

having received the Holy Ghost, &c., that there is danger of falling away and being lost. We have to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. But to come to the point, "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation." Paul says in 1 Thes. 1: 5, "for our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance." Here we perceive the gospel did not consist of the word alone, but there is a power along with it, and that is the power of God. Now according to the conditions of the word of the Lord, a man or woman is to believe, repent and be baptized, and receive the laying on of hands. We can believe and repent, for we have the power to do so; but we have not the power and authority to baptize ourselves, and thus induct ourselves into the Kingdom of God, for that is done by the power of God vested in man. Our Savior commanded the disciples, as contained in Mat. 28: 19, "go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," &c. Here we perceive He gave them power to teach the word, and to baptize for an entrance into His kingdom, or church, and that delegated power to them, was His power, or authority, and just as good as though He performed the baptism. The power of God was not only manifested by baptizing by water, but in laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, for if He had not given them power to lay on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, He never would have acknowledged it, by giving the Holy Spirit on those whom the apostles laid on hands, as found in Acts 8 and 19c. And thus we see that the gospel was the power of God unto salvation, although delegated to men, it was the power of God. By that power they were born of water and of the Spirit, and thus became sons and daughters of God; and thus they became adopted into the family of God, and if faithful in observing all the law of their heavenly Father, will secure an everlasting salvation. By examining the New Testament, we find that whenever they received the gospel, it was in word, in power, and in the Holy Ghost, which brought much assurance. Hence we perceive that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to all them that believe, and we find (as before quoted) that our Savior came into the world for this cause, and to this end was he born, to accomplish the salvation of mankind; to be a witness unto the truth, and that truth is the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation. Hence we perceive that those who deny this power, which is no more nor less than the priest-

hood, or delegated authority, and profess to preach the gospel, and baptize, do it in their own strength, which is their own power, and therefore it cannot be the power of God unto salvation. They had better cease preaching in their own strength, and administering in the ordinances, and not run before they are sent, for Paul says in Rom. 10: 14, "how shall they preach except they be sent," and in Heb. 5: 4, he says "no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." In the account which was given by Moses, it is shown that Aaron was called by actual revelation, and in this day and generation the professed ministers of Christ, say these things are done away; there are no revelations in these days; and they thus shut up the only avenue to their being called, and virtually acknowledge that they are not called of God, and thus, not being called of God, as I said before, they do all that they do in their own strength, their *ipse dixit*, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

We will now sum up in as brief manner as possible, the foregoing remarks, as they are contained in this article. We have found that the end to which our Savior was born, &c., was to bear witness to the truth. We have found likewise that the truth was the gospel, and that its antiquity was equal to the fall of man, and that it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and we have found that this power of God is the same, whether displayed by His own right arm, or delegated to man as His agent, or as Paul declares in 2 Cor. 5: 20, "now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." Therefore I close by exhorting all to come and obey the truth that you may be saved, and this is the prayer of your unworthy servant.

EDWIN STAFFORD.

ABINGDON, Knox Co., Ill., July 27, 1863

#### SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

*Minutes of the Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of L.-D.-S., held at the North Star Branch of said Church, in Pottawatomie Co., Iowa, Oct. 6, 1863.*

Conference convened by calling Joseph Smith to preside. Alphonso Young and Edward W. Knapp, Clerks. Reports of Elders were called.

Joseph Smith reported that the work in Hancock Co., Ill., was progressing finely. He had baptized eight or ten since April Conference. There has been a branch organized ten miles east of Nauvoo, called the

Rock Creek branch, with eleven members; Thomas Pitt is Presiding Elder.

A letter was read from Elder E. C. Briggs in Utah, which cheered the hearts of the saints.

Bro. Hugh Lytle reported that Bro. Crabb and himself had been laboring as they were appointed at last April Conference, and on returning here they labored in Pike county Ill., in connection with Bro. Loren Babbitt, and baptized 16 persons.

Bro. Colby Downs reported that he had fulfilled a mission to Nebraska; had tried to be diligent, and had removed much prejudice; had baptized two, one being John Chatman, born in Wilkeshire, Eng., Sept. 20, 1845.

Bro. Eli Clothier reported that he had labored part of the time in the mission which was given him, and had baptized 13.

Bro. Wheeler Baldwin reported that he had labored in the district which was assigned him at the June Conference. He had held several meetings and had organized the Fajm Creek Branch, with 22 members.

