

## ST. GEORGE STAKE CONFERENCE.

On Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of March, 1878, the Quarterly conference in and for St. George Stake, convened in the Tabernacle, St. George City. President John D. T. McAllister presiding.

There were present of the general authorities: Apostles W. Woodruff and Erastus Snow; and of the seven presidents of Seventies, Levi W. Hancock, Henry Harriman and Jacob Gates. Also a very good attendance of the authorities of the Stake; every ward being well represented.

Very encouraging reports were made of the condition of the wards, expressive of an earnest desire to improve, spiritually and temporally.

The speakers at the meetings were Apostles W. Woodruff and Erastus Snow, President McAllister, Bishops Luke Syphus of Panaca, M. Ensign of Santa Clara, John Parker of Virgen City, Bishops M. P. Romney, Walter Granger, Jas. Wm. Nixon and David H. Cannon of St. George; Bishops Thomas S. Terry of Hebron, Wm. Snow of Pine Valley, Thomas J. Jones of Washington, Wilson D. Pace of Harmony, Robert Knell of Pinto, and Elders Jesse N. Smith of Parowan, Joseph P. Wilkinson of Leeds, George Spillsbury of Toquerville and Thomas C. Hall of Rockville.

The themes dwelt upon by the speakers, in addition to their local reports, were intellectual improvement by means of mutual improvement associations and otherwise; advancement in home manufactures, including the production of silk; the duty of the Saints to increase the number of Temples to the name of the Most High; the uses privileges and blessings of those most holy Temples; and the necessity which exists that all should in humility and faithfulness walk in the fear of God.

The general authorities of the Church were heartily and unanimously sustained by the uplifted hands of the assembly; as were also the local authorities of the Stake.

Elders Charles Smith, Henry W. Miller, Milo Andrus, Robert Parker, Evan M. Green, Edwin D. Woolley, Jr., Martin Slack, Richard Bentley, Erastus W. Snow, Frank R. Snow, Lars J. Larsen, Daniel H. McAllister, Lorenzo Brown, Miles P. Romney, A. R. Whitehead, Moroni Snow, Don C. Robbins and Ebenezer G. De Frieze were called and unanimously sustained as home missionaries.

Peace and a full measure of brotherly kindness pervaded the counsels, teachings, and exhortations of the brethren who spoke to the Saints.

JAMES G. BLEAK,  
Clerk of St. George Stake.

## A Visit to the Lepers.

We make the following interesting extracts from a letter written at Wailuku Maui, Sandwich Islands, Feb. 19th, 1878, by Elder Henry P. Richards, addressed to his family in this city:

"I left this island at half-past 9 in the evening, and after a pleasant sail of nine hours, under a bright full moon, in a small open whale boat, I landed safely on Molokai. The wind was very light or we should have reached the island sooner. The President of the Church upon that island met me at the beach, when we went directly to his house. In two or three days after we started on a tour around the island, he furnishing horses and going with me wherever I wished to go. While upon this island I visited the Leper settlement, where I met with our old friend and brother, Napela, the native who visited Salt Lake City about nine years ago. Poor fellow, it made my heart ache to see him. His wife is a leper, and was brought to this settlement four or five years ago. He, refusing to leave her, came with her to this settlement, and he has now got the disease. There are now at this settlement 700 lepers, and some 900 have died of that disease within the last eight or nine years at this place alone, not counting hundreds of others who have died, and who now have the disease scattered throughout the different islands.

"I remained at the settlement over Sunday and held two meetings, and I could not help but shed tears in arising to address a con-

gregation of lepers, all more or less maimed and disabled for life, and whose only hope in this world is for death to come and relieve them of their misery. This settlement is a natural prison, surrounded on one side by steep rugged mountains, and by the sea on the other, and no one is permitted to visit the settlement, or to leave it only by permission from government or from the agent of the board of health. Therefore, when a leper is arrested and brought to this place, he has no hope only to be separated from his relatives and friends and to remain here as long as he lives, as the disease is considered incurable.

