

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - OCT. 11, 1876.

People's Ticket!

FOR DELEGATE

TO

CONGRESS,
GEO. Q. CANNON.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

FIRST DAY.

THE Forty-seventh Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, convened this morning in the New Tabernacle, October 6th, 1876, at 10 o'clock.

PRESENT ON THE STAND.

Of the First Presidency.—Brigham Young, Daniel H. Wells.

Of the Twelve Apostles.—John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Orson Pratt, Sen., C. C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, F. D. Richards, Geo. Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Jun., Joseph F. Smith, Patriarch.—John Smith.

Of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies.—Jos. Young, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, John Van Cott, Levi Hancock.

Of the Presidency of the High Priesthood.—Elias Smith.

Of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion.—Angus M. Cannon, David O. Calder, Jos. E. Taylor.

Of the Presidency of the Bishoprick.—Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy, Robt. T. Burton.

Besides the above authorities, there was a general representation of Bishops and other leading men from all parts of the Territory, and a large congregation of Saints.

Conference was called to order by Prest. B. YOUNG.

The choir sang—

Great God attend while Zion sings,
The joy that from thy presence springs.

Prayer by Prest. DANIEL H. WELLS.

The choir sang—

The great and glorious gospel light,
Has ushered forth unto my sight.

PRESIDENT DANIEL H. WELLS read the 133rd Psalm.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

He referred to the times and places where God revealed his mind and will to the children of men, through the channel of the Holy Priesthood. The work in which we are now engaged has been prophesied about by the prophets of old, and is to be found in the Holy Scriptures. He also dwelt on the necessity of union among the saints of God, to successfully bear off the kingdom of God. It was the best government upon the earth, because it was the government of God. It included every grade of priesthood, and reached in its ramifications to every nook and corner where soever the Saints resided. It taught the principle of deliverance from the bondage in which men are found laboring under taskmasters, and brought them to a land of liberty and freedom, where they are taught to become a self-sustaining and happy people. This was a preparatory work to gather the people together, and train them in correct principles, and prepare them for the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It was, therefore, of the utmost importance that we as a people thus gathered should act in

unison, standing shoulder to shoulder with our head in all things, in order that we may successfully accomplish the purposes of the Almighty. We could not do this by being lukewarm or half-hearted, but a whole-souled people, putting on newness of life, was needed to face the enemy and check the flood of corruption that deluged the world. No man could lead a people in this great warfare, unless he was called of God as was Aaron, neither could any one go forth to minister in holy things unless authorized of God, which the Christian world were not, for the authority of the holy priesthood had never been given to them. But we testified before all men that God had revealed his holy Gospel to Joseph Smith, through the instrumentality of a holy angel. This was the work of God, and not of men, and all those who had embraced it and come these valleys, if they took hold with honest hearts, no difficulties or trials would ever cause them to apostatize from the truth. God appealed to the reason and judgment of his children, and not to their enthusiastic feelings. He exhorted the Saints to lead a lawful and moral life, not with a hypocritical, long face, to cheat everyone they could, but to be pure, holy and righteous in every situation of life, and thus become a light to the world, worthy of imitation by all men. This work commended itself to the understanding of all. That we as a people might address ourselves to the great work faithfully, and ultimately be saved in the kingdom of God, was his prayer.

ELDER WILFORD WOODRUFF

said the gospel of Jesus Christ was just as true to-day as it was in the days of Adam, or as it was in the days of Nauvoo. God never had had a people on the earth, but what he always held communication with them through his servants the prophets. The gospel had been restored in this our day, as the fulfilment of prophecy given in the scriptures. The Bible was the record of the dealings of God with the Jews, and those revelations given through John the Revelator on the Isle of Patmos, pertaining to the restoration of the gospel and the plagues, pestilences, and famines that were to deluge the earth in the last days, would every one of them be fulfilled. The Book of Mormon is a record of a portion of the House of Israel that inhabited this continent, and the dealings of God with them through his servants the prophets. The Book of Doctrine and Covenants contained many revelations that God gave to his servant Joseph Smith, many of them having been given before the church was organized. What made Joseph Smith what he was, was the power of God, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

By the power of God this people was enabled to receive the testimony of his servants. By his power this people had been gathered to this Territory. The once desert plains we now inhabited had become fruitful. By the power of God we were here living in peace, and had been sustained to bring about his purposes. The word of the Lord had gone forth that he would sustain his people who had received the testimony of his servants and keep his commandments. If the Lord had not kept his promise we should long since have been scattered before our enemies. Let us be encouraged and pray for his holy spirit to be with us, that we might keep his commandments, for Zion must be built up. The unbelief of the world would not prevent the fulfilment of prophecy, and unless the people of this continent repented of their sins, believed on Jesus Christ and were baptized for the remission of their sins, they would be visited by the judgments of God, according to the predictions of St. John.

The conference adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m.

The choir sang an anthem—

O Praise God in his holiness.

