

from a monkey than a clay man. Evolution has enabled us to see more of God and nature, and if we would pile all the Bibles, religious works, preachers and teachers together and burn them, leaving out scientific man, the world would never go back to idolatry, for science has solved the mysteries and proved there is a God. Philosophy is not to know the opinion of men on absolute questions, or to get acquainted with scholasticism; but to learn what are the laws that bind us together in fellowship; that give us happiness, that teach us virtue, that instruct us in manliness and courage. Scientist assists us in finding out the truths of God; philosophers think what God has thought before them.

"The end of all study is to live a nobler life, to have more love, to be nearer to a living God. Education is to get at truth. Creeds are good for nothing if they do not help us to think. Democracy of learning is for men of every race and clime and is even for the women. Education is life, love and God."

The lecturer made a good impression on his audience and received quite an ovation at the conclusion of his masterly effort.

Mr. Abbott was born in Roxbury, Mass. in Dec., 1835. In 1853 he graduated from the University of New York city. He now studied and practiced law for a few years but, in 1860 left his profession for the ministry. He spent some time in Terra Haute, Ind., and afterwards became pastor of the New England church in New York city. This position he resigned in 1869 and devoted himself to literature and was connected with *Harper's Magazine* and the *Illustrated Christian Weekly*. He was next identified with the *Christian Union*, where he became associated with Mr. Beecher. Mr. Abbott has written "The Life of Henry Ward Beecher" and is also the author of several religious works.

The writer had the pleasure of meeting the gentleman for a few moments at the conclusion of his lecture, and was received very cordially indeed. He conversed freely during the few moments at his command. When asked his opinion as to the result of the recent heresy trials of Drs. Briggs and Smith, he promptly replied:

"I would not be surprised if it would ultimately have the effect of dividing the Presbyterian church. Dr. Briggs especially, is a man of deep and profound learning and has many followers, who will undoubtedly sustain him; while his opponents are not satisfied with the decision and will not sanction and recognize his teaching as orthodox."

"How do you consider the teaching of the religious thought of the day—will it work to the detriment of (modern) Christianity?" was asked.

"The whole drift and tendency of thought today is analytical, it is searching. Mankind is not now satisfied with generalities, but wants to particularize in religion as well as science and to have faith and belief more definite. Hence every principle is finely analyzed and is discussed in every conceivable manner; but as Christianity is life it will bear investigation. No, thought and reason can not hurt Christianity; it will only add to and develop its beauties and its resources."

SAM. A. KING.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Feb. 1st, 1893.

UINTAH STAKE CONFERENCE.

We have just closed our quarterly conference, held Feb. 5 and 6, and have had one of the most enjoyable times ever experienced here in conference capacity. The Spirit of the Lord was enjoyed by all, and by the speakers especially in an unusual degree. Besides the local Priesthood, two brethren, one from Mantl and one from Nephi, in the interest of the Y. M. M. I. A., were present and delivered interesting discourses. Each speaker seemed moved upon by the same spirit to a certain degree—to refer to the labors to be performed by the Saints in the Temple of God for the living and the dead.

There is considerable sickness in the land, one family lost a young man from diphtheria. The weather is "warm and cold," the snow slowly accumulating in the mountains. Times are very dull. Respectfully,

C. C. BARTLETT.

VERNAL, Feb. 6, 1893.

OGDEN WEATHER.

OGDEN CITY, Utah,

Feb. 12, 1893.

We are just now experiencing the heaviest part of the winter. Up to and during the month of January the weather was mild, and indeed, some times very warm, so much so that the streets of Ogden were dry and dusty. But within four weeks past the atmospheric changes have been various and frequent. Now mild and then milder; anon warm, cold and then colder, until some of the ancient settlers here said it was the driest, coldest long "snap" of weather they had experienced since they first came to this country. At that time all thought the prospect for water for the coming summer was very gloomy. A change has come over the spirit of their dream, and they have now discovered that there was more of the "beautiful" in the upper deep than they had dreamed of this winter.

During the last two weeks we have been visited with several deep snowfalls. They fell to the depth of from twelve to fifteen inches. Yesterday we had another fall of the white flakes, and today it has stormed the whole of the day. But this time it being much of it sleet, a great deal of it melted as fast as it fell, which made the roads very slushy, and rendered it difficult for pedestrians to navigate. The snow is now said to be piled up deep and solid in the mountains, which cheers the hearts of the cultivators of the soil, for the prospects for plenty of irrigating liquid next summer are good.

But these frequent weather changes have brought inconveniences and a great deal of sickness to the people. There is more disease prevalent here now than there has been at any former period except at the time of epidemics. Deaths are more frequent both among the young and the old people than they were in former years.

Among the speakers at the Tabernacle today was Elder Andrew Jensen. He gave an excellent discourse on temples and the objects for which they have been built, and the special and deep interest they have for the Latter-day Saints. Since our last quarterly

stake conference, which was held on the 15th and 16th ult., Elder Jensen has visited every ward of this stake outside of this city, examining Church records and instructing the scribes in the importance of and the manner in which the records of the various ward institutions should be kept. He has collected all the historical data of interest in the places he has visited, and will soon be prepared to write them up. As far as his labors have been prosecuted he has been successful, and he is pleased with the result. He speaks very appreciatively of the assistance that has been rendered him by the authorities and other leading citizens of the places he has visited. It was his intention to commence at his labors in the city wards, but he has been called away suddenly to Salt Lake City on business of special importance, and so further ward visiting here has to be deferred for several weeks.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH HALL.

SNAKE STORIES.

An exchange says that on February 6th the snakekeeper at the zoological gardens at Cincinnati put a mouse into a young rattlesnake's cage to serve as a meal for the reptile. The mouse dodged the snake's effort to bite, and bit the snake's neck and body. The fight went on desperately for an hour, the mouse being too quick for the snake, which finally gave up from exhaustion and mouse bites. The mouse was left in the cage all night, and next morning the keeper found it had bitten the rattler's head entirely off and apparently escaped injury itself. Though chagrined at the loss of the snake he recognized the bravery of the mouse by setting it at liberty.

This story is a very pretty one from the standpoint of a sympathizer with his snake's intended victim, and has an air of probability with it. The latter is not always the case, however, when the subject of snakes is being considered. It is frequently regarded as a field for the free indulgence of hyperbole, as in the instance of a resident of one of the eastern counties of Utah visiting the London zoological gardens a few months ago. He came up to where a company of tourists were admiring a magnificent boa-constrictor, about twenty-five feet long, which had recently been added to the collection. After gazing at the huge reptile for a few moments he exclaimed, in a tone of disgust, "Why, that's no curiosity. The people in Provo Valley kill hundreds of them every year." When subsequently remonstrated with by a friend, he explained that he thought the reptile was a rattlesnake. In the class of exaggerations denominated "yarns," the reader will be strongly inclined to place the following, which comes from South Melville, New Jersey, under date of Feb. 6th:

"Miss Rachel M. Moore, 30 years old and weighing 135 pounds, is at last relieved of a snake which she swallowed twelve years ago and which has since lived and grown larger in her stomach despite every effort to kill it or get it out. The fact of Miss Moore having a snake in her stomach has been known by her friends for years. In the sum-