

with indignation and judgment He will visit and destroy the wicked with unquenchable fire.

Our branch in this city has eight members. There are large numbers of old Latter-Day Saints in this distant country. At present our efforts are not over successful, but the seed is being continually sown, and is evidently taking root with many; with others our efforts seem unavailing at present; the fear of imposition being again repeated prevents many from seeing the importance of the restoration, and they will not listen, neither allow their minds to give the work an investigation. Many, through their disappointment, have so far forgotten themselves as to observe the abominable dogmas of infidelity, but those who have received the truth, rejoice in the glad tidings of salvation which are again given to man, having lost, in a measure their first love, and suffered bondage of mind almost unbearable, now feel glad with the light and liberty it gives them. We will strive while an opportunity lasts to bring those scattered ones into the fold once more, from which, in the hour of forgetfulness, and when there was no shepherd to lead them, they have departed; that they with us may be made glad with the knowledge of the salvation which the Almighty has again provided for His people, in this, our day.

I did not anticipate such a long letter to you, and I hope to be excused the intrusion upon your precious moments, and may the God of Israel shield and protect us, while with indignation and wrath upon the wicked He is accomplishing His purposes for His people's salvation, which is the prayer of the saints comprising the San Francisco Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the bonds of the new and everlasting covenant of peace.

THOMAS J. ANDREWS.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

*Minutes of the Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, held at Amboy, Lec Co., Ill., commencing April 6, 1864.*

Conference was called to order by appointing President Joseph Smith, to preside, with President Wm. Marks, as assistant; and Isaac Sheen and J. W. Gillen, Clerks. After singing and prayer the President addressed the Conference as follows:

"The first business of the afternoon will be for the members of the different quo-

rums to report themselves, in order to ascertain the representation of each quorum. I am not adequate to the task that is before me this morning, of addressing you; and as we wish, and as we are obliged to meet every sect and schism of (so called) Mormonism, we need not be alarmed, although many of them have revived since the Reorganization of this Church. We should drink deep into truth, in order that we may be upheld. We have not yet arrived at a proper order, but there seems to be a desire, not so much to create numbers as to discharge their duty, and of being filled with love to all mankind. There was a time when the elders were desirous of putting down every one but themselves, but now they seem to be desirous of setting forth the principles of truth, and of leaving the same for the candid consideration of the people, that there is consolation in contemplating the progress of the work is apparent, and that the Spirit of truth is being poured out upon us in this and other countries. We should preach by example as well as by precept, and show by our conduct that we have embraced the truth, and have been adopted into the kingdom. In accordance to the degree of good that we do, and the state of purity to which we attain to, so shall our reward be. There are but few who have endeavored to eradicate or overcome those evil practices or vices, but what have accomplished it, for God does not require anything of us but what we can perform. Paul exhorts his brethren to prove their own works, and he places the means in their hands to do it. We should arouse our principles of manhood, and shake off our vices, by which we have been held in bondage. The laws of God are harmonious, and He does not give us a law to-day that He will contradict to-morrow. When we consider the troubles and trials that are in our own land, and also on the other side of the ocean, how necessary it is that we should make the places in which we live holy, and show that we are God's free men, and show that the gospel has made us free indeed. We pray to God to give us help—to give us strength and knowledge, but do we put ourselves in the proper position; do we put forth the proper efforts to receive these things? The question has often been asked, why has there not been a flaming proclamation to the scattered sheep of the house of Israel to put on their beautiful garments? Now there are a great many all over the land who call themselves saints, who would be willing to gather without the necessary preparation, but I believe that we must live in obedience to the law of God before we can go to Zion, inasmuch as no covetous person, or

drunkard, or liar, or tale bearer can find a place in Zion, therefore we can easily see why this flaming proclamation has not been sent forth, for we have seen that wherever it has been attempted, it has proved a failure. The Latter-Day work is truly a great work, and we are preparing for the world to come, therefore we can not be too practicable; for instance, we preach faith and repentance; this is a practicable turning away from every thing that is evil, then being baptized for the remission of our sins, then receiving the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, then adding to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, etc., and the apostle declares that if you do these things, they make you that ye shall be neither barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. By this you see the practicability of the plan of salvation. We should every morning ask ourselves what we can do today for the advancement of the cause of God, and for our own benefit we certainly can do this."