Benediction by Elder LORENZO SNOW.

FRIDAY, October 6th, 1876.

The choir sang—

Come, all ye saints who dwell on earth,
Your cheerful voices raise.

Prayer by Elder BRIGHAM YOUNG, Junr.

The choir sang—

Daniel's wisdom may I know,
Stephen's faith and patience show.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW

Read a portion of the 25th chapter of the gospel by Matthew, also a few verses from the 16th chapter of St. Mark, from the 9th verse, and said it was a serious thing for any one to assume the authority of God to speak unto the children of men in his name, and administer to them the ordinances of the everlasting gospel. This position or relationship we had assumed before the Lord our God, and honestly testified before all men that this was a fact, God revealed himself to Joseph Smith, and communicated to him the power and authority of the holy priesthood, to make known to the children of men the plan of salvation.

He adverted to the immediate subject matter of the parable narrated in his text, and applied it to the feelings and circumstances that existed in the experience of many Elders of Israel, showing the importance of individuals who occupied but a very humble position in life temporarily, laying a good and broad foundation for honesty, integrity and faithfulness, that would pave the way for their future advancement. No matter if we had but one talent, let that talent be well used, that we might prepare ourselves for additional talents being added unto us, and not, because we had but one talent, lock it up, and not put it out to usury. If we did so we should certainly have that one talent taken from us, and it would be given to others who occupied and improved their talents. If we could only get the Saints to act in whatever avocations they might be called upon to labor in, and work honestly and faithfully, especially in connection with the United Order, they would then be in a fair way of obtaining the true riches; but we must learn to be honest in our temporal affairs, or we could never attain to the enjoyment of eternal riches. It was a good work, it was a glorious work, in which we as Latter-day Saints were engaged, therefore let us, in our families and the church in which we were members, labor with all our might to build up a Zion to our God, and establish the principle of righteousness, that we might secure to ourselves eternal life. Amen.

ELDER CHARLES C. RICH

Much appreciated the instructions we had been listening to from the servants of God. God was just as willing to dictate to us as he was to dictate to his Son Jesus Christ. Were we as willing to be dictated as Jesus was, and were we as willing to obey the mandates of our Heavenly Father as Jesus our elder brother was? Because we were under as much obligation to do the will of God as he was. God required of us the labor for the building up of Zion, and it would not do to faint by the way, and indulge in a feeling that we had done enough, for we were required to endure to the end, and it was expected of us to be honest and true in every position of life wherever we were placed. In the gospel we had embraced there was a remedy for all our ills, and for all our trials, that was sure, in its application, to our everyday life, no matter what our faults, failings and disappointments. When men were led by their own whims and imaginations, disappointment and confusion were sure to be the result, but when men were guided by divine revelation there was no possibility of either failure or disappointment. He then urged the Latter-day Saints to carry out every principle of righteousness that had been taught us, and take pleasure in performing all those duties that the Lord required of us to build up his kingdom, whether temporal or spiritual. He regarded it as a great privilege and blessing to be a member of the Church and attend to those labors that pertained to himself and his dead friends. He then bore testimony that he knew Joseph Smith to be a Prophet of God, and that Brigham Young was his lawful successor possessed with all the power and authority to build up the kingdom. He also bore testimony to the judgments of God that would shortly be poured out upon the wicked world.

ELDER F. D. RICHARDS

Said the principles he had listened to had been very sweet and profitable to him. We, the Elders of Israel, did not live for ourselves, but for all mankind. It was so in every age of the world, when the authority of God was upon the

earth. If we were to hold still, the very stones under our feet would cry out, yet the world knew it not, for the principle of new revelation was entirely repudiated by them, and such was the thick darkness that had beclouded the minds of the people, and they had strayed so far away from God, that they actually deemed it sacrilege for any one to come unto them with "thus saith the Lord." It was only by demonstrating the truth for ourselves, and the testimony of the servants of God, that we obtained a knowledge that these things were true, and that Joseph was a prophet. In the principles of the gospel he was with the Saints in everything that pertained to the building up and furthering the cause of Zion.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG, JUN.,

said it was a pleasure for him to testify to those things that he had received by the spirit of revelation. He was satisfied that we had the oracles of God with us. He knew that the people had been gathered together by the spirit of revelation. Were we among the pure in heart, and among those who were doing their duty? Were we using our talents in building up the kingdom of God? Were we as fathers seeking to become pure in heart and teaching our families to become so also? He was satisfied that the majority of this people were endeavoring to do right, although we had many imperfections and weaknesses. If we would only unite together as we had been instructed, our enemies would never overcome us. Let us not injure one another, either by word or deed, but strive to build each other up, for we were of the house of God, and that we might hereafter carry out these principles of salvation was his prayer.

Conference was adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The choir sang an anthem—

How beautiful are thy towers!

Benediction by Elder ERASTUS SNOW.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.

The choir sang—

What wondrous things we now behold,
By prophets seen in days of old.