Bro. W. A. Litz reported that in the district which was assigned him, he had baptized four, two in Camp Creek branch, one in Weeping Water branch and one in Blue River branch, and ordained Bro. A. J. Pethoud an Elder. The four were enrolled in the Weeping Water branch, at their request. He obtained a hearing in Nebraska City, but there is some prejudice there; he labored in connection with Elder A. Young.

Bro. J. A. McIntosh reported that he had labored in the mission which was assigned him, first to the Mississippi, and then in his own vicinity.

Bro. Wm. Redfield reported that he had labored with Bro. Wheeler Baldwin, and that with considerable good results.

Two o'clock P. M.—Elder A. Young reported his mission in Nebraska, to June, 1863. Twenty members had been baptized instead of 16, as reported in June. He had also labored in other respects in Nebraska. In relation to the complaint of Elder A. Young, concerning his labors in Nebraska having been intruded upon by Elder D. M. Gamet; the President said that the only wrong Bro. Gamet had done, was the treating of Elder Young with discourtesy, but that it did not invalidate the organization of the Camp Creek branch, Neb., and that brethren should be careful in laboring, to avoid interfering with others. He also said that it was the duty of every Elder and Priest in the church to be active in their labors, not remaining at home idle, but to be diligently employed in crying repentance to this generation.

Bros. Babbitt, D. M. Gamet and George Morey reported.

Bro. Nathan Lindsey reported his mission in Illinois. He found much prejudice, nevertheless he preached in connection with others, and five were baptized by Z. H. Gurley.

Bro. Frank Reynolds reported that in his mission through Iowa he preached, and often to large congregations. He baptized several persons, and at Monmouth, Ill., he found Jews who had lately purchased lots in Jerusalem, preparatory to going there.

Elder E. Page reported that last winter and spring he labored considerably with Bro. Alexander McCord, and found people mostly, favorably inclined. He expressed a determination to do all he can for the work.

Bro. George Medlock reported that he had not labored much, owing to inability to get away from home. He said that he would labor as much as he could.

Pres. Smith here spoke upon the necessity of Elders knowing that their families were provided for or would be cared for in their absence, and enjoined punctuality as a virtue upon all the saints, that they observe all their promises to the extent of their ability, and that they should ever be courteous, affable and kind to all around them.

Elder Lehi Ellison reported that he had labored to the extent of his opportunities, in the mission assigned him at last Conference.

Elder Geo. Sweet and Elder John Jamison reported.

Elder D. H. Bays reported that the last mission which was given him, was in part fulfilled. He said that he had not followed the pattern strictly, and was consequently punished, but would do differently in future.

Elder W. W. Blair reported that in connection with Elder S. W. Condit and others, he had labored in various parts of the bounds of the western conference, and that they had, as a result, baptized some seventy persons.

Oct. 7th, 10 A. M.—Barton Parker reported his mission with others to Illinois. He found the people very loth to receive them, but by fasting and prayer the Lord prospered them. He baptized two in Iowa and Illinois. He was blessed in administering to the sick.

S. W. Condit reported confirming the report given by Bro. Blair, having been associated with him.

These reports were all received by the Conference, and the Elders expressed a determination to be up and doing to the full extent of their abilities and opportunities.

#### REPORTS OF BRANCHES.

Plum Creek: 23 members, John Leeka, Pres., E. B. Gaylord, Clerk.

Camp Creek: 23 mem., John Jamison, Pres., Henry Jamison, Clerk.

Fremont Co., Branch: 55 mem., Wheeler Baldwin, Pres., Samuel S. Wilcox, Clerk.

Union Branch: 8 added and 1 child blessed since last reported; James Putney, Pres., Erasmus Campbell, Clerk.

Little River: 44 mem., George Morey, Pres., Wm. Alden, Clerk.

Glenwood: 17 mem., Henry Kisby, Pres., Rufus A. Gonsolly, Clerk.

Nephi: 23 mem., E. R. Briggs, Pres., D. B. Harrington, Clerk.

North Star: 4 added and 3 children blessed since last reported; Samuel Waldo, Pres., D. P. Hartwell, Clerk.

Galland's Grove: 136 mem., J. B. Hunt, Pres., O. E. Holcomb, Clerk.

