

ing the treasure, and for a moment she thought the man of God trifled with her.

But God esteems all that is done to His children as done to himself, and rewards accordingly; and the Shunamite had a blessed reward, in the son of her bosom. A new joy sprang up in her heart; but, when the gift was withdrawn, the Prophet restored it again. So she learned to hold her treasure as lent by the Lord to her.

The Prophet, faithful in his friendship, let her know of the approaching famine. Then she had to leave that home of her childhood and youth, and dwell in a strange land. But she returned, with all the celebrity of former days, and claimed her own inheritance, and died among her kindred. God honors us when He sends His servants to our care.—*Israelite Indeed.*

## CONFERENCES.

### Semi-Annual Conference.

*Minutes of the Semi-Annual Conference of the C. of J. C. of L. D. S., held at Mosquito Creek, near Council Bluffs, Iowa, October 6, 3, 1866.*

OCTOBER 6, A. M.

Conference organized by choosing Elder Charles Derry, President pro. tem., in the absence of President Joseph Smith; and Eders Charles W. Lange and D. H. Bays, Secretaries.

Pres. Derry made some very appropriate remarks to the saints, requesting them to uphold and sustain him by their faith and prayers, to enable him to conduct the affairs of this Conference in the absence of our beloved Prophet, Joseph, to the honor and glory of God.

#### REPORTS OF DISTRICT PRESIDENTS.

Pres. Wheeler Baldwin reported his district in a flourishing condition, and having been very successful in raising means toward the publication of the New Translation of the Bible, it being the greatest desire of his soul to carry the same forth with power unto the nations of the earth; exhorting the saints to be liberal in contributing towards the publication of that most glorious work, whose forthcoming is a certain proof of the speedy redemption of Zion.

He organized a flourishing branch in Nebraska City.

Pres. S. W. Condit stated that he had held two days meetings in nearly all the branches of the district, with good effect, preaching Sabbaths, and in general finding this district in a prosperous condition.

Pres. Alex. McCord reported his district in the same state.

Pres. R. C. B. Alvin reported his district in a healthy condition.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Pres. J. A. McIntosh reported his district.

Pres. Thos. Dobson stated that the elders in his district were laboring with good effect, but some of the branches under his presidency were rather inactive.

Pres. Z. S. Martin gave in a very encouraging report of his district; from the greatest to the least, they are vying with each other to further the cause of truth.

Pres. Chas. Derry: said he had labored almost incessantly this year for the good of Zion; that he had labored in Decatur District, and preached to full houses, but, owing to some division among the members of that branch, they were not united as saints of God should be, but was in full hopes of seeing the cause thereof removed, and the branch assume again its healthy condition. He reported very favorable the other parts of his district.

The above reports were all unanimously received.

#### REPORTS OF ELDERS.

Hugh Lytle, Wm. A. Litz, Ballou, Calvin Beebe, Levi Graybill, Wilson Sellers, Orrin Butts and I. C. Williams.

OCT. 7, A. M.

Elder Hudson addressed the saints, and all present, upon these words: "The poor man's wisdom is despised, his words are not heard," demonstrating clearly by his remarks, that, although the world may reject our testimony, even the words of eternal life, because we are poor, despised, and ignorant pertaining to the wisdom of this world, these are the very instruments, God makes use of to confound the wisdom of the wise, and to bring their understanding to naught, to advance this cause here upon the earth and establish His church and kingdom. Elder Wheeler Baldwin sanctioned the remarks made by Elder Hudson, adding many more important and useful instructions to both saints and sinners, in a comprehensive manner. Elder Derry followed upon the same topic, in his usual eloquent and demonstrative style, proving that true riches are only contained in the glorious principles of salvation. If this was not the case, they would not have been revealed to man, as necessary to his exaltation, while every thing else, and any other means have to crumble to the dust, and succumb to the victorious march of light and truth.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Elder Gordon Duel was appointed to preach this evening at Council Bluff City.

