

## FORTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

TO-MORROW, the 6th day of April, 1870, is the commencement of the Fortieth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In the morning at 10 o'clock the Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, and hold one meeting, when the Conference will adjourn until the 5th of May. This has been deemed the wiser course, owing to the absence, in the southern portion of the Territory, of Presidents Young and Smith; and also on account of the unfinished state of the gallery in the New Tabernacle. By the 5th of next month it is believed that the new gallery will be so far finished as to be ready for use by the public, and twelve thousand persons may then be comfortably seated within the walls of the spacious building. Under such circumstances it is presumed that Conference may be held in comfort, and that none who desire to attend will be under the necessity of staying away, for the lack of comfortable accommodation, as has been the case on many occasions in the past.

The assembling of the General Conference of the Church on this, its fortieth birthday, is more than ordinarily suggestive of thoughts and reflections connected with its history since its establishment in these last days. Since the 6th of April, 1830, many are the vicissitudes and trials which, in the providences of our Heavenly Father, His Church and people have been called to pass through. The powers of evil have prevailed to a great extent; true they have not succeeded in overturning the cause of Jehovah, neither will they, for Revelation has declared that the Church, now established, shall never more be thrown down. But thousands of the Saints and their Prophet and Patriarch have suffered martyrdom at the hands of the wicked and ungodly. For many years past, however, the Saints, in their God-given homes in the Rocky Mountains have been abundantly blessed. The Lord has been with us on the right hand and on the left; He has blessed us in our basket and store, and is fast making of us a great people. But again, in His providences, dark clouds seem to be hovering near, and according to all human appearance a day of oppression and persecution is at hand. There is a striking difference between the persecution which now threatens and those of the past. Then we suffered at the hands of lawless mobs; now we are threatened with persecution by law. This is a strange anomaly in the 19th century! The most liberal government of the world copying after the bigotry and intolerance of centuries ago, and legislating as to what religious observances men and women shall and shall not believe and practice.

What the result of the present move against the Church of God may be, we cannot say; but of this we are assured: that in the future, as in the past, every step taken in connection with that church will be overruled by its Great Founder so as to result in the advantage and acceleration of His cause upon the earth. This is the abiding faith of every honest hearted faithful Saint of God; and if persecutions and troubles come we may rest assured that they come because they are needed. The chastenings of our Father, though they may be severe, are prompted by kindness and will be sanctified to the good of His children.

Under these feelings we hail with pleasure the fortieth birth day of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!

## SAN DOMINGAN ANNEXATION.

THE annexation of St. Domingo, or at least that part of the Island comprised within what is termed the Dominican government, to this country is now being earnestly agitated, both here and in Domingo. President Grant is said to be strongly in favor of the scheme, and to be using all his influence to secure the necessary two-thirds' vote for the ratification of the annexation treaty in the Senate. That body, however, judging by the opposition already manifested by some of its members, is not much in its favor and the ultimate triumph of the project, if effected, will only be by considerable wire-working. This art, of which politicians are generally supposed to be the most expert exponents, seems to have already been resorted to, for the Washington correspondence of some of our Eastern exchanges, says it was in the hope of securing the votes of its Senators in

favor of this move that Mississippi was admitted; and it is also rumored that Texas is likely to be admitted on the same grounds.

There can be little doubt that the people of San Domingo are in favor of annexation, and that the rumors of popular feeling there being in its favor are founded in fact. To test the sense of the people on the subject, President Baez, on the 16th of February, issued a proclamation of which the following are the articles:

ARTICLE 1. From the time of publication this decree will remain open to the committees, in all the provinces, communes, and military posts of the Republic, to the end that the inhabitants concur in giving their votes expressive of their wish concerning uniting themselves to the grand republic of the United States of America and forming a part of its territory and political unity.

ART. 2. The Ayuntamientos and Alcades representing the municipal power, and the corresponding civil authority of the localities, will open in each one of them a register destined to inscribe the names of the voters, who will, as many as can do so, sign their names with the expression of their vote.

ART. 3. At the termination of the vote, when the number of voters in the respective localities have been taken, the same Ayuntamientos—and when those are wanting, the Alcades—will certify in the most solemn manner that the names written by another hand are of individuals voting who spontaneously presented themselves to manifest their opinion, and that they were identified after ratifying their suffrage, and were ignorant of the art of writing.

ART. 4. The original acts, results of each election, legally headed in the customary style, will be forwarded without delay to the respective civil Governors of the provinces and districts, who will send the sheets which contain the returns to all the towns which comprise their respective jurisdictions to the Chief of State through the Citizen Minister of the Interior and Police.