Conference adjourned until 1 P. M.

1 P. M.—Met pursuant to adjournment. The following number of official members of the quorum of Twelve were present, 4; of High Priests, 1; Bishop, 1; High Council, 6; of the quorum of Seventy, 8; of Elders, 18; Priest, 1; Teachers, 2; Deacon, 1.

*Resolved*, That the minutes of the last Semi-Annual Conference be received as they were published in the Herald.

#### REPORTS OF BRANCHES.

The Lindsley branch C. W., consists of 20 members, including 1 Elder, 1 Priest, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon. Asa Vickery, Presiding Elder; Moses Shaw, Clerk.

Trafalgar Branch, C. W., consists of 8 members, including 1 Elder and 1 Priest. Wm. Warnock, Presiding Elder; Robert Warnock, Clerk.

Buekhorn Branch, C. W., consists of 26 members, including 2 Elders, 1 Priest, 1 Deacon. Geo. Cleveland, Presiding Elder and Clerk.

Plano Branch, Ill., consists of 19 members, including 1 High Priest, 1 Seventy, 2 Elders, 1 Priest, 1 Teacher. W. D. Morton, Clerk.

Gallen Branch, Mich., 5 have been added by baptism, and 2 died. G. A. Blakeslee, President; Cyrus Thurston, Clerk.

Mission Branch, La Salle Co., Ill., consists of 36 members, including 4 Elders, 2 Priests, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon, 4 children blessed. Yance Jacobs, President; Austin Hayer, Clerk.

Montrose Branch, Lee Co., Iowa, consists of 34 members, including 4 Elders, 1 Priest,

2 Teachers, 1 Deacon. Alex. Struthers, Presiding Elder; W. W. Reid, Clerk.

Burlington Branch, Wis., consists of 21 members. Wm. Aldrich, President; Isaac F. Scott, Clerk.

Nauvoo Branch, Ill., 9 added since last reported, 4 removed by letter. Alexander Smith, President; David H. Smith, Clerk.

Batavia Branch, Ill., consists of 32 members, including 2 Elders, 1 Teacher, 15 added by baptism, 5 children blessed. Philo Howard, President.

The St. Louis Conference is composed of 6 branches, viz: Blue Ridge, Dry Hill and St. Louis, Mo., Alton, Caseyville and Illinoistown, Ill., containing 68 members, including 1 Seventy, 24 Elders, 5 Priests, 3 Teachers and 1 Deacon.

Buffalo Branch, Iowa, consists of 15 members, 1 High Priest, 1 Seventy, 2 Elders, 1 Priest, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon; 1 baptized and 1 cut off. R. Groom, President.

Amboy Branch, Ill., remains as last reported except 2 removed and 3 added. Charles Williams, President; Stephen J. Stone, Clerk.

Nashville Branch, Iowa, consists of 9 members. William Anderson, President.

Princeville Branch, Ill., consists of 14 members, including 4 Elders and 1 Teacher. H. Bronson, President.

#### REPORTS OF ELDERS.

James Blakeslee said: At the last Annual Conference I was appointed to preside over eastern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. I visited Kirtland, Ohio, baptized 5; visited Whitestown and Elkhart, Indiana, about this time my health became very poor and I returned home and remained some time. I also preached in Mission, Sandwich, and Plano branches. Three have been added in Batavia during my mission. Although my health has been very poor, the Lord has been with me, and I have had great liberty in speaking, and have been instrumental in removing a great deal of prejudice. I still remain in the market, and intend to continue to labor in the ministry unto the end of my days.

Samuel Powers said that he preached in company with Bro. Aldrich. He baptized one woman who was at the point of death, and she was healed. He also preached in Canada East, New Hampshire and Vermont, baptized 13 including three since he returned home.

Reuben Newkirk said that he understood that in connection with Bro. Gurley he was to take the presidency of northern Illinois and Wisconsin. He has labored in connection with Bro. Gurley; he had not travelled much for the reason that he has a family to

support, but he is willing to do all he can.