Elder Charles Derry then preached to a very large and attentive congregation, upon the setting up of the kingdom of God in the last days, explaining in a most clear and lucid manner the second chapter of Daniel, proving by the same and other passages from the Bible, that this kingdom spoken of by Daniel, was to be a literal, substantial organization of God upon earth, and not, as the Christian world explain it, a spiritual or imaginary one established in the hearts of the people. For this little stone cut out of the mountain, (which is modern Babylon,) without hands, (the power of God,) should smite the image upon the toes and break it to pieces, then roll forth, (gradually increasing in size and strength) until it fills the whole earth, (not the hearts of men.)

Elder Nickerson bore testimony to the truth of the remarks of Bro. Derry, exhorting the saints to faithfulness and charity, which indeed is the greatest of all virtues, and practical religion ought to be the religion of the saints, every thing he possessed lay ready to be sacrificed for the good of the great and glorious cause of God. Amen.

OCTOBER 8, A. M.

*Resolved*, That, for the want of time, the further reports of elders be omitted.

Bishop Gamet reported his stewardship as follows :

The whole amount received, from Oct. 6, 1865, to Oct. 6, 1866, \$844.42.

Amount paid out, \$1024.96.

Leaving the church indebted to the Bishop, \$180.54.

Report accepted.

*Resolved*, That the deficiency in favor of Bishop Gamet be made up by the various branches in the district.

Eld. McCord was released from the presidency of the Pottawatomie District, and Elder J. M. Putney appointed in his stead.

*Resolved*, That Elder Thos. Dobson be released from the presidency of the Shelby County District, and Elder McCord be appointed in his place.

*Resolved*, That southern Nebraska be set apart as a District, over which Elder R. C. B. Alvin preside.

*Resolved*, That Elder W. Baldwin continue to preside over Fremont District.

Elder S. W. Condit was sustained as President of the Harrison District, Elder Z. Martin as President of Central Nebraska District, and Elder Chas. Derry as President of the Western Iowa District.

MISSIONS.

Elders John Lake and Geo. Redfield were appointed to labor in Canada;

Elders Wheeler Cannon and Dexter Hartwell to labor under the direction of Elder W. Baldwin; Elders W. Lange and Saml. Longbottom under the direction of Elder J. M. Putney; Elder Horace Smith continue to labor in the Pottawatomie District; Elder Haus. Hanson labor among the Danish people of Omaha, N. T., and organize the same into a branch; Elders W. A. Litz and Hugh Lytle appointed as Presidents of Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee; Elder W. Craven to labor under the direction of Elder Litz.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Wm. Booker be ordained an elder, and labor under Elder Lytle, Alabama; that Elder Wilson Sellers labor under the Presidency of Elder R. C. B. Alvin; that Elder A. H. Struthers preside over the String Prairie District; that Elder Thos. W. Galey labor in Colorado Territory, and Elder Peter Muréy be released from said mission; Elder Gordon Duel appointed to Northumberland, Canada West.

*Resolved*, That this Conference request the President of the Utah District to send, if possible, some elder to labor in Montana Territory.

*Resolved*, That the presidents of districts act as book agents; that Bro. Booker act as such for Alabama.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Ezra Landon be ordained an elder, and labor under the direction of Elder John Shippy.

*Resolved*, That the reports of the investigating committee be received.

On application, *Resolved*, That Bro. and Sister Scovil be received into the church on their original baptism.

*Resolved*, That the southern missionaries, including Elder Gordon Duel, have the privilege of visiting the various branches to solicit means to enable them to proceed to their respective missions.

According to previous motion Bros. Landon, Booker and Longbottom, were ordained Elders under the hands of Elders Chas. Derry, S. W. Condit and H. Lytle.

Bro. Joseph Smith was sustained and upheld as Prophet, Seer, Revelator and President of the Church of J. C. of L. D. S., throughout the world, and Bro. Wm. Marks as his Counsellor; likewise the quorum of the Twelve, with Elder Jason W. Briggs as President, and all the other quorums in the church.

*Resolved*, That the next Annual Conference, commencing April 6, 1867, be held in the vicinity of String Prairie.

*Resolved*, That this Conference tender a vote of thanks to Mr. Childs for the use of the ground on which Conference was held.