Bigler's Grove: 26 mem., Benj. Purcell, Pres., O. O. McHenry, Clerk.

Omaha: 18 mem., 4 Elders, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon, George Hatt, Pres., Joseph Gilbert, Clerk.

Farm Creek: 20 mem., Samuel Badham, Pres., Isaac M. Beebee, Teacher, Calvin Beebee, Priest.

Raglan: 31 mem., including 3 Elders, 2 Teachers, C. C. Streeter, Pres., Donald Maule, Clerk.

Crescent City: 37 mem., 5 Elders, one Priest, 2 added by baptism, 2 removals since last report; Jesse Copeland, Pres., James B. Boren, Clerk.

Onawa: 19 mem., 3 removals, 1 death since last report; Josiah Sumner, Pres., John H. Hartley, Clerk.

Council Bluff: 40 mem., including 2 Seventies, 4 Elders, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon, 4 added by baptism, 7 by letter. John Clark, Pres., Benj. Allen, Clerk.

Boyer: 2 removals since last report.

Boomer: 27 mem., 2 Seventies, 5 Elders, 1 Priest, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon. John W. Roberts, Pres., George Wright, Clerk.

Weeping Water, Nebraska: 1 added by baptism, 4 by request. Alphonso Young, Pres., J. W. Waldsmith, Clerk.

Wheeler's Grove: 24 mem., 2 added by baptism, 1 by vote, 3 removed since last reported. John Smith, Pres., E. W. Knapp, Clerk.

Little Sioux: 19 added by baptism, 1 by letter. Silas W. Condit, Pres., Russell Fuller, Clerk.

Upon question, it was decided that Presidents of branches have not the right to delegate their presiding authority to any one, but that when he is absent the next in authority presides. He has, however, the right to call to his assistance in administering, other Elders in the branch.

The President gave some instruction to the Elders, that it is their duty to preach

repentance and baptism, and it is also necessary for them to preach obedience to the laws of God, not to tear down others but to build upon the sure foundation, also to teach by example as well as by precept, also to be sure to preach the gospel and not politics. It is no part of their business to interfere in those things. There is no other principle upon which we can expect to enjoy the Spirit of Christ, and be saved by Him, but to live day by day as though it were the last day for us on earth.

1½ P. M.—This afternoon was devoted to preaching by J. A. McIntosh and Joseph Smith.

Oct. 8th, 9½ A. M.—The following persons having been baptized, opportunity having been given on the 7th, they were now confirmed.

Elizabeth Frazier, born June 14, 1841, in Oxford Co., Maine; Sumantha Ann Colwell, born Oct. 17, 1834, in Oxford Co., Maine; Benj. Below, born June 4, 1838, in Robinson Co., Tenn. These were baptized by D. H. Bays, Oct. 7, 1863. The first two were confirmed by Elders J. A. McIntosh and George Morey, the last by Colby Douns and John Leeka.

Joseph F. Speight, born in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, April 30, 1826, baptized Oct. 7, 1863, by D. H. Bays, confirmed Oct. 8th, by C. Douns and John Leeka.

By the voice of the Conference, Elijah B. Gaylord, Uriah Roundy, James Newberry, John Smith and John Outhouse, were ordained High Priests, under the hands of W. W. Blair and Joseph Smith.

By the voice of the Conference, Rufus A. Gonsolly, David H. Smith, Joseph F. Speight and John W. Burton, were ordained Elders by Elders Joseph Smith and W. W. Blair.

*Resolved*, That the counties of Shelby, Crawford, Audubon, Guthrie, Dallas, Polk and Sac, be under the presidency of J. A. McIntosh; Mills, Fremont, Page and Taylor counties, under Wheeler Baldwin; Decatur and vicinity under George Morey; Central Nebraska, under George Hatt; South Nebraska under Elders A. Young and Wm. A. Litz; Harrison and Monona counties under Silas W. Condit; Pottowatomie and Cass counties, under Hugh Lytle.

*Resolved*, That this Conference authorize the Committee of Publication to publish the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, with such corrections in arrangement as may be necessary.

*Resolved*, That licenses be given by this Conference to the Elders who have not yet received them.

