

Of course such an ultimatum would be opposed by Mexico, and not less so by our own nation, and in the opinion of many persons it is only a question of time about the United States absorbing both Mexico and Central America, and obtaining complete control of the southern portion of the continent down to the Isthmus. Possibly the dispatching of troops to Panama to protect American interests there and resent the insult which the Colombian insurgents have offered to the American flag in seizing the *Colon*, etc., which our dispatches yesterday announced, may be the foreshadowing of such a policy of aggression and conquest.

THAT EPISTLE.

The epistle from Presidents Taylor and Cannon which appeared in yesterday's issue of the News will doubtless be greatly appreciated by the Saints generally, as it was by those to whom it was read in the Conference at Logan on Sunday afternoon. In this hour of trial, when the hand of persecution is bearing heavily upon the Saints, it must be very consoling to them to know that their leaders are full of hope and confidence, and that their assurance of an overruling providence in favor of the work in which they are engaged has not weakened in the least. That they are fully alive to the wrongs which have been and are being inflicted upon the Saints generally and the leading members in particular, as well as the cause thereof, is very apparent from the pointed and comprehensive though brief manner in which they are set forth. The obligations which are placed upon the Saints by divine requirements, and which impel them to forego the good opinion of the world, are also clearly expressed. Indeed the perusal of it ought to convince any reasonable, fair-minded person, not only of the sincerity of the writers, but of the justice of the cause which they represent. The injustice, too, of the persecutive measures now being enforced against them are equally manifest from the statement which is made of the percentage of alleged law-breakers, against whom the present crusade is ostensibly aimed, but from which the whole community is made to suffer.

It is estimated that the male members of the Church who are in the practice of plural marriage constitute but little if any more than two per cent. of the entire Church membership.

According to the report of the Utah Commissioners after the registration lists had been revised in compliance with the Edmunds law, and agreeably with their extreme and unwarranted rulings, 12,000 persons—including both sexes—had their names stricken from the lists and were presumed to be polygamists. This number doubtless included a great many who, from negligence or other causes, failed to appear and take the iron-clad oath, and have their names continued upon the register. It also included some thousands of widows, widowers and men who, though formerly at some period more or less remote had been polygamists, had only one surviving wife each, the others having died.

But even if the 12,000 were actual polygamists, which would imply that for each man there must have been at least two women, and some of them doubtless had more than two wives, there could be no more than one-third of the number, or 4,000, males. This would be two per cent. of 200,000, and no one doubts that the Church membership will amount at least to that.

In view of these facts the injustice inflicted upon the people in their being placed under a ban, in their being excluded from juries, and in having their rights and liberties jeopardized and business generally ruined by the extraordinary and illegal methods resorted to by the crusaders, is very apparent.

The unnecessary alarm which, for political purposes and as an excuse for discriminating and even waging war against a religious community, has been raised throughout this nation and the world, in regard to the menace which "Mormonism" offers to monogamy, or the form of marriage popular throughout Christendom, is also manifest.

The appointment of a committee to draft a memorial and protest, and to forward the same to the President of the United States, setting forth the wrongs of which the Saints have to complain, is a wise move, and ought to be attended with good results.

The Lord has required by revelation that we petition the governmental powers for a redress of our grievances, and if we do so, whatever may be the result, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that we have conformed to the divine requirement.

THE LATE CONFERENCE.

In some of its aspects the General Conference whose sessions closed on Monday afternoon, was unlike that of any of its predecessors. It is the first on record from which all the members of the First Presidency have been absent. For some time after the opening of the proceedings, the fact of the chief authorities not being in their accustomed place, cast a shade upon the assemblage. All appeared to feel more

or less keenly on the subject, and the opening speakers necessarily made allusions to it. But the Spirit of the Lord increased as the Conference progressed. Although the people could not receive the personal ministrations of the chief authorities of the Church, they felt that those brethren were with them in spirit. The calming point was reached on Sunday afternoon when the Epistle of the First Presidency was read to the congregation. Its sentiments and clearly defined arguments and propositions found a responsive echo in the heart of every Saint who heard it. All partook of the spirit it breathed, causing them to be filled with rejoicing. We never before witnessed a more profound feeling of satisfaction created by the reading of a written instrument, the effect being visible upon the faces of the multitude of listeners. It appeared to dispel any shade upon the Conference that may have existed, being the nearest approach to the presence of the chief authorities attainable under existing circumstances.