Prayer by Elder GEO. Q. CANNON.

The choir sang—

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come.

ELDER JOHN TAYLOR

Said in meeting together as a conference to speak and transact such business as might be brought before us it was absolutely necessary that both speakers and hearers should be under the guidance and dictation of the Spirit of the living God. For men in any age of the world to understand anything about God, about things past, present and to come, God himself had to reveal that knowledge. What ever had been known about the gospel of Jesus Christ, or the Aaronic and Melchisedek priesthood, either in ancient or modern times, had been revealed from Heaven by God himself through his servants, whom he had raised up in different dispensations to minister to the children of men. Every truth and all correct principles had emanated from God, for he was the fountain of truth. No man living or breathing could have organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with all its officers and ordinances, unaided by the power and spirit of God. It was necessary that the same wisdom, intelligence and revelation should dictate us in our own domestic affairs, pertaining also to the building up of the church and kingdom of God, and the universal interests of man throughout the earth.

He then adverted to the gathering of the people together in this dispensation, for the purpose of becoming sanctified before God, by being taught to practise every principle of virtue, honesty and integrity, so as to become fit subjects to receive communications from God. We believed that God revealed his mind and will to Joseph Smith, and taught him how to organize the church. We also believed in President B. Young as a man inspired of God to lead and guide the people in truth and righteousness. There was the principle of the United Order, which God

had revealed through his servant Brigham, and which must sooner or later be carried out and lived up to by the people. He knew it was an eternal and righteous principle. Its rules could possibly be all printed on paper, but its laws must be written on our hearts, that we might all become one, and united in everything that pertained to this life and that which was to come.

He then made a few remarks on the subject of the building of temples, and encouraged the saints to continue their assistance towards their erection, for although the one in St. George was nearly completed, and the one in this city was going up, this was but the beginning of this labor. Hundreds of temples would have to be built, and our efforts must not slacken, but continue in this work that we had just begun.

He then spoke of the spread of infidelity among the civilized nations of the earth, striving to put entirely away the Bible from the schools, lest the children should be taught something about God, whom they utterly ignored, and had no desire to hear anything about. "Mormonism," as it was called, though spurned at and ridiculed by the learned religious world, would shortly become head and shoulders above every other system now known among men. Its founder, Joseph Smith, though an unlearned youth, knew more about God and spiritual things than all the religious world put together.

He then concluded with a few kind and faithful admonitions to the Saints.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON

then presented the following missionaries for the action of the conference—

TO THE UNITED STATES.

John P. Wimmer, Payson
Saml Worsen, " "
Charles Brewerton, " "
Johnathan S. Page, Jr., Payson
Wm C. Wightman, Jr., " "
Samuel Douglass, " "
T. O. Angell, Jr., Salt Lake City
N. V. Jones, " "
T. F. H. Morton, " "
Daniel C. Thomas, " "
David M. Stuart, Ogden
Hy G. Boyle, Payson
J. D. H. McAllister, Salt Lake City
John Riggs, Provo
Alfred Newell, " "
A. J. Stewart, Jun, " "
Howard Coray, Sen, " "
Dominicus Snow, " "
Nelson P. Beebe, " "
John Midgley, Salt Lake City
Charles Nibley, Logan
Joseph Cowley, " "
Joel Ricks, Jun, " "
Mariner W. Merrill, Jun, Richmond
Melvin Hammond, Providence
John A. Woolf, Hyde Park
Wm C. McGregor, Parowan
Wm Adams, " "
James Millard, Farmington
Timothy B. Clark, " "
Oliver L. Robinson, " "
Horton D. Haight, " "
Alley S. Rose, " "
Henson Walker, Pleasant Grove
James Armstead, " "
Charles W. J. Hacker, " "
Philo T. Farnsworth, Sen, Beaver
James H. Skinner, " "
Wm Ashworth, " "

TO THE SOUTHERN MISSION.

Heleman Pratt, Salt Lake City
Mitlene G. Trejo, Richfield
J. Z. Stewart, Draperville
Danl W. Jones, Fairview
Philemon C. Merrill, Bennington
Dudley C. Merrill, Bennington
Henry C. Rogers, Provo
Geo Steele, Provo
John Moon, Farmington
Samuel Bunnell, Spring City
F. W. Cox, Manti
Joseph McRae, Provo Valley
Isaac Turley, Beaver

FOR EUROPE.

H. W. Naisbitt, Salt Lake City
Geo E. Wallace, " "
Thos G. Webber, " "
Richard Steele, American Fork
Thomas Barrett, " "
Ola Olsen, Millville
Ingwald G. Thorsen, Hyrum
Geo Atkins, Tooele Co
Alfred Hansen, Logan
H. D. Peterson, West Weber
John Rowberry, Tooele

All of the above were unanimously sustained with uplifted hands.

Conference was adjourned until 2 p. m.

The choir sang an anthem—
Sing to the Lord in joyful strains.