

low-servant, and the fellow-servant of thy brethren the prophets." The above mentioned words of the angel are in the 9th verse of the same chapter where John says: "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." The revelations which God gave unto the Nephites, the seed of Joseph in America were published in the Book of Mormon, and as such these revelations were revealed again to Joseph the Martyr. Therefore this objection to the Book of Mormon, and the prophetic calling of Joseph the Martyr is groundless.

We shall now proceed to revise some remarks of a writer, who has written in defence of the calling of Joseph as a true prophet:

If the Latter-Day Saints are not what they profess to be, one thing is certain, that no person will be able to confute their doctrines by the scriptures. However imperfect this people may be, their doctrines are *irrefutable*. Can this be said of any other people who have lived on the earth during many centuries? No. Their doctrines have been an heterogeneous mixture of truth and error that would not stand the test one moment when measured by such a pattern of inspiration. In all such cases a great disparity can be seen and pointed out, and a great deviation either in their organizations or teachings concerning the gospel can be shown. And now after so many centuries have elapsed, and after human wisdom has been exerted to its utmost strength, and the most exalted and gigantic talents displayed, to lay a stable foundation whereon to build, we awake and behold that all their exertions are an empty bubble—a vain show—a phantom which men have created, with scarcely a vestige of the ancient "form of godliness," and "denying the power thereof." In the midst of all this confusion and spiritual ignorance, a young illiterate, obscure and inexperienced man announced a message from heaven, before which darkness began to flee away; human dogmas to be overturned, the traditions of ages to be uprooted, all forms of church government to tremble like an aspen leaf at its approach, and the mighty fabric of popular sectarianism to be convulsed and shaken to its very foundation. How did these wonderful events come to pass? If Joseph Smith was an impostor how did he obtain this superior wisdom? What power inspired his mind and showed him how to lay the foundation of a church

according to the ancient order? How could an impostor so far surpass the combined wisdom of seventeen centuries as to originate a system diverse from every other system under heaven, and yet harmonize with the system of Jesus and His apostles in every particular? Could an impostor discover the gross darkness of ages, and publish a doctrine perfect in every respect, against which not one scriptural argument can be adduced? The idea is preposterous! The *purity* and *infallibility* of the doctrine of this great modern prophet is a presumptive evidence of no small amount in favor of his divine mission.

Swedenborg, Irving, Campbell and many others have taught doctrines which in some respects are true, in other respects false; hence their authority should be rejected although they should perform miracles. We have no examples in the records of history, of a doctrine perfect in every respect, being taught by any person who was not inspired and who had no authority from God.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

*Minutes of the Annual Conference of the Church of J. C. of L. D. S. held in Plano, Kendall Co., Ill., April 6, 1865.*

APRIL 6TH, AT 10, A. M.

Conference convened by calling Pres. Joseph Smith to preside. Pres. Wm. Marks, associated. Isaac Sheen and J. W. Gillen, Clerks, and Charles Derry, Reporter.

Pres. Joseph Smith delivered an address in which he recommended that a library should be established for the benefit of the church, and in reference to the necessity of making our Conferences representative bodies.

#### REPORTS OF BRANCHES.

BUFFALO IOWA: 15 members, 3 elders, 2 teachers, 1 deacon.

AMBOY, ILL., 5 members baptized and 2 cut off since last reported.

ALLEGHANY, PA.: 30 members, 1 high priest, 4 elders, 2 priests, 6 cut off, 1 dead.

VALLEY, VA.: 22 members.

ABINGDON, ILL.: 11 members, 4 elders, 1 teacher.

HENDERSON GROVE, ILL.: 43 members, 1 apostle, 1 Seventy, 4 elders, 1 priest, 1 teacher, 8 Disfellowshipped, 19 children blessed. C. M. Brown, Pres., T. J. Taylor, Clerk.

ATLAS, ILL.: 18 members, 3 elders, 1 priest, 1 died, Henry Huffman, Pres. Thos. Lambert, Clerk.

CANTON, ILL.: 9 members, 1 Seventy.

PITTSFIELD ILL.: 16 members, 2 elders, 2 priest, L. W. Babbitt, Pres.

KIZER CREEK: 10 members, 1 seventy, 3 elders, 1 teacher.

BUFFALO PRAIRIE: 43 members.

ELK GROVE, WIS.: 11 members, 2 elders.

NORTH STAR, IOWA.: 187 members.

GENEVA, WIS.: 27 members, 3 elders, 1 priest, 1 teacher, 1 deacon; Caleb Hall, President.

