

foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Abraham was aware that the city had foundations, as well as buildings, and he knew that God was the builder and maker of it, or in other words, that God gave the pattern.

May God bless you and the saints in all the world, is the prayer of your brother in Christ.

LOREN W. BABBITT.

GRAND MANAN, N. B.

April, 15, 1869.

Bro. Joseph:

Feeling, as I do, a lively interest in every movement that affects the welfare of the Redeemer's kingdom, and believing that all the *subscribers*, if not all the *readers* of the *Herald*, are alike interested with myself, I therefore take this opportunity of informing your readers of our present condition, and so far as I can judge, of future prospects.

Since our Bro. Smith left us, about three weeks ago, we have added three to our branch, one by letter and two by baptism.

Notwithstanding that we have had much opposition, and it has not altogether ceased, we have great cause for rejoicing. Many who a short time ago stoutly opposed us, have ceased all outward demonstrations against us, and, judging from appearances think favorably of the doctrine.

The work moves steadily forward, and, with few exceptions, the saints appear determined, if necessary, to make the greatest sacrifice, in order that the work may be accomplished.

The glorious truths of the gospel were ably set forth among this people by Bro. Smith, and we trust by the efforts put forth by the saints, accompanied by the Spirit, that great good will be accomplished, and that even on this Island of the sea many more may be brought to a knowledge of the truth.

I trust that ere long I shall have the pleasure of informing your readers of more additions to our branch, and of such as shall be saved.

Your brother in Christ,

JOSEPH LAKEMAN.

Conferences.

Annual Conference.

Minutes of the Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held in Stolle's Hall, St. Louis, Mo., April 6th to 11th, 1869.

Pres. Joseph Smith, presiding; Elder Thomas J. Smith and John Ritchie, clerks.

After the usual opening exercises, the minutes of Semi-Annual Conference were read and approved.

The following districts were heard from: Southern Nebraska, represented by Elder J. W. Waldsmith presiding. Prospects fair. District in a flourishing condition. The saints united, and the ministry determined to push the work. Prejudices of the people in favor of the saints. Three branches, and one hundred and thirty-two members in district.

Western Iowa district, by letter. No material change since last reported. Numbers three hundred and fifty-two members. Elder Jarius M. Putney, presiding.

Western Virginia, by H. P. Joseph Parsons. Prospects very good.

Kewanee, by Elder John S. Patterson. Prospects better than ever before.

On motion, adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

String Prairie, by Elder John H. Lake. The majority of the branches in good prospering condition.

Sub-District No. 1, of St. Louis Conference, by Elder Thomas P. Green. The cause is flourishing. The brethren at work.

Southern District, Illinois, by H. P. James Whitehead. A disposition on the part of all to walk the narrow way, in the discharge of duty, faithfully and diligently.

St. Louis Sub-District, by Elder George Bellamy. In good working condition. Many calls for preaching. Much good will be done, if the brethren prove faithful.

Northern District of Illinois, by Pres. Joseph Smith. General condition of district good.

St. Louis Conference, by H. P. William Hazzledine. General condition very good. Sabbath schools in flourishing state. The financial condition of the Conference District not so good as it should be.

REPORTS OF MISSIONS.

Elders Thomas J. Smith and George Martin reported travelling in Ohio, pursuant to mission given. Thought much good had been done. Many calls for preaching the word in the State.

Bro. M. H. Forscutt reported being unable to fill the mission to the South. Reports an excellent feeling prevailing in the district where he has travelled during the past six months.

Bro. Gordon E. Duell had labored diligently in Iowa; had been instrumental in establishing three branches, had vanquished opposition. He presented the report of the Newton Branch, Jasper County, Iowa.

Bro. C. W. Lange had labored in Iowa and Wisconsin; had met with much opposition; had not been confounded, but was enabled to sustain and defend the truth to the discomfiture of its foes; during his ministry sixteen were baptized, though not by him; he had blessed nine children; had organized one branch of eleven members.

Bro. John H. Lake. Labors mostly local, confined to String Prairie district.

Bro. D. H. Smith, for brethren E. C. Briggs and H. A. Stebbins. They had endeavored to do what they could; had met considerable opposition, but had been quite successful; thirteen had been baptized un-

der his own hands, many others by brethren Briggs and Stebbins. The mission had been a success.

Bro. Wm. Anderson had labored in portions of Iowa and Illinois; had baptized a few; a sentiment for good prevailed where he had labored.

ELDERS REPORTED.

Bro. Wm. Smith, travelling elder in St. Louis District, has filled a number of appointments, should try and fill more.

Bro. Horton had filled two appointments since his missions was given three weeks since, and had a good congregation.

By letter: Elders Ben. Ballowe, Stephen Malony, H. A. Stebbins, Thos. W. Smith, Samuel Powers, Stephen Butler, James Wagner, Davis H. Bays, S. J. Stone, Jesse W. Nichols, C. G. Lanphear.