"While I was at the settlement I stopped with the Catholic priest at that place, who is temporary superintendent, the superintendent having died some two or three months previous, as it is not considered wisdom to stop among the natives for fear of being inoculated with the disease, by sleeping in their blankets, eating their food or shaking hands with them. Of course while there the relative merits of Mormonism and Catholicism were duly discussed between ourselves, but I do not think either of us was converted to the other's religious views.

"I remained upon that island two weeks, when I returned to Lahaina, upon this island, where I remained one day, then took passage for Lanai, where I remained eleven days. There is but one branch of the church upon this island, numbering about 40, who generally feel well. In fact it is about the liveliest branch in this country. I held conference at this place, dedicated a new meeting house they had just completed, and baptized one.

"I also held conference upon the Island of Kolokai, baptized six, and visited six branches of the church, held several meetings, and married one couple."

The many friends of Elder Richards will be pleased to learn that he is in the enjoyment of good health. He intended holding a conference at the place from which he wrote, on the 10th of March, and soon after to return to Laie.

## Correspondence.

The Mission in Wales—Destitution of the People, etc.

CWM BACH, near Aberdare,  
South Wales,  
March 1st, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

Perhaps an item from this part of the world may be interesting to your numerous readers, so I shall presume to trespass a little on your space.

Elders William N. Williams, Walter J. Lewis, Thomas F. Howells and myself left home on the 18th of July last, in company with Elder Orson Pratt, having just been called, by the First Presidency, two days previously, to come on missions to this country. On our arrival at Liverpool we were appointed to labor in this, the Welsh Conference, which is quite a large field of labor, embracing all of South Wales and Monmouthshire. We have here nearly 600 Saints, scattered far and wide, making about 20 branches, besides many small districts, where we continually hold meetings. We also often have access to the outside world, having obtained the use of public halls in many places, free of charge, and by going around ourselves, or getting the "town crier" to notify the people for us, we have had the halls crowded with eager and attentive listeners, while we have delivered lectures on various subjects connected with the first principles of the Gospel, and the rise and progress of the Kingdom of God. We have made quite a stir in this direction, and we have had the promise of other halls, and the further use of the ones we have already preached in is freely proffered to us. To look after all these new openings, and keep them good, and look after the Saints, and teach them their duty, keeps us busy all the time, hardly having proper leisure to write home to our families and friends. We have much traveling to do, which we mostly perform afoot, for lack of means.

To facilitate our labors, we have divided the conference into districts, each of the brethren having

one to look after, as follows—Louis Howell, who has been here two years, has the Monmouth district to travel in; Brother Williams the Carmarthen and Pembroke district; Brother Lewis the Neath and Swansea route, and Brother Thos. F. Howells the Rhondda Valley and Cardiff route, both routes or districts in Glamorganshire, all having quite an extensive field to traverse and proselyte.

We are making our share of converts, I think, for we are baptizing a few now and again, "like the gleaming of grapes when the vintage is done." When the season for outdoor preaching begins, we purpose, if nothing hinders, pushing our way through the middle and borders of Wales up to the north, preaching on the way and doing all the good we can, and possibly may thus be able to gather a few of the honest in heart and leave the rest without excuse. We are determined, with the help of the Lord, to put in a good summer's work; but truly "the harvest is great, and the laborers but few;" and were it not for the great poverty that exists here there would be room for several more Elders to labor and do much good.

We all enjoy much of the spirit of our mission, feeling good all the time, and that it is good to be here, engaged in the work of the ministry, while we are yet in our youth, and learning that part of the gospel that can only be learned by experience, namely trust and reliance in the Almighty. Our testimonies have been strengthened, and our love towards the work of God and towards Zion has increased very much since we have been abroad in the world, beholding its sins, corruptions and abominations. We feel more thankful every day that we remain here, that we were born Latter-day Saints, for we have more cause to be proud than if we were born to worldly wealth and power. We enjoy the best of health, and have ever since we left our homes, for which we feel truly grateful to our Heavenly Father.