2 P. M.—The afternoon was devoted to preaching, by W. W. Blair.

After adjournment the ordinance of bap-

tism was administered by Colby Douns, to Ellen Chadburn, born in Philadelphia, Pa., July 8, 1847; Wm. Traver, born May 28, 1839, in La Porte, Ind.; David Wilding, born Nov. 9, 1804, in Lancashire, England, confirmed Oct. 9th, and ordained a Seventy by W. W. Blair, T. Hougus and George Morey; Emily Smith, born March 15, 1843, in Wiltshire, England. These were confirmed Oct. 9th, by W. W. Blair, Thomas Hougus and George Morey.

Oct. 9th.—By the voice of the Conference, C. G. McIntosh, D. B. Harrington and Joseph Speight, were ordained Seventies, by W. W. Blair and J. A. McIntosh.

Bros. C. G. McIntosh and D. B. Harrington, were appointed on a Mission to Utah.

Bro. Joseph F. Speight was appointed on a Mission to England.

*On Motion*, The Conference requested all the Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons to be active and diligent in laboring in their respective offices, thereby magnifying their calling.

*On Motion*, It is resolved that "The New Lute of Zion," be recommended by this Conference, as a singing book to be used in the singing schools in the church.

*On Motion*, Bro. James Crabbe was appointed on a mission in Pike Co., Ill., and its vicinity; Bros. Colby Douns and Leli Ellison, were appointed to labor in Linn and Benton counties, Iowa, and vicinity. Bro. Alexander H. Smith was appointed to labor with Bro. W. W. Blair, in the bounds of the Western Conference.

*Resolved*, That the Annual Conference convene at Amboy, Lee Co., Ill., April 6, 1864.

Nancy Henderson, born Jan. 18, 1835, in Missouri, baptized Oct. 9, 1863, by Joseph Smith, confirmed by W. W. Blair, Thomas Hougus and George Morey.

Wm. Bowers, born in Ohio, Feb. 23, 1840, baptized by C. Douns, Oct. 8th, and confirmed Oct. 9, 1863, by W. W. Blair, Geo. Morey and Thomas Hougus. Jacob Stoker, born April 12, 1812, in Ash Co., N. C., baptized and confirmed as above.

JOSEPH SMITH, PRES.

A. YOUNG,  
E. W. KNAPP, } Clerks.

#### LETTER FROM BRO. W. W. BLAIR.

BRO. SHEEN:—Our Conference closed on the evening of the 9th, after a very pleasant Session, and one full of thrilling interest. The weather was, for the most part very fine, although a few days previous to the 6th, it was very unpromising, and doubtless kept many away. On the 8th (Thursday) some two thousand were

present. During the four days we were together, there was little or nothing to mar the good order and peace of the vast assemblage. Much good instruction was given by our beloved President, and the Saints seemed to be of one heart, and one mind. The evenings were devoted to prayer meetings. The Spirit of the Lord was upon the people, and their hearts were made to rejoice in the testimonies of the Lord which were given in tongues, prophecy and spiritual exhortations. The Lord is giving us much grace and favor in the eyes of the people, for all of which we praise his holy name. The hearts of the saints were made glad in having Joseph, Alexander and David with them. God help them to carry out and finish up, the great work which was begun by their martyred father.

W. W. BLAIR.

Little Sioux, Iowa, Oct. 13, 1863.

#### LETTER FROM UTAH.

DEAR BRO. SHEEN:

I write to inform you how we are prospering here in the work of the last days, and to tell you we want more Heralds. There is a great call for them.

Bro. McCord returned from his mission to Ogden last evening. He baptized three up there, who were old members in the days of the first Joseph; one was Bro. John Taylor, and one was Steven Malony, and he reordained them elders, and they promised to do what they could to preach the glad news of the reorganized Church of Christ to all in their vicinity. Sister Taylor with her husband, has always held on to their first love, and opposed the doctrine of Brigham Young with his accursed polygamous system. I can only say now our prospects are glorious at present of doing a great work here in restoring this people back to God from whom they have strayed in the dark and cloudy day, and to obedience to the laws of the land which they have so ingloriously denounced heretofore. I hear good news from all parts of the territory. We have baptized now 20 in all, and many more are with us in faith. The saints here feel to rejoice with unspeakable joy inasmuch as the Lord has visited them again with the gifts of the gospel. and with that peace of mind or love that casteth out all fear. May God bless his saints in all the world with gifts and blessings to glorify His holy name, and build up His kingdom on the earth. Truly the Lord holds the reins in His own hands,