John Shippy said that it was understood that he was appointed to preside over Michigan and Canada. He reported in June last and also in August, he then left and went to Galien, Mich., he then went to the Lake branch, came back to Galien, baptized 4. Bro. Gillen left me and went to Wakashma, we again came in company at Kalamazoo, and went to Grand Rapids found some old saints; went from there to Swan Creek branch, found many of them cold, baptized 1 and blessed several children, then went to Pine Run, found some who had formerly been Strangites, we could do nothing there. left two elders to travel through that section of country. We then proceeded to Canada, found them all alive in the work, and enjoying the gifts of the gospel, tongues, prophecy, etc., the Presiding Elder and priest had been warned by the Spirit to go to the surrounding country. We preached once, and left an appointment for three weeks from that time. Bro. Gillen filled that appointment, and left another for three weeks from that time. From there we went to the Buckhorn branch, re-baptized 1 and baptized 2. We went back to the vicinity of Louisville where we had left the appointment. Bro. Gillen and I preached alternately, and also baptized in the same manner; we finally organized a branch of 19 members while there. A Mr. Shaw gave me a challenge, I accepted it, but he was not ready to meet us at that time, so we agreed to meet him in January; when the time came we wrote a letter to inform him that we were ready to meet him, his answer was, that he had *p-as* to thrash, and could not come. Thus ended that discussion. However, after a time there came to our meeting a local preacher and requested a challenge, we gave him one and thereby met I. B. Richardson, a Methodist Episcopal Minister and Editor of the *Western Union*, in debate. After his first speech he did not fill out his time for lack of something to say. All that he had to say in his last speech were extracts from newspaper stories, and about Joseph Smith walking on the water, etc., thus ended the first debate. The next week we met Elder Duncan, a Baptist Minister, but as the debate has been published in the *Chatham Planet*, we will say but little about it. The Book of Mormon was the subject of the last day's debate, and he (Duncan) never brought up a passage of scripture as rebutting evidence, neither did he try to refute my arguments. We left the following Monday to go to Trafalgar, the Methodists opened their church, and we preached once, but they did not like the doctrine that we advanced. We baptized

8 and organized a branch, and then went to the Lindsley branch and baptized 2; then went to the Buckhorn branch, from thence to Galien, Mich., had what we called a squib debate, baptized 2, from there we went to Plano. During my mission I baptized 29.

Wm. Anderson said: "At a Council Meeting held at String Prairie, I was appointed to go to St. Louis, in company with Bros. Cuerdon, Lake and Davis. I started in company with Bro. Lake, expecting to find Bros. Cuerdon and Davis. We found some that wanted to be baptized, but as we were in Bro. Babbitt's district, we sent for him to baptize them. We then went to Kizer Creek, and from there went to St. Louis, found Bro. Cuerdon laboring there; I went to Carondelet to get an opening. The Brighamites were not well pleased with us. We preached in Blue Ridge, and in Gravois. I have been well treated, although I traveled without purse or scrip. I make it a practice to preach every Sunday. It is my determination to do all I can to roll on the work. I am at the disposal of the Conference.

J. T. Phillips said: "I united with this church last February; I have baptized 7. I have wept many times and desired that the time would come that I could hear the gospel again as I once heard it in Wales."

C. G. Lanphear said: "I suppose that it is necessary that I should make a report. I went to Princeville and preached once, then I went to Victoria and appointed a meeting, and preached on Sunday. We found a man by the name of Brooks, an opponent. He preached at 10 A. M., I preached in the afternoon and rebutted some of his remarks. From there I went to Galesburg. I there received a letter from Bro. Gurley to arrange some affairs in the branch. From there I went to Millersburgh, and from there to the Buffalo branch, Iowa, and from there to Moscow; they opened their meeting house, it is free to all. Went to Jackson county, preached several times, the branch had added 7 or 8 to their number; went to Jones county, and from thence to Wisconsin. Although I have not baptized any, yet I feel that my labor has not been in vain. I have not been very well, but my bodily health has been renewed. I went east and visited some of my relatives and preached twice. I feel to bear testimony to this work, and am ready to travel and preach this summer."

