

ful lest its ballot be unworthily used, and if they stand in the path of Statehood for Utah it is only because they know that if it were to be given now it would be placing the new State in the hands of a people who for forty years have been taught that the government of the Republic has been their steady enemy; that they owed to another power a fealty higher than to the Republic; that the majority of them have never yet received any knowledge of the principles on which our government was founded; that many know no language save a foreign tongue and no literature except Mormon literature, and that it is simply impossible for them at this time to take part understandingly in the government of a free and sovereign State.

The Order hereupon passed a resolution of thanks to Mr. Goodwin for his lecture and further resolved that the document be printed entire and copies forwarded to the national officers of the Order, for their information on Utah, and to aid in the fight against statehood for this Territory.

The Rev. Mr. Utter then gave a recitation, and after more singing, Chairman Trepenning explained that this was one of a series of similar entertainments which the Order would give during the winter. Other lecturers equally eloquent on Utah politics would be heard from, including Rev. Dr. Iliff, Rev. Mr. Utter, Rev. W. M. Lane, Prof. C. E. Allen, Judge Powers, W. H. Dickson, C. S. Varian, Judge Anderson, Mr. Stanton, etc.

After prayer by Rev. Utter, the assembly was dismissed.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.

This conference convened at City Church, Green county, Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4, 1891. There were present the following Elders: C. W. Rockwood, T. A. Nixon, Robert Duke, A. C. Sorensen, M. L. Corbett, D. H. Jacobs, Francis M. Snell, James F. Prince and President C. W. Stayner.

The meetings were opened on Saturday morning with the usual exercises. President C. W. Rockwood presided, and briefly addressed the congregation.

Elder T. A. Nixon was then called upon to speak. President C. W. Stayner occupied the remainder of the time.

At the afternoon meeting Elder A. C. Sorensen addressed the congregation, and spoke upon the gift of the Holy Ghost, promised by the Savior and His Apostles. Francis M. Snell bore testimony to the work of God, and spoke upon the steps to be taken by the individual before receiving the Holy Ghost. D. H. Jacobs and President Stayner also occupied the stand.

At the close of the afternoon meeting a Priesthood meeting was held, at which the following releases and appointments were made:

Elder C. W. Rockwood was released to return home; also Brother J. F. Prince, on account of poor health.

Elder T. A. Nixon was set apart and appointed to act as President of the Indian Conference.

A. C. Sorensen was re-appointed Clerk of the Conference.

Elder Samuel Ashcraft was sustained as Presiding Elder of the Greene Co. Branch.

Following were the appointments of traveling Elders:

T. A. Nixon and Francis M. Snell to travel in Ohio. Headquarters, Columbus Grove, Putnam Co., Ohio.

Marian L. Corbett and D. H. Jacobs to travel in Southern Indiana. Headquarters, Taswell, Crawford County, Indiana.

Robert Duke to await the arrival of an Elder from Utah and to travel in Southern Indiana. Headquarters, Taswell, Crawford Co., Indiana.

A. C. Sorensen to await the arrival of an Elder from Utah, and to travel in Central Indiana. Headquarters at Robison, Greene Co., Indiana.

President Stayner gave some good instructions and encouragement to the Elders, and urged them to go on in the work of the Lord.

On Saturday evening M. L. Corbett addressed the audience, and illustrated how the Church of God was organized anciently and how it should be at present.

Robert Duke spoke on the setting up of the Kingdom of God upon the earth, its laws and government, officers and gifts.

On Sunday morning Elder A. C. Sorensen was first called upon to speak. He referred to the condition of Palestine a few years ago and the prospects of the Jews gathering today and building their city.

C. W. Stayner spoke upon the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and its interpretation by the Prophet Daniel. He traced the captivity of the Jews in Babylon, their return and deliverance by Cyrus, and of their gathering again from all nations, even as widely as they have been scattered.

At the Sunday afternoon meeting Elder C. W. Rockwood spoke and was followed by T. A. Nixon who bore his testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

On Sunday evening Robert Duke spoke upon the plan of salvation for the dead and substantiated his remarks by the Bible. C. W. Stayner then dwelt upon the second coming of Christ, the persecutions of the Saints, and the divine mission of Joseph Smith and the truth of the Gospel.

A vote of thanks was passed to the people of Robison and surrounding country for their hospitality towards the Elders while assembled at Conference.

A. C. SORENSSEN,
Clerk of Indiana Conference.

A WRONG RULING.

Editor Deseret News:

I observed, the other day, in the *Provo Despatch*, a statement of a case which involves a new phase of the Edmunds-Tucker law. Here is an extract from the paper named, giving the situation in a nutshell:

"It appears that some seven years ago, prior to the passage of the act prohibiting marriages within the fourth degree of consanguinity in this Territory was passed, Joseph Mower, formerly of Springfield, wood and wedded one Cynthia Mower, of Fairview, Saupete County, who is the daughter of Henry Mower, a half-brother to Joseph Mower. The marriage was not against the law and entirely satisfactory to all parties concerned, and the family relations at the present time are agreeable. Joseph Mower and Cynthia Mower have

continued to lived as man and wife, notwithstanding the passage of the law on March 3rd, 1887, prohibiting the marriage of relations within the fourth degree of consanguinity.

The judge rules that if within three years ago passed the parties had sexual intercourse knowing their consanguinity, they are guilty of incest and amenable to the law."

In regard this ruling of his Honor Judge Blackburn as most extraordinary, because it contravenes one of the plainest provisions of the National Constitution. There is no question as to the validity of the marriage at the time it was consummated. It was legal and therefore innocent before the law. The Constitution forbids the enactment of any statute which impairs the obligation of a contract. If the Edmunds-Tucker act be made applicable to a case such as the one in question, then such operation is a clear violation of the "supreme law of the land."

To inflict a penalty upon a person because he fulfils any of the conditions of a contract that was legally formed and entered upon is certainly a wide departure from constitutional ground, and if it prevails a dangerous precedent will be established. If the obligation of one class of contracts can be impaired, then why not the same process be applied to others? If such an innovation be admitted as proper, then what would hinder the enactment and enforcement of laws impairing the obligation of any other contract legally formed and consummated?

If the marriage had, in this instance, been entered upon subsequent to the passage of the act now applied to it, the contract would have been void, and the position of the parties would have been the same as if no wedding ceremony had been performed. In that case the Edmunds-Tucker law would have applied with full force.

It is proper that the laws of the land should be administered and enforced with intelligence and precision, but I regard any stepping outside of its requirements as one of the most flagrant wrongs that can be inflicted upon society. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and must not be ignored in construing Congressional statutes. Hence I regret to observe what I deem to be a clearly unconstitutional ruling, in the case now considered by his honor Judge Blackburn. I cannot help thinking that if the question involved were properly tested in the higher courts, the position taken by that judicial functionary would be declared to be wrong in principle. K. W. L.

CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council was called to order by Mayor Scott at 8 o'clock October 13. The following members responded to roll call: Pickard, Spafford, Karriek, Heath, Anderson, Folland, Smith, Hyde, Tuddenham, Young, Hardy, Parsons, Lynn and Pendleton. Absent—James.

The following

PETITIONS

were read and referred to the committees hereinafter named.

The Brigham Young Trust company asked for a remission of special sidewalk taxes on its property on Commercial avenue. Granted.