

ments of the work give careful and early consideration to matters that require their attention, difficulties are easily cured and the people are readily relieved of any trouble that seems to threaten them. But if evil comes into their midst and it is neglected, it seems to poison the circulation of the community, and it becomes worse and worse, until it sometimes occurs that matters in a ward reach such a serious stage that the Bishopric of the ward is not competent to correct the evil. It is so also in a Stake. The result is, the matter goes from the Bishop to the High Council, and from the High Council to the First Presidency for their attention and consideration.

All these men who are called to these positions are chosen men. President Woodruff is a chosen vessel. His Counselors are chosen men. These Apostles are chosen men. These Presidents of Stakes are chosen men. They are men who have been chosen by the voice of the Lord. Our Father who dwells in heaven hath made choice of every one of these men, and we may go further: members of the High Councils are chosen by the voice of the Lord. These men are not in the field applying for places and position in the Church. And to my knowledge, there has been no such thing occurred in the history of this Church as a man applying for a position in the Presidency, in the Apostleship, or in any other position, not even as a Teacher in a ward. The Teachers have been called and chosen as well as these other brethren. The Bishop and his counselors cast their eyes over their brethren, weigh and measure them, and take note of their faith and their worth to find Teachers. They do not always find perfect men. In fact, I do not think that up to this date a perfect man has been found among us. But the Lord has taken the very best material that He could get. He may not have taken all the best; there may be others that are just as good to make Presidents, Apostles, and Presidents of Stakes and Bishops, &c. as have been used; but, as a rule, as good men as we have among us have been selected. They have been chosen for their virtue, for their honesty, for their integrity, for their love of and devotion to the Gospel, and they are generally men who have been in the service of the Lord until the Holy Ghost has become their companion and their counselor and guide in all things as near as possible. I know in my experience, which has been considerable for a young man, that we put our heads together, we pray to God, we humble ourselves before the Lord, and in every instance we say, "Father, manifest to us, by the Holy Spirit, who is the man to fill this position. We have no preferences, no brothers or kindred that we desire to promote, but thy will be done in the matter." And the inspiration of the Lord comes to us by the Holy Ghost. There is no way for it to come but by the Holy Ghost. When the Holy Ghost signifies to us that a certain man shall be placed in a certain position, we take hold of him, and the people feel and understand that he is the man for the position. The Spirit of the Lord bears witness to the hearts of the brethren who hold the Priesthood and of the people. Those who bear the authority of Heaven have the right to appeal to the Lord and obtain from Him counsel and inspiration in regard to every matter of choice. This kingdom is organ-

ized by the inspiration of the Almighty. It is so sustained, and will be to the end. It will never grow less than it is today, but it will increase in numbers and spread abroad. As the people increase in numbers and faith the Church will increase in strength and power. Individuals may fall by the way; political and financial trials and a variety of other things may come in upon us; sins, secret and public, may come in upon us and destroy some; but the Church of Christ will go on forever, increasing and gaining strength and power. And it will be brought to the notice of the world more plainly and potently than it is today. The world will be brought to look upon this people as a marvel in the earth compared with all other people; and the noble and the great ones of the earth will come here to visit the Latter-day Saints, who are not a learned people, not an aristocratic people, but a simple, plain people, gathered from the honest, humble and conscientious of the world. The strength is in Israel's God, not in the people; not in our hereditary greatness, but in our simplicity and our honesty and purity.

I speak of this that we may have a comprehensive view of the organization of this Church and of the importance of the business that we come together to transact in our conferences. It is necessary for the health, the prosperity, and advancement of the Church that this labor should be performed. Every quorum, every organization, and every association should be cared for, so that none shall be neglected, and that the Church may be in healthy condition, and that when the Bridegroom comes, we shall have oil in our lamps. That we may do His will and keep His commandments, and be worthy of His favor and blessing, His salvation and exaltation, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

A TALK WITH YANG YU.

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FALL THE diplomats in Washington Mr. Yang Yu, the Chinese minister, is the most exclusive. A veil of oriental mystery has been wrapped about the legation since the beginning

of the troubles in the far east, and the minister has steadily refused to give any information as to the situation and the prospects. Still there are few men so well fitted to talk about China as he. A great part of his life has been spent in Peking. He comes of one of the noblest families in China, and he has long sat under the shadow of the dragon throne. He is said to be a special favorite of the emperor, and his influence with both the Tartar and the Chinese officials is great. He is a strong friend of Li Hung Chang,

and it may be that it was through the cordial reception which the great viceroy gave me during my stay in China last year that Minister Yang Yu consented to give me his views on the present situation and the future of Asia, through me, to the American people. It took some time to prepare for the interview. The questions had to be submitted to his excellency beforehand, and a special delivery letter which I received yesterday morning from his private secretary gave me the announcement that his excellency would receive me at the legation at 11 a. m. in reply to my questions.

AT THE LEGATION.

It was just 11 o'clock when I rode up past the residence of Justice Harlan to the hills about Washington and stopped at the big stone mansion which now forms the Chinese legation. It is a magnificent building, commanding a view of the whole city of Arlington and of the silvery sheet of the Potomac river, which, like a silver band, lines the southern horizon as you stand on the steps of the legation and look over the city. I pressed the electric button of the front door. A negro butler opened it, and I was ushered into the home of China in the United States. The inside of a diplomatic building in Washington is practically foreign territory. The police cannot come in to arrest the inmates, and they in many respects, are not subject to American laws. The flags which float over their buildings protect them, and when you enter them you are for a time in a foreign country.

My surroundings in the Chinese legation, however, were not far different from those of American homes. The house is furnished with foreign carpets and with American sofas and chairs. A Chinese jar or vase stands here and there, and the walls of the parlor are hung with magnificent scrolls covered with Chinese characters in gold on a background of blue silk; but further than this the furniture is of the conventional American type. The darkey told me "to rest my hat" on the table, and that the minister would be down in a moment. I had hardly taken my seat in the parlor when two bright-eyed young Chinamen came in a bade me good morning in English. These are among the secretaries of the legation. They both speak English perfectly, and one of the young men was a graduate of Yale College.

HOW THE MINISTER LOOKED.

A moment later the minister was announced. A stout, round faced, almond-eyed, cream-colored man, he was dressed in a long silk gown, which reached to his feet. He had on above this a sleeveless jacket of bright red, and his rather handsome head was topped with a skull cap, with an edge of gold embroidery running around it. The front of this cap was decorated with two buttons. One of them was of some transparent stone, about the size of a pigeon's egg, and of a bright red in color, and just below this there was a great pearl as big as a pea and of perfect shape. Out of the back of his cap hung this long queue, and below his gown shone out slipper-like shoes of Chinese fashion. His costume was rich in the extreme, and you know he is said to be one of the richest men of China. He brought with him the largest legation that has ever come to this