawyer again; & we don't owe one dime, but that we are able to pay at any moment.—If I can keep my credit good with the Almighty, I care not whether men speak evil of me, or not.

Singing by the Choir, and Benediction by G. A. Smith.

Two P. M.

Conference called to order by Daniel Spencer.

Singing, prayer by G. A. Smith, singing.

P. P. Pratt made some remarks on the mountains and vallies south of the Utah.

If we carry out the instructions that we continually receive, we shall be the happiest people on the earth: whoever is governed by the kingdom of God, is a happy man; but who realizes it? It always was the man that was ready, that the Lord would work by; the only thing that should concern us, is, have we the principles of the kingdom of God in our hearts? and is it our desire to fulfil them?

Orson Hyde then plead in behalf of the Perpetual Emigrating Poor Fund, and those who remain in Pottawatomie County. "I am glad that ways and means have been devised to deposit horses, oxen, wheat, &c., and give checks on the States, where the money can be appropriated to bring on the poor to this place. The operation is a good one, and it will operate not only in the United States, but in England, and other countries also.—I feel when I get back to Iowa, that I can revive the Saints, as I have both seen and