

PAROWAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly Conference of the Parowan Stake of Zion was held Saturday, the 25th, and Sunday, the 26th inst., in the Social Hall, Cedar City, Counselor Henry Lunt (in the absence of President Wm. H. Dame, who is on a tour with President Erastus Snow,) presiding.

The Bishops of the several wards of the Stake were all in attendance, likewise a goodly number of the Saints from the several settlements. The whole of the time was occupied in instructions by the priesthood, except Saturday evening, which was especially devoted to reports by the Bishops and Presidents of the wards, societies and institutions, and a short time of the afternoon of Sunday in presenting the general authorities of the Church, Stake and wards, which were all sustained by the Conference.

We were favored with the presence, teachings and counsels of President J. D. T. McAllister, of St. George Stake, on Sunday, who delivered a most excellent discourse on Sabbath morning, on the duties of the Latter-day Saints to themselves, their families and to the dead, and also read a very interesting statement of the work done in the St. George Temple for the living and for the dead, for the years 1877-78-79, and up to June, 1880.

We were greatly blessed with the outpourings of the Spirit of God in each of our assemblies—and joy and gladness did much more abound in the hearts of all present. It was truly a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The selection of hymns, anthems and songs by the choir was very choice.

Conference adjourned at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26th, to meet at Parowan the last Saturday and Sunday in December next, subject, however to alteration by the apostles.

Your brother in the gospel. JOHN E. DALLEY, Stake Clerk.

MANUSCRIPT OF ST. PETER.

On the 13th of July, 1879, there died at Jerusalem a certain poor man known throughout all the city for his great age, which was reputed to be 109 years. For the last half century this hermit had lived retired from the world without exchanging a word with his neighbors, by whom he was regarded as a saint. At his death, as no one knew any of his friends or relations, the local authorities took possession of all that he had left.

On visiting the grotto inhabited by this man, whose name was Core, situated at the foot of the hill Gethsemane, they were surprised to find it decorated with some degree of elegance. It was overlaid with tigers' skins, and the actual couch of the deceased had been composed of these materials of very great value. After removal of the skins a trap door was found, which led into an underground passage, five yards long by three or four yards high. There a case was found fastened by an iron bar. On opening it the explorers came upon a heap of money of different countries and periods. A large quantity of gold was discovered—English, Turkish and Grecian—the fruit probably of a long career of mendicity on the part of the holy man. The value of the treasure has been estimated at about £8,000. Under the layer of coins a packet was disclosed, wrapped up in old newspapers. After this coating had been removed, a handsome cashmere shawl appeared, much the worse for time and damp, but estimated originally at about £80. The shawl again concealed several papers attesting the origin of poor Core, who in these was declared to be a Hebrew belonging to a very rich family established at Stockholm. Finally under these papers a voluminous manuscript on papyrus was brought to light, wrapped in a piece of green silk so entirely consumed by age that it fell to pieces at the first touch.

The papyrus bore, written in beautifully ancient characters, the following words:

"I, Peter, fisherman and disciple of Jesus, the son of God, and continuator of his works, speak to the people of the earth who hear the word of the Lord according to the love and in the name of the very Holy God."

The manuscript is signed in an elegant and original manner.

"I, Peter, fisherman, in the name of Jesus have finished writing the word of love in the fiftieth year of my age, on the third passover after the death of my Lord and Master Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, in the house of Belierl the scribe, near the temple of the Lord."

The papyrus of this manuscript is tolerably flexible and resisting in spite of its age, and the ink is still very black. That led the discoverers to suppose that it was the work of Core; but the savants of Jerusalem, after a lengthy examination, during which they vainly endeavored to decipher sundry antique terms, came to the conclusion that it was impossible for a modern author to write ancient Hebrew with such ease, purity and propriety of language, presenting both an acquaintance with the signification of certain words and a particular archaic form peculiar to that tongue in its best periods.

Besides everybody knows that papyrus is no longer manufactured, which proves at least the antiquity of the document. But can it really be a manuscript of the Apostle Saint Peter? To elucidate so grave a question, the Bible Society of London was communicated with, which at once sent a commission to the spot to examine the case. After long investigations, this commission is said to have pronounced in favor of its authenticity. The numerous questions—philosophical, philological, historical and Biblical—raised by this discovery promise to be most curious and interesting.

The Bible Society appear to take it for granted that Saint Peter could write, which, on the strength of the testimony of Saint Mark and a rather obscure passage in the Acts of the Apostles, has hitherto been considered doubtful. This point further stimulated the zeal of the Bible Society to study the manuscript.

Between the commission, which has its seat at Jerusalem, and the Society of London, a brisk exchange of letters and telegrams has been going on. Finally, the family at Stockholm inheriting the property of the ancient hermit of Jerusalem, has been offered £20,000 for the acquisition of the manuscript by the Bible Society; but all these people will agree to is, to grant the right of reproduction and translation. The firm of Abdullah Brothers, in Constantinople, has offered to bring out a photographic edition.

The above account appeared originally in the Sabaoth, a journal printed at Jerusalem in the Jewish interest, whence it was extracted by the Seminare and Fiaccola of Rome, two organs of evangelical interest in Italy, and has now found its way into the French papers.—Helen Stanley.

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NOTICE is hereby given, that a meeting of the Board of Directors, held on the 30th day of July, A. D. 1880, an assessment of Forty cents per share, was levied on the capital stock of the Corporation, payable on or before the 30th day of September, A. D. 1880, to the undersigned, at the office of the said Company in Salem, Utah County, Utah. Any stock upon which this assessment shall remain unpaid, on the 30th day of September, 1880, will be delinquent, and advertised for sale at public auction, and unless payment is made before, will be sold on the 15th day of October, A. D. 1880, to pay the delinquent assessment, together with costs of advertising, and expenses of sale.

By order of the Board. ANDREAS ENGBERG, Secretary, Salem, Utah

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