Our readers have been made familiar, through published minutes, with the nature of the proceedings, which were well and most intelligently conducted by President Richards. The instructions were clear and appropriate, and delivered spiritedly by the speakers. Taken altogether it was a most excellent Conference. One of its drawbacks, however, was the inability, after the first day, of many hundreds of people who desired to attend to gain admittance to the building in which it was held, it being, as a matter of course, much too small. But notwithstanding this inconvenience, there was no symptom of murmuring from this or any other cause.

Not only was the strictest order maintained in the crowded Tabernacle during the progress of the sessions, but during the interims between meetings one failed to observe in the capital of Cache County the slightest tendency on the part of the thousands of people who had congregated to indulge in any improper conduct. All was peace and fraternal feeling. There was no intemperance, profanity nor disturbance of any description.

The pleasure of the occasion was heightened by weather of unexceptionable beauty. The atmosphere was of that mild temperature that tends more than any other to physical comfort. In the daytime, with but slight exception, the sun shone unobstructedly, and all nature, like the assembled humanity, seemed to have assumed a smiling mood.

The large number of visitors caused a strain upon the hospitality of the people of Logan, but, with their usual kindness, for which the little community are proverbial, they proved themselves equal to the occasion. People from a distance could not but feel that they were in a part where it is common to "meet a brother and a friend."

It would scarcely be justifiable to conclude this brief commentary upon the Conference without referring in some way to its musical feature. The efficient body of choristers led by Brother Alexander Lewis did their whole duty. Not only was this noticeable in the excellent character of the melody which they made, but also in the fidelity with which the bulk of them remained at their post during the entire session, extending beyond the meetings of the Conference proper to those of the Young Men's Improvement Association and the Sunday School Union.

A large number of visitors from south of Logan returned to their homes on Monday night, leaving on a special train provided for their accommodation by Mr. Borland, that they might not be under the necessity of staying over until yesterday. Quite a large body of those who attended the Conference returned by the regular Utah and Northern, Utah Central and Union Pacific trains yesterday. The railroad officials are to be commended for the excellent accommodations afforded, being in every way equal to the demand.

The Conference will not soon fade from the memories of those who attended its sessions. It will cling to the mind, not only on account of the unusual character of some of its aspects, but also because it was a time of profit and instruction, like its predecessors. Through its instrumentality the faith of the Saints is increased and their determination to continue to "fight the good fight" strengthened.

DUTY OF THE SAINTS REGARDING PERSECUTORS.

The committee appointed at the late General Conference have an important duty to perform. The result of their deliberations is being looked forward to with much interest. It will doubtless take the form of a statement of wrongs and petition for a redress of grievances. Should it go outside the pale of the present crusade—we see no reason why it should not—it will necessarily include a wide extent of matter, in a condensed form. But such a document can be exceedingly comprehensive, one of the best models of concentration in this line being the Declaration of Independence. Whatever shape it may assume, it will be a representation and appeal from Latter-day Saints. In this connection it may not be amiss to here introduce a statement in regard to the duty of the Saints in relation to persecut-

ors, as set forth by the Prophet Joseph Smith, while in Liberty jail, Clay County, Missouri, March, 1839. Besides drawing general attention to the subject, its publication at this time may have some suggestive bearing upon the labors of the committee who were to meet this afternoon and begin their work. It is the 123d section of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, as follows:

1. And again, we would suggest for your consideration the propriety of all the Saints gathering up a knowledge of all the facts, and sufferings and abuses put upon them by the people of this State;

2. And also of all the property and amount of damages which they have sustained, both of character and personal injuries, as well as real property;

3. And also the names of all persons that have had a hand in their oppressions, as far as they can get hold of them and find them out;

4. And perhaps a committee can be appointed to find out these things, and to take statements, and affidavits, and also to gather up the libelous publications that are afloat,

5. And all that are in the magazines, and in the encyclopedias, and all the libelous histories that are published, and being written, and by whom, and present the whole concatenation of diabolical rascality, and nefarious and murderous impositions that have been practised upon this people.

6. That we may not only publish to all the world, but present them to the heads of government in all their dark and hellish hue, as the last effort which is enjoined on us by our Heavenly Father, before we can fully and completely claim that promise which shall call him forth from his hiding place, and also that the whole nation may be left without excuse before he can send forth the power of his mighty arm.