ART. 5. The sheets to which the former article alludes must be sealed with the seal of the respective Governments and Ayuntamientos, (heads of provinces,) with the object that not the slightest suspicion should be raised as to their authenticity.

ART. 6. The present decree shall be printed, published and circulated by the Citizen Minister of the Interior and Police.

The result of this, recently declared, was an almost unanimous vote in its favor.

That the San Domingans should desire this is not at all wonderful. Since the declaration of their independence, less than thirty years ago, the island has been the theatre of many revolutions; in fact, like Mexico and the South American republics, where there is a large admixture of Indian with African blood, the people of this West India island seem to be utterly incapable of establishing a government possessing the elements of stability and security; and wearied with repeated and ineffectual attempts to do so it is no wonder that they should desire annexation to this country, for under the flag of this Republic both would be likely to follow.

The possession of the Island would no doubt be advantageous to this country. It is rich in tropical productions, such as coffee, sugar, cocoa, &c., &c.; while its forests abound with the most precious timber, such as mahogany, lignum vitae, satin wood, &c. The United States too has recently leased the Bay of Samana from the Dominican government for a million and a half in gold; whereas, if the Island be annexed, it would no longer be held by the Government by leasehold, but by freehold.

By the terms of the treaty now before the Senate the entire Dominican Territory is to become a Territory of the United States, all the government works, such as harbors, fortifications, navy yards, &c., being ceded to this government. The public lands are not ceded, but are pledged for the payment of the public debt, which this country will of course have to assume. The construction of the Darien Canal it is claimed will render the possession of St. Domingo of great importance to the United States, and the possession of the island will also secure a West Indian naval Station superior to that which would have resulted from the purchase of the Island of St. Thomas the negotiations for which have long been pending with Denmark.

A great disadvantage connected with this scheme of annexation, we think, is the admission, as citizens, of several hundred thousand negroes, who, for years, have been turbulent and unruly, and who have shown themselves incapable of appreciating and wisely using the liberty guaranteed by republican institutions. These objections, although very apparent, may be overruled by the

influence of the President and his Cabinet, and the ratification of the treaty take place at an early day.

THE "balloon fish" is the latest sensation among the wonders of the deep. The sea serpent and the Bear Lake monsters will no longer excite any attention, the rage now will be the "balloon fish," as seen and described recently by the captain of the schooner *Saladin*, while sailing from Jacmel, Hayti, to New York. A very indistinct account of this newly-discovered marine wonder was telegraphed, but from the meagre details there given, the only inference that could be drawn was that it was merely a rehash of the sea serpent story. Since then full particulars, furnished by Captain Slocum, of the *Saladin*, have been furnished to, and printed in, the New York *Herald*, from which it appears that it was not the sea serpent but a denizen of the "vast deep," totally unknown to naturalists, and probably never before seen by any living man.

The *Saladin* sailed from Jacmel early in March; and at about 6 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, while steering north-northwest, the Captain, the only one on deck, descried, about five miles distant, on the starboard beam, what he thought was a wreck. He immediately put down his helm, turned the *Saladin's* head eastward, and desirous of overhauling and rendering assistance, called all hands on deck. Progress was made as quickly as possible towards the supposed wreck, but instead of a craft in distress, they soon discovered that it was a monster fish or serpent of some kind, "larger than a ship," and making headway at about two knots an hour. The schooner bore down on this strange object until it was within twenty feet on the starboard quarter, when every part was plainly visible.

The following is the description of this new monster of the deep, as furnished to the *Herald*:

"Its architecture was very accurately measured, and the serpent was found to be 100 feet long, with a body forty feet in length and a tail of sixty feet. But the most curious feature of the monster was an immense body of hard gristle matter twelve feet in height, forty feet in width, with the same length, which was entirely void within, forming a large bladder-shaped balloon, which, filled with air, buoyed the serpent on the water, and seemed to be an agent whereby it could keep the surface and commit its depredations either upon commerce or upon the harmless inhabitants of its own element. This oval buoy had regular ridges, running from the apex ahead—for this bladder preceded the body of the fish—to where it joined the main body. These ridges extended fore and aft, at intervals of four inches, with a regular height of two inches, and gave to the surface the appearance of the network of a balloon. The bladder portion was elastic, and yielded to the movements of the sea, and was two inches thick, but of a hard, dense, impenetrable character, that would resist knife or bullet. On each side of this floating dome were two heavy paddles, each five feet long, by which the monster made progress. The fish proper, which was but an appendage tailed on to this blown-up bladder, consisted of a heavy fishy substance, with blown sides, and about ten feet from the dome were two eyes, one on either side of a large horn.

From this point the fish tapered off to a forked tail of material as heavy and as hard as iron."