FREEDOM, WIS.: 28 members, 3 elders, 2 priests, 1 teacher, 1 deacon; Jas. Ruthford, President.

SWAN CREEK, MICH.: 23 members, Chas. Hutchins, President.

HYDE PARK, PA.: 18 members, 6 elders, 1 teacher.

FORT DES MOINES, IOWA, 18 members, 3 elders, 1 priest.

HANNIBAL, MO.: 8 members, John Taylor, President.

GALIEN, MICH.; 4 baptized and one added by letter since last report.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Official members present: Of the Quorum of the twelve: Z. H. Gurley, James Blakeslee, John Shippy, W. W. Blair.

High Priests: I. L. Rogers, Isaac Sheen, O. P. Dunham, J. C. Gaylord, Wm. Aldrich, Edwin Cadwell, Jesse Price, Jacob Doan.

Of the Quorum of the Seventy; A. M. Wilsey, C. Derry, C. G. Lanphear, J. W. Gillen, R. W. Briggs, Jas. Burgess, L. W. Babbitt, S. Stone, R. Partridge, Wm. D. Morton, Isaac Bogue.

Elders: Josiah Ells, Briggs Alden, Geo. A. Blakeslee, Frederick Squires, Caleb Hall, Horace Bartlett, E. M. White, Philo Howard, Thomas Stafford, Wesley Horton, George Rogers, A. G. Jones, Wm. Swett, Henry Holmes, Yancey Jacobs, Wm. Hazeldine, M. Madison, P. S. Wixom, J. T. Adams, G. Braby, C. M. Brown, Thos. Hougas, Joseph Parsons, David H. Smith, Andrew Hayer.

Priests: Austin Hayer, G. W. Shute.

Teachers: Robert Moore, Silas Rogers, Hans Hayer.

Deacons: Samuel Reynolds.

Many official members arrived afterward.

LINDSEY, C. W.: 18 members including 1 elder, 1 priest, 1 teacher, 1 deacon.

BUCKHORN, C. W.: 32 members including 1 elder, 1 priest, 1 deacon.

UNION WIS: 10 members, including 2 elders.

MISSION ILL.: 44 members, including 4 elders, 2 priests, 1 teacher 1 deacon.

BATAVIA, Ill.: 36 members, including the officers.

TRAFALGAR, C. W.: 9 members, 1 elder, 1 priest.

The following Presidents of Districts reported: Z. H. Gurley J. Blakeslee, J. Shippy, W. W. Blair.

The following presidents of sub-districts reported: L. W. Babbitt, C. G. Lanphear, Joseph Smith, C. Derry, J. Jeremiah, J. Ells, R. Briggs, and A. M. Wilsey.

APRIL 7TH, A. M.

#### REPORTS OF BRANCHES.

STRING PRAIRIE, IOWA: 79 members, including 1 high priest, 5 elders, 2 priests, 1 teacher, 1 deacon, Ira Parrish, Pres., Wm. Haskins, Clerk.

PLANO, ILL.: 20 members, including 1 high priest, 2 seventy, 1 elder, 1 priest, one cut off.

FOX RIVER, ILL.: 76 members, including 1 bishop, 1 apostle, 1 high priest, 5 seventies, 9 elders, 1 priest, 1 teacher, 2 deacons, Wm. Hart, Pres. and Clerk.

LAKE MICH.: 12 members, 1 priest, 1 teacher.

PRINCEVILLE, ILL.: 45 members, 1 high priest, 3 elders, 1 seventy, 1 priest, 1 teacher, R. J. Benjamin, Pres. and Clerk.

WILLOW, Wis.: Organized Oct. 12, 1863, with 7 members. Cyrus Newkirk, Pres. Elder, E. C. Wildermuth, Clerk.

*Resolved*, That John Landers and George Lindsay be sent on a mission to New Brunswick.

*Resolved*, That John D. Jones and Joseph Boswell be sent on a mission to Wales.

*Resolved*, That Geo. Hatt and John Lewis of the Iowa district be sent on a mission to England.

*Resolved*, That all appointments of missions by the Conference are made with the understanding that they are to labor in their ministry under the direction of the presidency of countries or pastorates in which their fields of labor lie.

*Resolved*, That the title of the English mission be changed and called the European mission.

*Resolved*, That Hiram P. Brown, preside over the Pastorate of Northern Iowa, and that the limits be defined by the Quorum of Twelve.

