

almost a necessity, in some parts, for a person to "announce" himself before he receives any attention. This should not be. It is all right for citizens to become candidates, either from their own choice or on the advice of friends. It is also right for the people to go outside of these and exercise the choice themselves. And in naming a legislator—which office is not always a thankful one—it is commonly the better way to select persons who are avowedly not candidates, and who would accept only from a sense of patriotic duty to the State. But in any event incompetents and irresponsible ought to be guarded against and shut out of the State Legislature. It is a body too important in its functions to be composed of pettifogging lawyers, second-rate politicians and cynical statesmen. Knowledge, brains and energy of the first order are needed in the State Legislature to make it truly representative of the best interests of the people.

### THE LATE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The sixty-seventh semi-annual Conference of the Church has completed its sessions, and the Saints feel that it has been one of the most important and satisfactory gatherings of the kind that has been held. In the instructions, and admonitions, and actions taken by the Church authorities the inspiration of the Almighty has been clearly manifest. The power of God rested abundantly upon the brethren in their addresses to the large congregations, and the Holy Spirit testified to the Saints of the renewal of force and activity in the work of the Lord upon the earth. In the blessing thus received, all faithful members of the Church are filled with rejoicing.

The instructions given have covered a wide field in the temporal as well as the spiritual life of the Saints; the practical duties of their calling have been impressed upon them in a way to fit existing circumstances; and needed admonitions were presented in a terse and forcible manner; all of which cannot fail to be of great benefit to those who received the same and will give heed thereto. The effect of the teachings will be to instill fresh life and vigor into the people and lead them to strive for still better and holier things than they have experienced.

A prominent feature of the Conference instructions was that relating to the authority of God which has been conferred for the accomplishment of His purposes. The Gospel has been restored to earth in this dispensation, preparatory to the second coming of Christ and to ushering in the personal reign of the King of kings; the Lord has organized His Church, and has committed the keys of the kingdom to the duly constituted officers thereof. Those officers have been given the authority of the Most High in all matters, temporal and spiritual, pertaining to His Church, and the full recognition of that authority is an imperative necessity on the part of those who would retain membership in the Church. There is no uncertainty or half-way business about it. It is the divine order which God has commanded to be established among His people, for their guidance and salvation. A chief aim

of the Conference instructions has been to impress this fact upon all the members of the Church, that they may fully comprehend the truth and abide thereby.

The principle set forth is so plain and simple that there need be no misconception of it by anyone who enjoys the spirit of intelligence. Where the Almighty has conferred authority to act in His name, those who have received such power are in duty bound to exercise it according to His commandments; and those who have become members of His Church in like manner are obligated to recognize the directions He gives through His servants, each in the calling wherein he is placed, and every quorum in its order. The lesser is not to control the greater; nor is a superior officer to be directed in his duties by one who holds an inferior position. The order of direction is from the Almighty through the highest quorum, and on through the duly constituted channels throughout the Church. It is the beautiful, perfect order of each standing in his own place, his agency untrammelled, and the rights of his neighbor fully guarded from infringement, free from carping criticism or unrighteous domination, whether he be officer or member.

In all matters the counsel given was most timely, and as such will be received by the Saints, who recognize therein the fact that the Church is progressing in the fulfillment of its high destiny. Abroad in the world the work is advancing with a marvelous power; the way is being opened for the Gospel message to be carried to all people. At home the forward movement is truly as rapid, both in labors for the living and for the dead. And in the Church are all the authority, force, inclination and inspiration required for the Gospel plan in its aggressive character of searching out and saving mankind from error and darkness. This is clearly shown in the proceedings at the October Conference, where the Church authorities spoke and acted in that divine power conferred upon them to perform a great and responsible labor as duly commissioned Apostles of the Lord Jesus, in which labor faithful Saints are called to continue in perfect confidence, love, union and faith.

### PROVING DIVINE AUTHORITY.

In a letter written from Metz, Steuben county, Indiana, Elders John H. Stout and U. G. Miller make this request:

Will you please answer the following through the News: Who ordained President Brigham Young to the office of President of the Church, and also the date of the organization? The Reorganized ministers are making the statement that he never was ordained, and that the people never made the claim that he was. No doubt it will be of use to others of the Elders as well as ourselves.

For the information of those who send the inquiry, we will state that the event referred to is carefully recorded in Church history, and has been published frequently. President Brigham Young was installed as the President of the Church, in the quorum of the First Presidency, by the Council of the Apostles, on December 6, 1847. Not a ceremony

necessary to the performance of that solemn duty was omitted—everything was done in perfect order, and by the united voice of the Twelve. President Young had been President of the Church in his position as President of the presiding quorum, the Twelve Apostles, for more than three years previous to the date given, or ever since the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph. When, on the date mentioned, President Young had been duly installed as the chief in the First Presidency, he selected Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as first and second counsel respectively, and they were also duly set apart, being sustained by the unanimous vote of the Twelve. In their case, as with President Young, no ceremony was omitted.

As to the statements of the parties referred to, and others of a similarly misrepresentative nature, all the Elders should have learned by this time that they are characteristic of such individuals. Not all the representatives of the Reorganized church indulge in such inaccuracies, many of them being bigminded, honorable people; but there are some in that denomination, as in others, who do not pursue a reputable course. We have this advice to offer to the Elders respecting such: Treat them precisely as similar characters in other sectarian denominations are treated, as that is their true position.

With regard to the authority of President Young or any others of the Twelve called by the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith to the holy apostleship, or any of their successors, or of the Church, we would remind the Elders of the counsel of the First Presidency in this respect. Such authority is not a subject on which there is any room for doubt, hence no occasion exists for discussion thereon by the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The test of such divine authority is open to all individuals of all sects—by doing the will of the Father and thereby receiving a testimony of the truth. The Elders present the opportunity for applying that test in the doctrine they preach and the ordinances they perform, and the way is open to every individual who will obey the word of God as taught in scripture to ascertain the truth of the Elders' message, that the Gospel of Christ has been restored to earth preparatory for the hour of God's judgment, just as the revelation given to St. John on the Isle of Patmos foretold.

As for all sects and denominations outside of the Church which the Lord Jesus has established in this age, if any representatives thereof have doubts of their own authority or divinity and wish to discuss the same in a proper, dignified manner, with a view to ascertaining the truth, that is their business; and in the matter of any accommodation they may be accorded, all of these denominations, the Reorganization included, stand on precisely the same platform. The question of authority in those sects may be, under some circumstances and between some individuals, a matter of friendly discussion, without invoking ill feelings. But as to the Church which was organized by divine command and author-