

Resolved, That the Bishop be instructed to call on the Presidents of the different Branches for the necessary means to carry on the work.

The following Missions were appointed : J. W. Briggs and S. Powers were appointed to go to England; W. W. Blair to Western Iowa; Z. H. Gurley to Illinois; James Blakeslee to Ohio and Indiana; John Shippy to Michigan and Canada, and E. C. Briggs to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Adjourned to 1½ o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The following persons, who were members of the First Organization of the Church, were received into the Church : Lorin Babbitt, an Elder of the Quorum of Seventy; Jonathan Delap, a Deacon; James W. Cooper, an Elder; James Burgess, an Elder.

Resolved, That Joseph Robinson be ordained an Elder.

Resolved, That James M. Wait, Ebenezer Page, and Jonathan Delap be ordained Elders in the Quorum of Seventy. They were ordained to these offices by Zenos H. Gurley and James Blakeslee.

Resolved, That Bro. Alva Smith be re-ordained an Elder. He was then re-ordained. Adjourned to 10 o'clock, A. M. next day.

Oct. 9th, A. M. It was stated that the Quorum of the Twelve had resolved that President Joseph Smith, with others whom he may call to his aid, have the examination and supervision of the matter going into the Herald.

The following Preamble and Resolution was offered and rejected : Inasmuch, as G. P. Dykes, B. Johns and R. Roberts, of Genoa, Carson Valley, Nevada Territory, and E. H. Webb, of San Francisco, Cal., express *by letter* to us, that they desire to unite with us and assist in advancing the cause of Christ, therefore,

Resolved, That they be instructed by President Joseph Smith and the Quorum of the Twelve, to do by their ordinations under the First Joseph, what they are legally authorized to do, in building up the Church of J. C. of L. D. S.

Resolved, That the Semi-Annual Conference of Oct. 26th, 1862, be held in Western Iowa.

Resolved, That the Annual Conference of April 6th, 1862, be held at Mission, La Salle Co. Illinois.

Resolved, That Charles Williams be ordained an Elder. He was then ordained by Z. H. Gurley and James Blakeslee.

Adjourned:

THE FIRST GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE, UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF JOSEPH SMITH, SON OF JOSEPH, THE MARTYR.

To all the Saints scattered abroad, Greeting:

Brethren, since it has pleased God to call forth the true successor in the Presidency of the

Church, in the person of Joseph, the son of Joseph, the Martyr, in fulfillment of the promises made to his people, we, in obedience to the injunctions of the Holy Spirit, call upon you to give ear to the voice of the Good Shepherd, and return to the *whole* law, and to the covenants, as that form of doctrine which being obeyed from the heart maketh you free from sin and servants of righteousness. The Bible, Book of Mormon, and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, contain that law, and those Covenants or form of doctrine, to which we point you, saying, *This is the way, walk ye in it and find rest to your souls.* Mark all who corrupt or pervert it, and avoid them. The perilous times, shown to the ancient Apostle, are upon us, and our refuge is in the Lord, who, thanks be to his name, "holds the reins in his own hands," and to the obedient alone are the promises. We beseech you, therefore, brethren, give no heed to the subtle influences of those seducing spirits which were to characterize the *departing from the faith* in the latter times, but proving them by the plain word of God, resist them, with all those new, fanciful and strange doctrines, convenient, truly, for such as have turned the grace of God into lasciviousness, but ye have not so learned Christ, having begun in the Spirit, are ye to be perfected through the flesh? Be it known unto all Saints that in this the reorganization of the Latter Day work, we point only to the old paths from which so many have turned aside in the dark and cloudy day. To further this object, faithful Elders will be sent as speedily as possible to all quarters, including California, Utah, England, Scotland and Wales, and to enable us to do this, and to carry on the work of building up the Kingdom of God, and to redeem the scattered Saints from thralldom through false guides, we appeal to all Saints whom the Lord hath made stewards, to aid the same by tithing themselves according to the law of God, and place it in the hands of the Bishop of the Church for these purposes. The most convenient method for doing this at present, appears to us to be as follows: Let all Presidents of Branches act as agents of the Bishop, and receive all means set apart under the law of tithing, keeping a faithful record of all receipts and from whom received, holding the same subject to the order of the Bishop. If paid over in person, a receipt should be taken. All orders from the Bishop, and such receipts should be preserved, and an exhibit thereof, and all means on hand made to each General Conference, that no ground of suspicion as to the application of such means may exist. We are aware that this law has been appealed to as a warrant for acts manifestly oppressive, and that the means obtained by such oppression have been and are as a weapon of power to still further oppress the zealous and devoted. But the perversion, *not* the law, have been the instruments of this wrong. "My ways are equal and your ways are unequal," applies to the execution of this law. Obeying it in its spirit, is equal, submitting to its perversion, is unequal and oppressive. To such as are willing to live by every word of God, and inquire, what is required by this law? We point to the law it-

self. Firstly, your surplus is required. Secondly, after this, one-tenth of your interest or gains from time to time. You are all Stewards of the Great *Master*, and what is needed to prosecute your own stewardship is *not* required, but above this is your surplus, that is required, and of this you, and each of you, are to judge, and be your own exactors, and Israel's exactors are to be all righteous. It is for all that have surnamed themselves Israel, to see that they deal righteously in this matter, as between themselves and Him that seeth the hearts as well as the acts of men. It is but a systematic free-will offering, gathered where it is not needed and placed where it is, for the general weal.

Finally, Brethren, be of good cheer, for the light of truth shines with *renewed* brilliancy upon the pathway that Saints are called to walk. Zion, the pure in heart, must be redeemed by righteousness, but the land of Zion by power. The first we may, by the grace of God, work out; the second, we leave in the hands of him that hath power and that doeth all things well.

Commending all Saints to the mercy of God, and fellowship of His Spirit, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

By order of the quorum.

October 25th, 1861.

JASON W. BRIGGS, *President*.

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CONFERENCE.

Minutes of a Special Conference, held at Little Sioux, Harrison county, Iowa, August 30th, 31st and September 1st, 1861.

Conference convened, according to previous appointment, on the 30th day of August. Meeting was opened in the usual manner, after which it was unanimously resolved, that Elder W. W. Blair preside over the same.

The President then made some remarks on the object of our coming together, showing the importance of the work before us. After which it was unanimously resolved, that Elder Charles Derry act as Clerk, and Elder Davies H. Bays act as Assistant.

Elder George Morey being requested by the President to address the Congregation, remarked that although we were strangers to each other in the flesh, he trusted we were one in spirit, and although many were present whose heads were blossoming with the ripeness of age, he trusted many before him would live to see the accomplishment of the mighty work in which we are engaged. We were brought into a troublesome crisis when, because of the wickedness of men in departing from the truth of God, brother was arrayed against brother, and blood and turmoil was the order of the day. He trusted that when the cry came "to your tents, Oh! Israel," every