7. It is an imperious duty that we owe to God, to angels, with whom we shall be brought to stand, and also to ourselves, to our wives and children, who have been made to bow down with grief, sorrow and care, under the most damning hand of murder, tyranny, and oppression, supported and urged on, and upheld by the influence of that spirit which hath so strongly riveted the creeds of the fathers, who have inherited lies, upon the hearts of the children, and filled the world with confusion, and has been growing stronger and stronger, and is now the very main-spring of all corruption, and the whole earth groans under the weight of its iniquity.

8. It is an iron yoke, it is a strong band; they are the very hand-cuffs, and chains, and shackles, and fetters of hell.

9. Therefore it is an imperious duty that we owe, not only to our own wives and children, but to the widows and fatherless, whose husbands and fathers have been murdered under its iron hand;

10. Which dark and blackening deeds are enough to make hell itself shudder, and to stand aghast and pale, and the hands of the very devil to tremble and palsy.

11. And also it is an imperious duty that we owe to all the rising generation, and to all the pure in heart;

12. (For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it;)

13. Therefore, that we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them; and they are truly manifest from heaven.

14. These should then be attended to with great earnestness.

15. Let no man count them as small things; for there is much which lieth in futurity, pertaining to the saints, which depends upon these things.

16. You know, brethren, that a very large ship is benefited very much by a very small helm in the time of a storm, by being kept workways with the wind and the waves.

17. Therefore, dearly beloved brethren, let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power, and then may we stand still with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed.

LOGAN NOTES.

UNITED STATES Marshal E. A. Ireland, of Utah, and Deputy Vandercook, and U. S. Marshal Fred. Dubois, of Idaho, Deputy Wm. Jones (also Sheriff of Oneida County,) and one or two other deputies from that quarter, were in Logan during Conference. The people seemed to be under the impression that these officers were not in Cache County for their health. They had some curiosity to find out what they proposed to do, and for that reason quite a number of "weather eyes" were kept upon their movements. But whatever may have been the object of the officers in visiting and remaining in Logan for several days, nothing of any moment transpired in their line of official work. The Utah officers returned southward and those from our sister Territory to Idaho, yesterday.

The Rev. Dr. DeWitt, resident minister in Salt Lake, of the Baptist Church, attended Conference and made notes of the proceedings for publication in a journal of the denomination of which he is a representative. He carried himself like a gentleman, enjoyed his visit to Cache, and expressed appreciation of the kindly

feeling manifested toward him and courtesies of which he was the recipient.

The Logan Branch of Z. C. M. I. did a rousing business during Conference. It is in excellent working order, under the management of Mr. Sanders. Attached to the premises is a large granary, which contains nearly 20,000 bushels of wheat.

The Taylor-Bywater Dramatic Association performed several nights during Conference, to audiences of goodly proportions. It was a noticeable fact that the pathetic parts of the pieces appeared to create an amount of merriment at least equal to that caused by those intended to be comical. This was especially observable in "Detected at Last." When the character in which Mr. Bywater appeared was killed, his by no means fragile corporeity made a terrific rattle when he fell with a crash that caused the dust to rise in clouds. The risibilities of the audience arose at the same instant.

Brother Alexander Lewis and his able corps of choristers gave a delightful concert on Saturday evening, in Reese's Opera House.

Mr. Joseph Daynes was in Logan on musical instrument business bent. He seems to know how to attract the attention of our cousins in the country. He had a young man in his store keeping up a constant thrumming on the banjo, this performance being only occasionally broken by pathetic peals from an organ. The consequence, was that his shop front was the centre of a large group of people panting to become proficient in the "art divine."

Harry Brown's sculpture studio proved a pleasant place for visitors, as was also Reuben Kirkham's art rooms, where he has a number of new paintings, recently executed.

A few days before Conference a very pleasant musical fete was given by a number of young children who had been thoroughly trained in vocal music by Brother David Lewis, for the occasion.

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Official information has been received in Washington that San Salvador intends invading Guatemala.

The Dominion Parliament has disallowed the Chinese bill passed recently by the local Legislature of British Columbia.

The British bark *Allahabad*, given up for lost, arrived at Astoria, Oregon, yesterday, 138 days from Hong Kong, and more than ninety days overdue.

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Charles A. Rugg, the convicted murderer of Mrs. Maybee and her daughter, of Long Island City, N. Y., has been received into the Catholic Church.

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