

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

To the Presidents, Councils and Saints  
 in the various Stakes of Zion:

It is thought advisable to hold our  
 next Annual Conference in the city of  
 Logan, Cache County.

Meetings will commence on Saturday  
 April 4th, 1885, at 10 o'clock a. m.  
 Very respectfully,  
 Your Brethren,  
 JOHN TAYLOR,  
 GEORGE C. CANNON,  
 Of the First Presidency of the Church  
 of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PERSISTENT IN ERROR.

We did not expect to say anything  
 further in relation to the bugaboo re-  
 created by the Utah Journal, our  
 object in doing so in the first place  
 was to correct any harmful impression  
 it may have created. Its persistence  
 in keeping up the same injurious  
 course of action, leads us to make an-  
 other reference to it.

"For the purpose of answering ques-  
 tions that have been put to us we will  
 state in this connection, that a woman  
 who has the heart of a man cannot  
 be compelled to testify against him;  
 an alleged adulteress will be com-  
 pelled to testify only if it is proven  
 that she is a first or second wife of  
 a plural wife."

Our position was, tersely stated, that  
 if a woman were required to testify  
 against her husband, and the prosecu-  
 tion alleged that she was a plural wife,  
 not a legal wife, the burden of proof as  
 to the correctness of that allegation  
 rested upon the government. The  
 reason is plain. The person who is  
 subjected to the allegation is placed  
 upon the defensive. In pursuance  
 of this well established rule  
 of law we reiterate: "Any other  
 rule would be the reverse of the gen-  
 eral principle in criminal proceedings,  
 that it is for the complainant to prove  
 guilt, there being no obligation upon  
 the defendant to prove his innocence,  
 the law holding his condition to be the  
 latter pending proof to the contrary. No  
 much for that part of the Journal's  
 exposure."

The Journal twists that proposition  
 after this fashion:  
 "He places a female witness sum-  
 moned to testify in the position of a  
 person accused of crime."

The intelligent reader will at once  
 perceive the absurdity of such a state-  
 ment. The witness is not placed in the  
 position of a person accused of crime,  
 but is connected with a criminal pro-  
 ceeding, and having been placed on the  
 defensive by an allegation, a general  
 principle in criminal procedure applies  
 to her situation.

This false position of the Journal is  
 followed up by the introduction of al-  
 legations to the rules of evidence and the  
 competency of witnesses that have no  
 relevancy in the premises. Their in-  
 competency will be discoverable to any  
 person of intelligence.

The Journal tries to creep out of its  
 false position in error by stating, as it  
 calculated, as we previously stated, to  
 frighten delicate women and timid  
 children, by trying to make it appear  
 that the first paragraph quoted from it  
 in this article, was the terrible "Zion-  
 in" objected to by the News. It knew  
 to the contrary, and as proof we re-  
 fer to the fear-inspiring part of its  
 creation.

A plural wife placed upon the wit-  
 ness stand, who refuses to testify when  
 her husband is being tried, is liable to  
 as severe a penalty for contempt of  
 court as he would be, on conviction of  
 polygamy. In other words her refusal  
 to testify may be punished by as heavy  
 fine and as long as imprisonment as  
 could be inflicted upon her husband if  
 convicted of polygamy. Therefore the  
 position of a plural wife placed upon the  
 witness stand, who remains faithful to her  
 husband, her religion and her God, is  
 fully as perilous as that of a man who  
 has been convicted of the crime of poly-  
 gamy, and even more so, for there is hope that  
 she may acquit herself of the charge  
 by her escape from severe punish-  
 ment if she persists in silence.

It is well that the District Courts of  
 Utah may inflict such penalties for  
 contempt of court as United States  
 District Courts may inflict, in order to  
 preserve the authority of the court, and  
 to extend to such a limit  
 the power of the court, especially  
 where the maximum term of imprison-  
 ment is not an unreasonable punish-  
 ment for an aggravated case of con-  
 tempt of court.

Of this "chamber of horrors" pro-  
 duced by the Journal says:  
 "They picture the Journal's article  
 as being a frightful and frightening  
 creation, though we are confident that  
 no person of intelligence would be in the  
 least scared by it."

We judge this estimate of the effect  
 of such literary contortions is correct,  
 but in expressing that view the man-  
 ufacturer of this one has not estimated  
 upon an important question as remark-  
 ably deep or extensive. But this is cer-  
 tainly an unwelcome admission.

