

dren were blessed and a branch of the Church organized, with prospects of another branch in the near future.

While in Nelson the Elders met a young man who has been in the Church many years and appears to be an exemplary Latter-day Saint. His mother, Mrs. Rose Nelson, is residing in Salt Lake City, and he is very desirous of hearing from her but does not know the full address. If this should reach her, a favor will be conferred by writing to James C. Williams, Nelson, N. Z.

"PHOENIX."

PARIRUA, N. Z., Nov. 21, 1892.

### LOGAN LETTER.

The Primary Associations of the Cache Stake combined a celebration of the Prophet Joseph's birthday with their regular Christmas festivities on Friday, the 23rd. In every settlement appropriate ceremonies were observed. The primaries are well attended, and the officers are doing a good work in imparting religious instruction.

The children's pantomime and ball at the Thatcher opera house on Wednesday was well attended. A masquerade to be held there on Thursday is expected to be the social event of the season.

Albert Tarbet and Louis Bordero engaged in a scuffle on Saturday night. Bordero was accidentally stabbed in the back by a knife which Tarbet held in his hand at the time Bordero caught hold of him. Bordero was not seriously injured.

John Wyatt was arrested by Deputy Corey and taken before a U. S. commissioner to answer a charge of unlawful cohabitation. As no proof was present Wyatt was discharged.

A young man named Alma Filliard, of Smithfield, cut his hand very badly last Saturday night while splitting kindling. It necessitated the amputation of his forefinger by Dr. Snow.

The clerks employed by the Riter Bros' Drug Co., on Christmas day presented their manager, Mr. B. F. Riter, with a beautifully engraved gold-headed cane as a token of their esteem.

The holidays have not caused any unusual run on the police court.

Mr. Will G. Farrell, county recorder, made a false step while coming out of the vault with his arms full of books, and severely bruised the stump of his amputated leg. Dr. Parkinson is attending him, and has reduced the inflammation.

The colleges, district and denominational schools all had holiday exercises before dismissing for the holiday week.

Dancing parties innumerable are enlivening the holidays for the young people.

The Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A. of the Fourth ward will give a concert and theatrical performance on New Year's eve, the proceeds to be used for the benefit of missionaries who have gone from that ward to labor in distant lands.

We had a fine day for Christmas, but the weather both before and since has been of a wretched description, and the roads are nearly impassable.

LOGAN, Dec. 29.

## DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BY

**PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH,**

*Saturday Afternoon, Sept. 3, 1892, at the Salt Lake Stake Conference, held in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I always feel a desire to respond when I am asked to try to do anything good. I do not know that I have the spirit of talking this afternoon, but I have enjoyed the remarks which we have listened to and can endorse them and recommend them to the consideration and careful thought of the Latter-day Saints who are here assembled. It is a glorious thing for those who are in search of truth to be able to obtain a knowledge of it. We seek for many things upon which it seems impossible to obtain any satisfactory knowledge. There are a great many things in the world that seem difficult for us to understand clearly or to become thoroughly satisfied upon. It is an easy thing to ask questions, and there are many people in the world who seem to devote themselves very largely to asking questions; but it is not always so easy to answer them. Yet the question in relation to our religion is one that every man ought to ask himself and God, that he may gain a knowledge thereof which will be perfectly satisfactory, and every person should be able to give a reason for the hope he has within him.

I have always felt thankful to my Heavenly Father for the testimony He has given me in relation to the principles which we call Mormonism. To me they have always seemed nothing but the truth. In relation to the opinions of men we have much room for doubt, and many do doubt, because these opinions do not always appeal to their judgment, and there is not accompanying them a spirit to enlighten the mind concerning them. In other words, there is not, connected with the opinions of men, the power of the Holy Spirit, which, we are told, takes of the things of God and shows them unto men who are sincerely seeking after a knowledge of the truth. Since my childhood I have sought to know something about the first principles of the Gospel. It has been necessary for me to understand something about them, for the reason that I have been called upon from time to time to go out into the world to preach them; and I desire to bear my testimony to this congregation, as the brethren have borne their testimony, in regard to these principles, and it is this—I certify that every principle associated with this Gospel which I have been able to understand has appeared to me, beyond the possibility of doubt, to be absolutely correct, absolutely good, and in every way adapted to the wants of those who receive it and put it into practice. I do not know of a single principle that is not in my judgment calculated to benefit me, in time and in eternity. So also it will benefit every man that will receive it. This is my testimony

in relation to the principles of the Gospel. I am convinced that they are true. There is a spirit connected with and accompanying them that appeals to my judgment and to my understanding, and that thoroughly convinces me they are true. Therefore, I am perfectly satisfied with the principles of the Gospel; and so far as I obey these principles I feel that all will be well with me in life or in death. I feel very grateful to God for this spirit and testimony, and I desire so to live the remaining part of my life that this spirit may be in me, and that I may always feel in my heart to love the truth and to labor for the welfare of the children of men.

The Gospel will inspire us to do good and to forsake evil. It will inspire us to love our neighbor and to live near unto God; to be true to ourselves, true to our fellow creatures, true to our covenants, and in every respect reliable and worthy of the confidence of our fellowmen. It may be said that there are men in the world who are all this without the Gospel—men who are reliable, honorable, true to their friends, pure in their lives, and in every respect praiseworthy, and such as God would delight to acknowledge as His children. Now, you show me a man of this character in the world, though he is beyond the pale of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or of any religion, and I will show you a child of God. I do not care who he is, nor in what land he lives, nor what his profession is. I tell you that God has many noble men in this world that are not Latter-day Saints, and that know nothing about this work that we are engaged in. It is in search of these that the Elders are sent out among the nations of the earth from time to time, and these are they who are brought into the fold of Christ when they have the opportunity of hearing the Gospel. I have thought that there were still just as good fish in the sea of mankind as had ever been caught by the Gospel net. In the course of my experience I believe I have seen people in the world so surrounded by the traditions of their fathers, and so bound up by their creeds, that they could not see the light; but they were living more consistently, according to the knowledge that they possessed and the circumstances that surrounded them, than hundreds of the Latter-day Saints who have been born again of the water and of the Spirit and who ought to be, of all men and women in the world, the most faithful, the most exemplary, the most virtuous; yet they are indifferent to a great many things that they should pay strict attention to and that are really necessary to make them what they ought to be. The spirit of the Gospel is designed to make all men good in the sight of God. The Gospel is calculated to remove from us everything that is not consistent with God and the plan of salvation which He has revealed to men. It is designed to qualify us to live so that we may enjoy a fulness of the light of truth and understand the purposes of God, and be able to live so near to Him that we may be in harmony with His wishes constantly. The principles of the Gospel are calculated to make us unselfish, to broaden our minds, to give breadth to our desires for good, to