

from the tomb and before he ascended into heaven, he preached redemption to erring souls buried about him." In support of this he read from John 11: 11-17.

The speaker held that if vicarious atonement for the dead were denied, then the corner-stone of redemption was swept away, for Jesus performed the vicarious work for mankind by laying down his life. Baptism for the dead, he contended, was known in the ancient days.

Then followed an interesting account of the belief in regard to the visit of Elijah to Joseph Smith, whose prophetic words, he said, had been fulfilled to the letter. He felt that, like Jesus, their Prophet had been misrepresented and misrepresented, but, like Jesus, the time was coming when he would receive all the justice that was his due.

He recounted the sufferings, the persecutions of the Mormons, and said: "Notwithstanding all that, when a demand was made by the United States after the Mormons had been driven from Missouri, for 500 men to fight for California, the men were furnished, and that was because our religion says that our Constitution is God-given, and the Mormon loves his country next to his God."

This sentiment brought a round of applause, which Elder Grant said he did not want to call forth, as he wanted his faith investigated and looked upon coldly, and not under any excitement; but it was hard for him to speak of the religion which he loved so dearly without giving vent to his feelings.

He referred to the belief in healing by the laying on of hands, but claimed no personal power. It was God working for humanity through his agents.

Elder Grant spoke of his own life and experiences, of his having been blessed when a child, of his relations with Brigham Young, of the experience of his brother born of a gambler's mother, for his father was a polygamist, who had just fulfilled a promise, a prophecy made that he would come into the fold. He spoke of the fact that the Mormon Church was the only one cast out of the parliament of religions at the World's Fair, but looked upon it as the fulfillment of prophecy.

He closed by reading affidavits from the Book of Mormon, and said that the Latter-day Saints had heard the voice of the true Shepherd, and that Jesus Christ would come again in person to reign over the world, and all the Mormons wanted was to earn at the end the praise, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

The choir sang the Hallelujah Chorus from the "Messiah," and the service closed with a benediction by Mr. Shepherd.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.

On the 12th of April the Elders and Saints of the northern part of this state convened in conference in Friendship hall, 909 Market street, San Francisco. Of the former there were present Elder Henry S. Tanner, president of the California mission, Elder J. R. Shepherd, president of the conference, and Elders Willard Scowcroft, W. N. Woodland, B. W. Henderson, P. E. Anderson, James Christensen, Henry Peterson, Joseph Stott and William E.

Hawkins, the last named two having just arrived from home. Besides the above named who are all laboring in the state, there were present Elder Fred Squires, president of the San Francisco branch, and Elder Samuel Walker, president of the Sacramento branch, Bishop Jos. S. Tanner and wife of Pangulch, Utah, were also with us, being in the state at the present time visiting relatives and friends living here.

Three meetings were held at the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 and 7 p. m. respectively. The first was attended mainly by the Saints, of whom a goodly number were present. At the last two meetings the hall was crowded with Saints and strangers. Of the strangers some came prompted by curiosity to see the Mormons, and the nature of the conference, which had been quite thoroughly advertised. Others came as sincere investigators who have for some time past been taking great interest in and carefully studying the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints.

The Elders present each in turn occupied a portion of the time in reporting their labors since the last semi-annual conference and in speaking upon the principles of the Gospel. The reports coming from the different fields of labor were very favorable, and there are excellent prospects for a good work to be performed here in the future. The Master whom the Elders are serving, opens the way for them, blesses them in their labors, and gives the increase to the Gospel seed planted by them. He helps us in overcoming the opposition and prejudice that has so long and so extensively prevailed in this state. The report from different fields was that the worst enemy confronting the progress of the good work here is a cold indifference on the part of a majority of the people; but we look forward with great hope to a time in the near future when this obstacle shall be successfully overcome as others have been, and when this mission shall be counted among the most fruitful of fields.

Upon the principles of the Gospel the Elders spoke by the power of inspiration, and, though many different subjects were spoken upon, all the discourses seemed so dictated by a spirit of unity that all could be fitly joined into one great whole.

The singing of hymns and solos intervened between the short discourses and animated the audience with a spirit of deep interest. The sacred hymns of the Latter-day Saints, when they are well rendered, have a great effect upon the lovers of music.

In this conference there are three fields in which Elders are laboring, viz: San Francisco, Sacramento and Stockton. The first two have organized branches of energetic Saints, by whose efforts the Elders have been materially aided. In the two branches alone there has been an increase in the membership since last conference by means of baptism of about twenty souls, and several more have applied for and are awaiting the performance of the ordinance.

On the evening previous to the conference a meeting of the conjoint Mutual Improvement Association was held. An excellent program had been got up and the parts were rendered in

a manner creditable to the association. The enrollment of the association has been more than doubled since the last semi-annual conference. The members are enthusiastic and the association is in good working condition.

Both branches are reported as having Sunday schools meeting regularly upon the Sabbath morning, and in which there is a good enrollment and much interest taken by the Saints both old and young.

On the Monday morning following conference President Tanner called the Elders together, preparatory to their leaving for their fields of labor, and gave them instructions concerning the labors in their respective fields to which they were appointed. The best methods of approaching the people and bringing the Gospel before them were there discussed. The Elders were called upon to report any new idea they had received concerning the means of overcoming indifference and creating a deeper interest in the Gospel of Christ as taught by the Latter-day Saints. Many practical observations were reported and discussed which we hope will prove a benefit and aid in the advancement of the good work.

Appointments of the Elders to their respective fields are as follows:

Elders J. R. Shepherd and B. W. Henderson, Stockton (address 530 E. Fremont street).

Elders Henry Peterson, P. E. Anderson, W. N. Woodland and W. E. Hawkins, Sacramento (705 M street).

Elders James Christensen and Jos. Stott, San Diego.

Elder Willard Scowcroft, San Francisco (612 Van Ness ave).

President H. S. Tanner, whose headquarters are at San Francisco, will give his time, when not visiting other fields, to the ministry in that city. Other Elders were expected at once who will probably for a time be located at the headquarters.

We have given the addresses of the Elders in the different places and kindly solicit the correspondence of Saints at home who have friends residing in this state. Good has resulted to missionary work in the past by that means and we hope the Saints will aid the work by their correspondence with the Elders.

We are pleased to report the fact that the Salt Lake Tabernacle choir is now in the state. Though the immediate object of that visit is not the preaching of the Gospel, yet it will preach in a way a louder sermon and to more people than the Elders could by any means at their disposal. We can conceive of nothing that could accomplish so much to remove prejudice and give the people a better opinion of the Latter-day Saints than this visit of the choir. Thousands will go to hear them and receive the inspiring strains of our sacred music, and read or hear the sentiment and deep thought contained in our most beautiful hymns. Those who cannot attend the concerts will read the articles in the large dailies of the cities in this state which find their way to almost every fireside. The Mormons, their choir and its singing will become a topic of conversation among the people, and in this way prejudice will vanish and the way be opened for the promulgation of the principles of the Gospel.

HENRY PETERSON, Cler.