The Journal next undertakes to ex-  
 aminingly precariously take the service  
 of the law in regard by the last Legis-  
 lature does it after the fashion of  
 LAM, who excuses himself for the per-  
 petration of mischief on the ground  
 that Dick has done something immeasur-  
 ably worse. Listen to it:

"A section in regard to serving sub-  
 poenas was enacted in a last session  
 which the editor of the *Desert News*,  
 while a member of the Legislature in  
 1878, was an urgent, devoted and zealous  
 advocate," which section is, "It is  
 more dangerous to the rights of  
 citizens than is the one from the Civil  
 Code of 1863."

"For reasons best known to itself,"  
 the Journal does not publish the ob-  
 noxious section of the law he refers to,  
 that it might be seen in all its hideous-  
 ness and correspondingly absurd. We,  
 however, produce it here, for an  
 understanding of the laws—obsolete  
 as well as operative—is an excellent  
 thing in a community.

"Sec. 426. A subpoena may be served  
 by any person, but a peace officer de-  
 livered to him for service, either on the  
 part of the people or of the defendant,  
 and must, without delay, make a writ-  
 ten return of the service, subscribed  
 by him, stating the time and place of  
 service. The service is made by show-  
 ing the original to the witness, present-  
 ing and informing him of its contents."  
 "Sec. 426. No person is obliged to  
 attend as a witness before a Court or  
 Magistrate out of the district where  
 the witness resides, or is served with  
 the subpoena, unless the Judge of the  
 Court in which the subpoena is return-  
 ed, or a Magistrate, upon an affidavit of  
 the Prosecuting Attorney or prosecutor,  
 or of the defendant, his counsel,  
 showing that the evidence of the wit-  
 ness is material, and his attendance at  
 the examination or trial necessary, shall  
 endorse on the subpoena an order  
 for the attendance of the witness."

That there might be no mistake on  
 the subject we have quoted the only  
 two sections to be found in the laws of  
 1878 bearing upon the subject of service.  
 There is nothing in them that would  
 afford a cover for the perpetrators of  
 the outrageous obtrusions and forcibly

entences into the dwellings of unof-  
 fending citizens, so commonly prac-  
 tised by the minions of the law in the  
 present anti-Mormon crusade.

Under the law for which the Journal  
 expresses most affectionate regard, it  
 is different. It affords an opening suf-  
 ficient for any amount of preliminary  
 extra-legal oppression. We must be  
 excused for its reproduction for our  
 present purpose:

Laws of Utah, 1884—page 369.

Section 1219. If a witness is con-  
 cealed in a building or vessel, so as to  
 prevent the service of a subpoena upon  
 him, any court of justice may, upon  
 issuing the subpoena, may, upon proof  
 by affidavit of concealment, and of the  
 materiality of the witness, make an  
 order that the United States marshal,  
 or the sheriff of the county, serve the  
 subpoena, and the officer must serve it  
 accordingly, and for that purpose may  
 break into the building or vessel where  
 he believes the witness is concealed.

Over this authorization under which  
 the operators and tools of the crusade  
 conduct their infernal work, the *Journal*  
 gushes thus:

"The latter is a good, wise and im-  
 partial provision, and aims to guard  
 private rights while promoting public  
 justice. Its character, in this regard,  
 will be more apparent if it be supposed  
 that the witness in hiding is wanted for  
 defense."

That is the most astounding state-  
 ment of all. "The proof of the pud-  
 ding is in the eating of it," and an  
 afflicted, oppressed and outraged com-  
 munity will judge as to how much  
 such a measure tends to promote  
 circumstances to promote "public  
 justice." It is made the instrument  
 rather of "promoting" official villany  
 of the most detestable type.

Evidently the zeal of the *Journal*  
 writer in defending himself caused  
 him to lose sight, in penning  
 the later article, of the interest  
 of the community, paramount  
 in the soul of every patriot. We hope  
 the position he has lately assumed is  
 but temporary, for it is not the role  
 of a defender of the people's interests.  
 It is a deplorable plight to make such  
 a descent as to be patted on the back  
 and urged onward in his recent  
 adopted line of action by the Salt Lake  
*Tribune*, probably the most virulent  
 organ of truth and virtue ever pub-  
 lished on earth. If sound argument  
 cannot convince him of the true char-  
 acter of his position, it is to be hoped  
 that the fulsome and hypocritical com-  
 pliments of that sheet will tend to open  
 his eyes and save him from descend-  
 ing deeper into the mire of a mistaken  
 course of conduct.