The Saints here are doing their best to gather out of this country. Those that can gather means sufficient will mostly gather this season. This conference will be a poor place then; there is much poverty and distress already existing here, right among the Saints as well as outside, and many of our brethren and sisters do not know where to turn to get the next meal, some have actually pawned all that they have got for food. They cannot work because there is no work to be had. This was once one of the most prosperous and thriving iron and coal trading districts in the world. Now there are very few iron or steel works, or collieries working full time, and those that are working at all have often twice the number of hands they ought to have, so that when a man has a little work, he makes very little. There are scores of mines that used to employ thousands, standing idle now for many months, and some for years. The iron works the same, large and well fitted, once prosperous, and employing hundreds and thousands of men, some of the larger ones, to-day they are but a mass of rusty ruins, and they are to be met with everywhere throughout these numerous villages and towns, that are themselves beginning to present a lonely, deserted appearance. The inhabitants that are left, who have no means to move elsewhere or emigrate to a better country, are fed daily, just one meal of soup and bread, just sufficient to keep body and soul together. Where it is not handy to dole out the soup to those holding tickets, two or three shillings a week is given to each poor family. The famine region extends all through Monmouth and Glamorganshire. The poorhouses are full and every available place is filled to overflowing with the homeless and hungry. I am sorry to say that many of the Saints are suffering the same as the rest of the people here. It is painful to behold it and not be able to do anything to help the matter, and we now make an appeal to our Welsh brethren at home there, to extend a helping hand to their suffering and worthy brethren here, and not leave them here to starve, or wait on the cold charity of the world. Remember the promises you freely made to your brethren who still linger; that you would help them out "just as soon as you got to the valley;" fulfil your obligations, you who have borrowed from your friends here, and return that that you owe; and you who have asked your brother to

be your surety, while you borrowed elsewhere, pay back, and let your brother go free, and then turn around to help him. And you who were assisted by the Perpetual Emigration Fund, and still owe for your emigration, don't for humanity's sake, count it an unjust debt and refuse to refund, while so many remain yet to be gathered, who perhaps are just as worthy as you were. There are many able-bodied men with but small families, who cannot well sustain themselves here, who are willing to work for any of their good brethren two or three years, and serve them faithfully, if they will but gather them to Zion. Shall these appeal in vain? But sufficient on this painful subject, I hope what is already said will do good.

People say that this is the mildest winter they can remember; it is certainly milder and drier than last summer was, when we first arrived here. The absorbing topic with all, in public and private is about the war. Rumor and the newspapers have it to-day that England is just preparing for a "round" with Russia. But rumor and newspapers are very unstable in this country, to-morrow they will take back what they said to-day, and thus it goes on all the time. They are not half so tenacious for their points, right or wrong, as American papers are; I do not know why, unless it be that when an American editor says something "it must be true," whether it is or not.

Your brother in the gospel,

JOS. HYRUM PARRY.

## A Fight and a Victory.

EPHRAIM, Sanpete County,

March 17th, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

On Friday morning, March 15th, a small army of determined men and boys mustered for active service, on a piece of sage brush land immediately south of our city limits, and soon the war was going on in earnest, and before "King Sol" had finished his day's journey, victory was ours and not an enemy left in the land. The conquered land now belongs to our Relief Society and contains eight acres, which were fenced, cleared from sagebrush and plowed on that very day, and to put a new finish on the whole affair, our sisters gave a splendid picnic ball in the evening and the following day, as their hall could not accommodate the whole army at once, the lady attachment of course doubling the number. It was quite amusing to witness the instruments of this peaceable warfare flying up and down, the "Old Settlers" (sagebrush) giving way for the onslaught of grubbing-axes in the hands of the men and afterwards being literally pitched into by the boys who piled and burned them, the plow-men following making the desert of the morning look like a garden in the evening.