Conference adjourned to meet at 9 A. M. next morning.

April 7th, 9 A. M.—Met pursuant to adjournment. Bro. Wildermuth said: "I was appointed to labor in connection with Bro. Lanphear. He has reported, therefore it will be unnecessary for me to say any-

thing about it. At the August Conference I was appointed to labor in Iowa. I labored in connection with Bro. Dillon and found some members of the reorganization who had been members of the branch at Zarahemla, and were desirous of being organized again. I am ready to labor."

Henry Cuerton said: "I was appointed to labor under Bro. Joseph, and as far as circumstances permitted, preached in Hancock county. At our September Council I was appointed to go down into the vicinity of St. Louis. On Dec. 12th we crossed the river to go to St. Louis, and started without a cent of money, and the weather rather stormy. I went to Nashville and from there to Keokuk, where we were delayed. I went into a hall and it happened to be a Methodist meeting. They began to talk to me about religion. I told them my views and solicited an opportunity to preach, they not knowing who I was, but I told them I was on a mission to Missouri. I preached in the afternoon for the Colored Baptist church, and all felt well. Next day Bro. Lake and myself started across the river. Bro. Lake thought, owing to the coldness of the weather, that we should not proceed any farther. We held a council and concluded to separate, and each one preach our way through to St. Louis by different routes, so I went alone to Pike Co., Ill. I arrived in St. Louis on Sunday afternoon. I attended a meeting of the Brighamites. I requested the privilege of preaching in their hall that evening. They gave consent, so I preached to them the truth of the gospel. After meeting, the President of the branch asked me if I believed that Brigham Young was Prophet, Seer and Revelator of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints? I said, No. He made some remarks in regard to Brigham Young being the man. I then requested them to let me give my reasons for not believing that Brigham is the man to lead the church. They gave me liberty, so I gave them some of my reasons for denouncing him. I asked him if the Twelve had not imposed upon them. The next day Bro. Anderson arrived and we took the city street by street, and visited from house to house. Some two of the brethren proffered to pay for a hall if we would hire one to preach in. I found many that I had been acquainted with. We preached, and the next day we visited from street to street again. The Brighamites held a council. The first counsellor resigned; the following Sunday five were cut off. I told the Brighamites in St. Louis that they all knew that the Twelve in Utah were base imposters, and that they have shamefully imposed upon them and robbed them. The Clerk in the

Brighamite Council said: 'my books are closed never to be opened again by me.' He did not believe that Brigham Young was the man. In Blue Ridge we reorganized a branch, and all the Welsh who were following Brigham, except one, renounced him and confessed that they believed in the reorganization. In St. Louis the Brighamites thought that a man was gone over to Josephism if he was found reading the B. of M. or B. of C. We divided St. Louis into 7 Wards, and appointed a President over every Ward. It was Resolved, That we would sustain and uphold the paper which the saints were going to establish in England, and the Herald, in this country."

Oliver Bailey said: "I was ordained at the last August Conference. I was laboring in Michigan. I labored as circumstances permitted. The last of January I went to Cold Water, I baptized 4 and there is a prospect of more, they are desirous of having elders sent there who are capable of delivering a course of lectures. I am at your disposal."

J. W. Gillen said that he was appointed at the last April Conference to labor under the presidency of Bro. Gurley until the June Conference, which he did. Then, according to appointment he went with Bro. Shippy to Michigan and Canada. He said that he was ready and willing to continue in the field. I baptized 18.

William Kelly said: "I was appointed to labor in Minnesota. Had small congregations, and but few obeyed, but I think much good has been done. Held meetings in Alloway Grove, and many are believing. Truly the Lord was with me."

Riley Briggs said: "I have been in Western Wisconsin and Minnesota with Bro. Kelly. We preached in all the cities, towns and villages where we could find opportunities. We visited Zarahemla, where this organization first started, and we found large openings for preaching. I am at the disposal of the Conference."