*Resolved*, That Pres. Joseph Smith be released from the presidency of the Nauvoo Pastorate.

*Resolved*, That all that part of Illinois, north of Madison Co., be attached to Bro. Gurley's District.

*Resolved*, That the two eastern tiers of counties of Iowa be added to Bro. Gurley's district.

*Resolved*, That the State of Missouri and all that part of Illinois which is south of the northern line of Madison Co., Ill., be added to the St. Louis Pastorate or district.

*Resolved*, That all of Iowa west of the

two eastern tiers of counties, and Kansas and Nebraska be known as the Iowa Kansas and Nebraska Pastorate.

*Resolved*, That Minnesota and Wisconsin be known as the Minnesota and Wisconsin District.

*Resolved*, That Michigan and Indiana comprise one district which shall be called the Michigan and Indiana District.

*Resolved*, That Ohio, Pa., Va., Del., N. J., N. Y., Md., and the New England States shall comprise one district.

*Resolved*, That the above mentioned district shall be called the Eastern District of the United States.

*Resolved*, That James Blakeslee preside over the Michigan and Indiana District.

*Resolved*, That Wm. W. Blair preside over the Eastern District of the United States.

*Resolved*, That John Shippy preside over the Canada, Nova Scotia and N. B. district.

*Resolved*, That Z. H. Gurley preside over the Northern Illinois and Eastern Iowa district.

*Resolved*, That Bro. J. W. Gillen go with Bro. W. W. Blair on his eastern mission.

*Resolved*, That Bro. C. G. Lanphear and S. J. Stone go on a mission to eastern New York.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Josiah Ells preside over the west part of Pennsylvania and Western Virginia, and that this district be called the Pittsburgh Pastorate.

*Resolved*, That Wentworth Vickery labor in the ministry in the Canada District.

APRIL 8, A. M.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed by the President to settle difficulties in the church in St. Louis.

The president appointed W. W. Blair and J. W. Gillen to be the said committee.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Wm. Hazeldine be ordained an high priest.

*Resolved*, That the names of Daniel B. Razy, David Newkirk and Geo. White be stricken from the Quorum of the Twelve.

*Resolved*, That the President appoint a committee of three to select two men to fill the places of Daniel B. Razy and David Newkirk.

The President appointed Z. H. Gurley, W. W. Blair and A. M. Wilsey.

*Resolved*, That we return the thanks of this Conference to our Methodist friends, in Plano, for their kindness in granting us the use of their house of worship for the purpose of attending to the funeral of Bro. and Sister Patrick's child.

The committee which was appointed by the President, nominated Josiah Ells and Charles Derry to fill the places of D. B. Razy and David Newkirk in the Quorum of the Twelve.

*Resolved*, That Josiah Ells be ordained to the Quorum of the Twelve.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Charles Derry be ordained to the Quorum of the Twelve.

*Resolved*, That J. W. Briggs be continued in the European mission.

*Resolved*, That the Publishing Committee be released from their office.

*Resolved*, That Pres. Joseph Smith be appointed to take charge of the publishing and editorial department of the Herald and of all our publications.

*Resolved*, That a vote of thanks be tendered to Bro. Sheen for his unceasing efforts in the editorial department of the Herald.

Bro. Josiah Ells and Charles Derry were ordained apostles by Jos. Smith, Z. H. Gurley and Jas. Blakeslee.

Wm. Hazeldine was ordained an high priest by Joseph Smith, Jas. Blakeslee and Z. H. Gurley.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Chas. Derry preside over the Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska district.

*Resolved*, That Isaac Sheen be appointed to receive donations for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Conference in the use of the hall in which the Conference is held.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Henry Holmes be appointed on a mission to Canada.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Caleb Hall be appointed on a mission to Northern Wisconsin.

*Resolved*, That Jesse L. Adams and J. D. Bennet be appointed to a mission in Indiana.

*Resolved*, That Edwin Cadwell and Horace Bartlett be appointed to go on a mission to Elk Grove, Lafayette Co. Wis., and that they be authorized to settle the difficulties in the church at that place.

PRINCEVILLE, ILL., branch reported.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, was devoted to the preaching the word. The house was filled and good attention paid.

Bros. D. H. Smith, Joseph Smith, Riley W. Brigg and Josiah Ells, spoke in much good feeling.

APRIL 10, A. M.

Bro S. Powers was appointed to preside over Minnesota and Wisconsin District.

*Resolved*, That Bro. E. C. Briggs be sustained as the President of the Utah and Pacific District.