Also a vote of thanks to the North Star Branch, Crescent City and Union Branches, for the zeal manifested by them in making arrangements for the Conference.

A two days' meeting was appointed to be held in the Lone Star Branch, on the first Saturday and Sunday in January, 1867.

*Resolved*, That this Conference adjourn to meet in the vicinity of String Prairie, April 6, 1867, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

CHARLES DERRY, PRESIDENT.

CHARLES W. LANGE, } Clerks.  
D. H. BAYS, }

P. S. Six persons were baptized and three children blessed during the conference.

The Conference was largely attended, and good order and decorum prevailed throughout the same, some single instances excepted, for the adversary of righteousness and the work of God, was alive and astir, and actively engaged to further his own interest to the best of his ability; but the power of Jehovah was with His saints, and His Holy Spirit manifested through all their transactions in the most powerful degree, overwhelming all other influences by which they were surrounded.

Although a shadow overclouded, for a moment, the bright and happy faces of the saints, on account of the absence of our dearly beloved President, Joseph, yet knowing that only the most pressing and urgent duties would detain him from our midst, we, like true philosophers, resigned ourselves to our fate, although anxiously wishing and expecting in the mean time, to the last minute, to behold him among us. But he had a worthy representative indeed, in the person of Elder Charles Derry, who presided, and conducted the affairs of this Conference like a servant of God in the strictest sense of the word, assisted nobly by the rest of the brethren holding the holy priesthood. Great and glorious principles were handed out by them to the eager listening multitude, who drank deep into the words of eternal life and truth, filling them with the same to overflowing.

How thrilling, how sublime it was to see a number of the saints arise, and in new tongues speak of the glorious work of God established in these last days, and in testimony unrefutable, through the voice of prophecy, declare Joseph Smith to be the "Moses man" spoken of in holy writ, raised up to lead, not far from hence, His chosen people, with power and a stretched out arm, to the land of their inheritances.

It was an event never to be forgotten, and impressions deep, and resolutions lasting, were made by the saints, to live from henceforth more closely to the Lord.

Harmony and good feeling having characterized the whole proceedings, with joy beaming upon every countenance, and hearts filled with the Spirit of God, every one went to his respective home.

CHARLES W. LANGE.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM BRO. W. W. BLAIR.—We have just concluded a very spirited and profitable Conference at this place. Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island were organized into what is to be known as the Massachusetts Conference (District) of the C. of J. C. of L. D. S., Wm. Cottam was chosen its permanent President.

The Spirit of the Lord testifies that a great work will be done in this eastern country. The elders are faithful, zealous, and united, and they are fully determined to labor to save souls. It has seldom been my good fortune to meet with such spiritual saints as those at Fall River. Ten of them have received the gift of tongues—All but two of them have received the gift since uniting with the reorganized church, the others received it in the old organization. They have three interpreters, and four who have the gift of prophecy. Healings, spiritual dreams and visions are had among them to a great degree, and they are all living in the unity of the Spirit, and the bond of peace. This branch was organized, as you will remember, in December last by Bro. Jas. W. Gillen. It then had sixteen members, they now have sixty-three members, and a great many more are believing, while some have expressed a determination to be baptized soon. The manner in which they obtain the gifts is by appointing meetings for that especial object, and then coming together fasting. Yesterday we had a great outpouring of the Spirit; many hearts were filled with the love of God, and the power of the Holy Ghost. The Lord was in our midst, and our souls overflowed with joy and gladness.

Elders E. N. Webster and Geo. C. Smith will labor in Boston and vicinity. Elder Cyriel E. Brown in Milberry and vicinity. Elder Cottam, and others, will visit Dennisport, New Bedford, Cohasset, Lawrence, Salem, Groveland, Somerville, and other places, as the way may open before them.

I start this afternoon for New York, Hyde Park, Pittsburgh, and so on to Brookfield, Kirtland, and to my home.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Oct. 15, 1866.

FROM BRO. THOS. W. SMITH.—You will doubtless be glad to hear of our prosperity