Alexander Smith said: "At the Iowa Conference I was appointed to labor in connection with Bro. Blair, and as he said that he would report by letter, I shall only speak of what I did after he left me. I preached in the different branches. I went to the Camp Creek branch, Neb., I found a great many who were desirous of re-confirmation, which I attended to."

Adjourned to 1 o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Brother Landers said: I went to Long Point and Ottawa, I remained three weeks, I had large congregations, but my bodily strength began to fail me, inasmuch as many years have rolled over my head, and I have had

to succumb to old age. He bore his testimony to the work, and exhorted the elders to be more diligent in the discharge of their duties.

Thomas Jenkins said: "Since I united with the Reorganization, I have endeavored to do something for the advancement of the cause, I can not preach much in English, but delight to preach in the Welsh language. I am also willing to take a mission to Wales if desired."

Benjamin Austin said: "As a local Elder I have not been pushed, but I have endeavored to preach to the surrounding country in the vicinity in which I live, and am willing to labor as far as circumstances will permit."

Edwin Cadwell said: "I have not labored much this winter. Bro. Stone and I agreed to take a mission together. We went down to Franklin Grove, where they never had heard any thing about our doctrine. We preached in different places in Jo Davis county, our congregations were small; we obtained a Methodist church to preach in. I am willing to do what little I can for the rolling forth of the work."

Jerome Ruby said: "I never have been permitted to attend a Conference before. I labored some after I was ordained. I hope to be able to travel again next winter."

Charles Williams said: "I left home in Feb., and went into the vicinity of Carroll Co., and from there went to another place. There was a great deal of prejudice, but it was greatly removed, and I could hardly get away, there is a great inquiry after the principles of truth, the most difficult thing for them to believe is the Book of Mormon."

Levi Lightfoot said: "I am willing to do all that I can for the furtherance of this work. I preach wherever an opportunity presents itself."

Pres. J. Smith reported that he had been peculiarly blessed in his labors in this work. I went with my brothers Alexander and David to Iowa. I preached twice in Little River branch. From there I went to Manti. It had been said that I would be afraid to go to Manti. On Monday evening I preached to them; next day I visited Father Cutler. We found him a genial hearted man. On Tuesday evening I preached in the school house. We had an interesting interview. I preached several times. At Omaha I undertook to preach without the Spirit, and found it hard work. I preached at Bear Creek, and had a Baptist preacher at my right hand and a Methodist minister taking notes. I have received letters from many who have set up pretended claims, which I did not deem it necessary to answer, one from C. B. Thompson. It has been said that

I was ordained by J. J. Strang. I have twice denied it before, and therefore I have not answered a letter which has been sent to me on the subject.

He likewise reported that the work is spreading in the String Prairie Conference, and that the Nauvoo Conference is in a good state of prosperity, and that the St. Louis Conference had requested all the official members to labor in the ministry.

He said that the Nauvoo Conference recommends that Bro. B. Austin be ordained a bishop of that Conference.

He said that the next meeting of the Nauvoo Conference will be held on the second Saturday in June, and that they invite their friends from a distance to meet with them.

Adjourned to next day at 9, A. M.

April 8, Conference met and opened as usual. It was

*Resolved*, That Bro. Steven Richardson be received as a member of this church.

The following named persons who were baptized yesterday by W. H. Kelly were confirmed: Matthew Hunter, Cindarilla Gifford and Abiah Cook, by S. Powers and J. Shippy.

The report of the Princeville Branch was received which showed that the branch contains 14 members, including four elders and one teacher, two elders have been disfellowshipped.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Hugh Lytle be ordained an high priest, by W. W. Blair, and Thomas Dungan and Michael Griffith be ordained high priest by J. Smith.

*Resolved*, That Benjamin Austin be ordained an high priest.

*Resolved*, That John Landers be ordained an high priest.

Bros. Austin and Landers were ordained by James Blakeslee and Reuben Newkirk.

*Resolved*. That Benjamin Austin be ordained a bishop in the church for the Nauvoo Conference.

He was ordained to that office by Pres. J. Smith and Wm. Marks.

Adjourned to 1 o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

It was *Resolved*, that Hiram P. Brown be received into this church and that he be ordained an elder.

*Resolved*, That John T. Phillips, Thos. Jenkins and David Evans be sent on a mission to Wales.

#### APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

James Blakeslee to preside over the missions in the State of New York, and that C. G. Lanphear and C. W. Wheaton go with him.

John Shippy to preside over the missions in the Canadas and Nova Scotia, and New-brunswick, and that J. W. Gillen and W. Pomeroy go with him.

James Burgess to preside over the missions in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Reuben Newkirk, preside over the missions in Western Wisconsin, and that E. M. Wildermuth go with him.

W. W. Blair, to preside over the missions in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and that Wm. Anderson go with him.

Samuel Powers to preside over Eastern Wisconsin and Michigan, and that Hiram P. Brown, go with him.

J. T. Phillips and T. E. Jenkins and David Evans to go to Wales on missions, and to be under the direction of J. W. Briggs.

Riley Briggs and Wm. H. Kelley was appointed to labor in Minnesota.

Z. H. Gurley to preside over the missions in Northern Illinois.

Joseph Smith, to preside over Southern Illinois, and Eastern Iowa, and Missouri.

Hugh Lytle to preside over Western Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

George Redfield and W. Gaylord were requested to preach on their contemplated journey to Utah, and Thomas Reed in England.

*Resolved*, That Bro. J. W. Brigg be sustained by this Conferenae.

*Resolved*, That we sustain E. C. Briggs, and those who are laboring with him.

*Resolved*, That we sustain all who have been appointed on missions.

*Resolved*, That we recommend that all the elders labor in the ministry.

Hiram P. Brown was ordained by Samuel Powers.

CHILD BLESSED by James Blakeslee: Emma, daughter of John and Matilda Hook, born February 3, 1864.

*Resolved*, That Wentworth Vickery and James Mathers be ordained elders. Confirmed by J. Shippy, and J. W. Gillen.

*Resolved*, That the hand of fellowship be withdrawn from G. White of the quorum of the twelve, until he reports, with the proviso that if he is dead this resolution is inoperative.

A Special Conference was appointed to be held at Nauvoo, on the second Saturday in June next.

*Resolved*, That a Special Conference be held at Mission Branch on the last Friday in August.

A Special Conference will be held in Kent County, Canada West, on the 2nd Saturday and Sunday in July next.

Those who wish to attend it should

take the Great Western Rail Road to Chatham, thence to Louisville.

*Resolved*, That John Dennison Bennet, be ordained an elder.

A Special Conference is to be held in Burlington, Wisconsin on the first Saturday in June.

*Resolved*, That the next Semi-Annual Conference be held at the Galland's Grove Branch, Iowa.

*Resolved*, That the bros. who are appointed to go to Wales be ordained to the Quorum of Seventy.

*Resolved*, That the official members who have not licences be supplied with them.

*Resolved*, That official members who are going on missions be supplied with blank licences.

*Resolved*, That Thos. Revel be ordained by W. W. Blair, to the Quorum of Seventy.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Blakeslee Brush and Mary P. Brush, be received as members.

Bros. C. G. Lanphear and H. Cuerden ordained John T. Phillips and Thos. E. Jenkins, elders of the Quorum of Seventy; and Wentworth Vickery and J. D. Bennet elders.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Riley Briggs be ordained a Seventy.

He was ordained by H. Cuerden and C. G. Lanphear.

H. Cuerden and R. Briggs were appointed to preach in the evening.

JOSEPH SMITH, PRESIDENT.

ISAAC SHEEN, }  
J. W. GILLEN, } *Secretaries.*

*For the Herald.*

A LETTER FROM VERMONT.

A word of instruction to all who feel interested in the final issue of our faith. In view of the many aspiring individuals who have started up as leaders in this matter, and by which many of the innocent have been led astray and have become engulfed in the vortex of delusion, I have thought best to address a few words founded upon my own experience and observation in this great work. I embraced the work in Manchester, England, in the year 1840; soon after which I was called to the ministry. I went out into the field devoting the whole of my time for nearly two years travelling in England and Wales, in connection with other worthy men, meeting with pretty good success as well as some persecution. After which, in company with some of my friends, I emigrated to Nauvoo. There I became per-