It was *Resolved*, that the Conference sustain the following officers in their respective offices: Joseph Smith, President of the church; Wm. Marks, Counsellor; J. W. Briggs, Z. H. Gurley, Jas. Blakeslee, W. W. Blair, John Shippy, Josiah Ells, S. Powers, R. Newkirk, Chas. Derry and E.

C. Briggs, apostles; I. L. Rogers, the bishop of the church; the high council; Isaac Sheen, President of the high priests' quorum; A. M. Wilsey, and all the other Presidents of the Quorum of Seventies, and all the spiritual authorities of the church.

*Resolved,* That all the Conferences of Districts are advised to recommend the branches to receive donations monthly from members of the churches, for the purpose of assisting poor saints to emigrate from Europe to this country, and to send such donations to the bishop.

*Resolved,* That the necessities of the church require a Concordance and synopsis, suited to the proper promulgation of the faith of the church.

*Resolved,* That the Emigration fund remain in the hands of the Bishop until called for by a Conference of the church in Europe, and endorsed by action of the General Conference of the Church in America.

*Resolved,* That the necessities of the church require the publication of a series of tracts, for distribution.

*Resolved,* That the necessities of the church require the establishment of a church library.

*Resolved,* That the Conference adjourn to meet in the North Star Branch, near Council Bluffs, Iowa, Oct. 6, 1865.

JOSEPH SMITH, PRESIDENT.

ISAAC SHEEN, } Clerks.  
J. W. GILLEN, }

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**OBITUARY NOTICES.**

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SANDWICH, Ill., April 11, 1865.

Again death has invaded our midst, taking from us a brother, a friend, a husband, and a father. Bro. WILLIAM H. COX departed this life March 23, 1865. He was born Feb. 10, 1831, in Clinton Co., Ohio. United with the church at Whites-town, Ind., under the ministerial labors of Bro. Samuel Powers, May 24, 1861. He was ordained an elder by Elders Blakeslee, and Powers, Feb. 15, 1863, and for a time presided over the Whitestown branch. He died as he had lived, loved and respected by all who knew him, it being his chief desire to make all happy around him, and to emulate the character of his Redeemer; a firm believer in the fulness of the gospel, and the latter-day work, having received a testimony for himself, (as the writer has often heard him declare.) He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss, but they mourn not as they who have no hope. He has taken his leave of the trials and

sorrows below, for a pure land, where rivers of pleasure doth flow; he has taken his leave of the troubles and trials of earth, for a pure land, where joys everlasting have birth. J. B. HENDERSON.

At Buffalo Prairie, Ill., Nov. 30, 1864, WENTWORTH HOLMES, sen., aged 57 years, 10 months and nine days. Bro. Holmes united with the church at an early day, and has kept the faith. He has never had any connection with any of the different factions that have sprung up since the death of Joseph the Martyr, but has lived his religion, and was looking forward to the time when young Joseph would take his father's place, accordingly when the glad news reached him, in the Fall of 1861, it caused his aged heart to rejoice exceedingly; he immediately united with the Reorganization, and was elected President of this Branch. Since then he has faithfully presided over the same, and by the blessing of God has done much good. His only brother, MOSES HOLMES, died December 20, 1864; aged 49 years, 8 months and 17 days. They united with the reorganization at the same time. Their funeral sermon was preached by Bro. Z. H. Gurley. It was a solemn and appropriate discourse, from Rev. 14: 13, to a large and attentive congregation, who had come to pay the last tribute of respect to our brethren, who will be greatly missed by all. Bro. W. Holmes leaves a wife and seven children, mostly grown, and members of the church.

Rest brethren, rest in peace

With those whom God hath blest,  
Where the wicked they shall cease,  
And the weary are at rest.

At Hannibal, Mo., March 23rd, 1865, JANET S. C. TAYLOR, aged 5 years 2 months and 3 days.

At Plano, Ill., April 5, 1865 of diptheria, CORA A. daughter of Theodore J. and Amanda E. Patrick; aged 3 years, 5 months and fifteen days.

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A SPECIAL CONFERENCE of the church for the District of Michigan and Indiana, will be held at Galien, Berrien Co. Mich., commencing June 2, 1865. It is desirable that we should hear from the saints in all parts of these States at the Conference.

JAMES BLAKESLEE,  
PRESIDENT OF THE MICH. AND IND., DISTRICT.

THOMAS J. ANDREWS is our authorized Agent in California, for the Herald and