Captain Slocum believed that the tail of this strange animal would weigh a hundred pounds to the cubic foot. The forks of the tail stood horizontally in the water, but were submerged four feet. He feared to fire at this strange beast, dreading the consequences to his bark and crew. He believes that it has some internal means of filling its balloon with air, thus enabling it to sink or swim at pleasure.

This is about the most fishy story on record; but the particulars are as furnished the *Herald*, and coming from such a source there seems to be no reason for questioning their authenticity.

A RECENT number of the *Evansville, Ind., Courier* contains a fearful sensation story about a live snake in a woman's stomach. The woman was from Owensboro, Ky., and she stated that it had been ensconced in her body for six years. The *modus operandi* of obtaining possession is not given. The appearance of the snake, as visible externally, is as follows:

"At the pit of the stomach there is a large belt, almost the size of a man's arm; and just where the bones of the breast are separate, an impression is seen through the skin that resembles a snake's head."

This so-called belt, or body of the snake, extends all round the woman's body; and when touched, contracts and causes the most intense agony. His snakeship seems to be very fond of milk, as it is said that when the woman partakes of that plenti-

fully she suffers no particular inconvenience or pain.

The foregoing are the facts given by the *Courier*. The story is very improbable, and among those who understand the human frame it will most likely be treated as a yarn that is slightly snaky. We think it sounds more like that than anything else.

CHLORAL, recently come into use in France, as an anesthetic agent, is formed by the action of perfectly dry chlorine gas on pure alcohol. It is said to be very efficacious in allaying suffering from nervous irritability, weakness and wakefulness. M. Bouchut, who has investigated its properties with great care, says:

"As a therapeutical agent, hydrate of chloral is a sedative of violent pain in gout, of the atrocious sufferings occasioned by nephritic colic and dental caries; in a word, it is the very best of anesthetics administered through the stomach. Lastly, it is the quickest and most efficacious remedy in intense chorea, when it is required to abate speedily a condition of restlessness, which is in itself a peril to the life of the patient."

PEACHES AND APRICOTS.—From appearances our peach and apricot crops will prove a comparative failure the coming season in the vicinity of the city. The storms of late seem to have damaged the buds to a serious extent. We have heard several parties say that their trees are killed for this season.

HEARD FROM.—J. G. Methua, Esq., writing from San Francisco, on the 2nd instant, says "Madame Scheller commences an engagement at Sacramento, next Monday. To-morrow she sings, as 'Agathe,' in Weber's opera of 'Der Freischutz,' in German. She has been giving performances in the interior towns, with a German company, with success."

## THE POLYGAMY QUESTION.

The bill abolishing polygamy in Utah, as it passed the House, seems to us impracticable. The country having suffered its existence for so many years, it ought not to disturb the relations thus formed and brand the women with disgrace and bastardize the children. It seems to us that a law preventing the contraction of polygamous marriages in the future, and presenting to the people of Utah the alternative of either emigrating from that Territory within, say, three years, or of compliance with the law, would either induce them to give up the pernicious practice, or to sacrifice their homes. If they are so wedded to polygamy that they are ready to emigrate to Mexico or some other country, they show a devotion to a bad cause which ought to command respect. The alternative presented, if time were afforded for a thorough discussion, might induce a majority to vote in favor of remaining at their homes rather than to continue the state of polygamy, which is so contrary to the moral sense of mankind. At any rate, it would avert the calamity of war; and a war, too, waged against a religious tenet, which ought, if possible, to be avoided. —*Civil Service Journal*.

## THE PRESS AND THE "PROTEST."

The Mormon protest against the Cullom bill, as it appeared in full in yesterday's special dispatches from Salt Lake, is in admirable temper, and is made by men who are evidently in earnest. With the argument contained in it we have no present concern, but to say that it is marked by great ability is to say only what will be conceded by all who have read it. But this formal appeal will probably not avail to defeat the Cullom bill in the Senate. The same influence that passed it in the House will drive it through that body. It was the influence of clamor, and the votes given to it, against the able opposition of Mr. Schenck, were given against the best judgment of those who cast them.

Notwithstanding the temperance and moderation which appear to have ruled the late action in Salt Lake, it requires no great discernment to perceive the determined spirit that lies behind it. If the Cullom bill shall become a law, it will produce war and bloodshed. No man at all acquainted with the condition of affairs can doubt this, and we do not know how these consequences can be averted in that event. It is evident that the Mormon people intend to exhaust peaceful means to prevent the invasion of their homes and firesides from what they deem the destroying arm of religious persecution, but we do not think we are speaking unadvisedly when we continue to warn all that the Cullom bill means violence, war, and the certain destruction of great interests. —*Omaha Herald*, April 2.