EXPRESSIONS FROM THE PEOPLE.

LET THE SAINTS BE UNITED IN ALL THINGS.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
 March 28, 1885.

Editor *Desert News*:  
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 is a measure tends to unite existing  
 circumstances to promote "public  
 justice." It is made the instrument  
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CO-OPERATION.

It is simply a stepping stone to the order  
 that must eventually be observed by  
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 made in this direction is entirely due  
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well in one or more of the family.  
 This was the case

IN HEAVEN,  
 when Lucifer sought to destroy the  
 union and harmony that existed here,  
 and succeeded in leading away one  
 third part of the host. Had he and his  
 followers not been cast out the conse-  
 quence would have been such a  
 serious one; while the expulsion brought  
 relief to the loyal, because har-  
 mony was again restored.

It is of the utmost importance that  
 the saving ordinance be received for  
 them in a Temple, yet it is of equal im-  
 portance that these ordinances should  
 be received by the living in their  
 homes. How many hundreds, nay  
 thousands, of parents and children are  
 in the rates for baptism, license  
 to have the ordinances administered to  
 them that connect together the family  
 links and unite them with the church  
 to which they properly belong?

If we should enquire into the condi-  
 tions of some families should we not  
 find

DISUNION EXISTING,  
 coupled in many instances with  
 unworthiness, so as to preclude  
 the possibility of having the ordi-  
 nances administered? The wife per-  
 suades not in harmony with the husband,  
 or the child with the parent, and thus  
 are they united to stand in

HOLY PLACES  
 before God. To the extent that dis-  
 union exists in a family, so will they  
 be hindered from receiving those  
 blessings that pertain to eternal lives.

The Lord complained to Joseph and  
 others that his will was not done in  
 families, and commanded that they  
 should be set in order or they should be

REMOVED OUT OF THEIR PLACE.  
 This has been repeated to us in a late  
 revelation, given through President  
 Taylor. I consider this subject of im-  
 mense importance, for to allow existing  
 conditions to remain, without exerting  
 the correcting influences the Lord  
 has so amply provided, will bring it  
 to a crisis that will be witnessed.

Our union upon the subject of the  
 Church is very marked, although we  
 apparently differ upon some points, but  
 not enough to in the least jeopardize  
 our faith in the latter-day work, for  
 generally these differences are the re-  
 sult of the lack of correct understand-  
 ing. The disunion that exists in our  
 business relations is perhaps more  
 marked than in anything else. This  
 is what we mean by disunion, and  
 fancy they see the entering wedge  
 that will eventually destroy our union  
 hence they are so anxious to have  
 young men in Zion whenever they de-  
 part from what they term strict ortho-  
 dox rules. Our destiny is to establish  
 a new order of things which ex-  
 isted in the days of Enosh when,  
 according to the record, the people  
 were "called."

ZION,  
 because they were of one heart and  
 one mind, and there were no poor  
 among them. And the Lord said  
 unto Enosh, Zion have I blessed.

This order of Enosh is called in the  
 Book of Doctrine and Covenants the  
 "UNITED ORDER."

In another place in the same book it  
 is said: "In your temporal things you  
 shall be equal." It is not my purpose in this article  
 to attempt an explanation of this order,  
 for it is made for the people, and  
 plain when the proper time ar-  
 rives. I wish, however, to speak  
 of some things which are being  
 done to break down the barrier  
 to the spirit of the United Order  
 which is so beloved. It is our duty  
 to cherish so that we may gradually  
 grow into its practice, and not be  
 content to make the same things  
 which we have made in the past,  
 we will have to make it we continue  
 in our present course, for when the  
 Lord's time arrives we will have to  
 observe his law or take the conse-  
 quences of rejecting it.

ADVANCE OF THE WORLD  
 In the management of our temporal  
 affairs, for we have been taught les-  
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seeing his friends again ere long; but  
 instead of which he has gone to his  
 last abode.

The following later communication  
 from the same correspondent, also  
 reached us to-day.

OGDEN CITY, UTAH,  
 March 28th, 1885.  
 One of the questions [which has  
 been asked] in connection with the  
 same days past is:

LIQUOR TRAFFIC.  
 The dealers in ardent spirits have felt,  
 and still feel, the pressure of the busi-  
 ness depression which has prevailed in  
 Ogden for some time. They have  
 presented a petition to the City  
 Council, asking that body to allow  
 a rebate in the rates for liquor license  
 for the three months next ensuing,  
 commencing on April 1st, next.

The reduction asked was