"The New Settlers" (Mulberry-trees) will of course want some water, and this is what some old settlers (not of the sagebrush species) have been afraid of, and created some little noise about. The facts in this respect are in short, that our city fathers thought is just and fair to extend the water privileges of Ephraim to these eight acres, to aid an enterprise undertaken for a doubly noble purpose and in addition to these eight acres, also to ten acres more, of which two were the property of the Y. M. M. I. A., to give them a chance to display their skill and energies on, and eight acres were laid out as city lots for new comers. This makes the whole amount, eighteen acres of new land, that claim additional water privilege, but only eight acres for the dreaded new comers, as the R. S. are our own wives and daughters, and the Y. M. our own sons.

The new converts referred to are men who are already residents of Ephraim and such mechanics as we think will materially add to the development of our prosperous settlement, and it would be a dead loss to our community if they should leave.

A manifesto has been circulated and signed by a great majority of the land owners in Ephraim, sustaining the action of our city fathers, and I think we have a legal right to give away what is legally our own.

Yours respectfully,

C. C. A. CHRISTENSEN.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 20.

Editors Deseret News:

Yesterday, as is nearly always the case on Monday, was a dull day so far as congressional proceedings are concerned. In the Senate, Mr. Christianity made a careful legal argument on Senator Thurman's bill to provide a sinking fund for the Pacific railroads. He took the ground that the government has a legal right to provide for the payment of the road's indebtedness in this way, and that if the companies are honest in their intention to pay, they cannot object to the plan. Senator Christianity has evidently spent much care and labor in the preparation of his speech, and he delivered it with the calmness and force of a decision from the bench. He looks upon this question as one of great importance, and, although his efforts yesterday was wanting in the sensational effect of his maiden speech, with its almost unique view of the Pinchback case, it is looked upon as the ablest speech he has made in the Senate. He spoke from the desk of Senator Conkling, and the seats in the immediate vicinity of this central position were occupied by Senators Thurman, Hoar, Davis, of Illinois, and other senators who enjoy a legal argument. The judiciary committee, it will be remembered, were unanimous in their report on this bill, and they feel a deep interest in its passage. It was agreed that each member of the committee would support the bill with a speech in the Senate. Senators Thurman, Davis, and Christianity have already spoken. Senator Edmunds will speak next, and, after him will come Senators McDonald, and Conkling. It is not usual for a committee to support a bill with such unanimity, but, notwithstanding the weight of talent in favor of this bill, another bill reported by the committee on railroads seems to have the more general approval of the Senate. Much time in Congress has been taken up with proposed railroad legislation, and it is probable that the discussion of questions relating to transportation will result in enactments unfavorable to the corporations. A senator from an eastern State proposes soon to present a bill to regulate railroad tariffs throughout the country. He claims that Congress has the constitutional right to control railroads, to a certain extent, and he thinks that in the interest of public policy this power should be exercised. The Senator says the railroads have formed a gigantic combination, and that their aggregate receipts exceed the revenue of the United States; that the railroad companies, through combination, have become so solidified and so well organized that their potent influence threatens every other interest, and that there is imminent need that Congress should come to the rescue of the people. He has not yet drafted a bill, nor even sketched its provisions, but he is giving the question careful study and posting himself as to the authority of Congress over transportation lines and public carriers. The senator will present his bill with strong arguments, and will adduce many instances of unfair discrimination by railroads; as for example, the rate on flour from Central Indiana to New York is about 50 cents, while only 20 cents is charged from St. Louis. The railroads will, of course oppose the bill, and they will not be without powerful friends in Congress.

The Dean-Field contest in the House has been postponed until next Tuesday. These contested seats always produce more or less excitement in Congress, hence its postponement was a serious disappointment to those in the galleries who had come to see the fun. To-day a matter of greater interest than a contested seat will come up, in the report of the committee that had under investigation the conduct of Doorkeeper Polk. The report exonerates him from corruption or any practices that can affect his honor, but impeaches his prudence, and recommends his removal on the ground of what may be called an injudicious distribution of the places under his control. This, when translated, means that Colonel Polk has yielded to the onset of clamorous congressmen demanding more offices for their vagabond relatives than the pay-roll will accommodate, and he must now suffer alone the penalty that should be visited on others. Or, in other words, must be made a