On motion, adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

Preaching by Pres. Joseph Smith; subject, "Church Government," as per printed poster.

On motion, adjourned.

MORNING SESSION, APRIL 7.

Elders James X. Allen, Wm. Anderson, of Montrose, Iowa, and Thomas P. Green, were, on motion, appointed committee to examine, audit, and report the presiding Bishop's accounts.

The reports of the Philadelphia; Pittsfield, Ill.; New Bedford, String Prairie, Keokuk, and Montrose branches, ordered put on the general record.

Missions released, appointed, and continued: Elder Samuel Longbottom from the British mission.

A petition signed by forty-two persons, requesting the re-appointment of Elder Wm. H. Kelly to the mission in Minnesota, was presented and read; upon motion it was

Resolved, That Elder Wm. H. Kelly be continued in the Minnesota mission.

On motion, adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A lengthy and interesting discussion respecting the propriety of sending mission-

aries to England, occupied the greater part of this session. An excellent spirit prevailed during the entire afternoon.

Motion, limiting time of speaking, passed.

Brethren Alexander H. and David H. Smith were, upon resolution, associated in a mission to Utah and the Pacific slope.

Elder James Wagner appointed to West Virginia.

Elder Gorden E. Duell was associated with Bro. Wagner.

Elder Charles W. Lange was continued in Wisconsin.

Elder Benjamin Ballowe was continued in his mission to Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Resignation of H. P. Mark H. Forscutt as president of the Southern mission was accepted; and, on motion, he was appointed to labor under the direction of Pres. Joseph Smith.

The compilation and publication of a new Hymn Book was authorized; and upon motion, the President appointed a committee of three, consisting of the following named brethren, to collate and compile said book: Mark H. Forscutt, David H. Smith, and in case of his absence before the completion of the work, Bro. Norman Smith; Pres. Joseph Smith, by vote, being one of said committee.

On motion, adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, MORNING SESSION.

Bro. Elki Gasper was, on motion, appointed to Holland, and he is hereby instructed to report to Brethren Jason W. Briggs and Josiah Ells of the European mission.

Bro. Henry A. Stebbins was appointed to labor in Wisconsin, as his way should open.

Elders G. W. Martin and Thomas J. Smith were released from their mission to Ohio and Indiana.

Elder S. J. Stone was released from his mission to the Eastern States.

On motion Sev. C. G. Lanphear was appointed to the Southern mission.

[According to resolution to that effect, I hereby direct that the Southern mission comprise those States lying South of the line running parallel with the south line of the state of Tennessee, from the Mississippi river to the Atlantic. Bro. Lanphear will please report to me by letter for further instructions. Joseph Smith, Pres.]

On motion, adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On motion, that portion of Kansas lying north of Kansas river and south of the State line, be organized into a district, to be known as the North Kansas district.

Elder Davis H. Bays was assigned to this district.

Sev. Thomas W. Smith was reassigned to and sustained in the Eastern mission.

All missions heretofore appointed and not released, were, on motion, sustained.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The report of committee appointed to examine and audit Bishop's account was received, and the committee discharged.

Report of auditing committee:

Titihings, free-will offerings, &c., received	\$872 16
in year	28 00
Scripture Fund	
Total received	\$900 16
Expenditures during year for missionary and other purposes	\$2,130 93
Amount due Bishop last account	2,452 29
Total Cr.	4,585 22
Total Dr.	900 16
Amount due Bishop from Church	<u>\$3,685 06</u>

The committee find no discrepancy in the account, and recommend the adoption of the report.

WM. ANDERSON,
THOS. P. GREEN, } Com.
JAMES X. ALLEN,

On motion it was

Resolved, That this Conference does not endorse the censure impliedly cast upon Elder Henry J. Hudson, the president of the Central Nebraska District, at their last conference, and hereby request that the said district do honorably release Bro. Hudson from the presidency of said district.

[It is intended that this action shall not be construed as censuring the district conference; but as injury was inflicted without intent upon Bro. Hudson, this was intended for his relief, and to point out the proper action in the premises. Joseph Smith, President]

The following resolution was introduced, and after considerable discussion, passed.

Resolved, That it is not the true policy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, that the Twelve shall control the funds of the church in the hands of the Bishop, but that the Bishop shall be amenable to the General Conference alone.

A motion prevailed, recommending to the publishing committee the issuing of a Sunday School paper, monthly or semi-monthly.

On motion, adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

Lecture by Pres. Joseph Smith, subject, "Ministerial Labors and Powers."

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, MORNING SESSION.

The ordinance of baptism having been administered by Elder Wm. Anderson, of Montrose, Iowa, the following were confirmed members of the church by the laying on of hands: Abigail Jones, Elizabeth Tanner, and Nathan Jones. Brethren A. H. Smith, Joseph Parsons, M. H. Forscutt, and John S. Patterson officiating.

The following preamble and resolution presented, and resolution passed.

SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS.

The need for an educated, intelligent, and sincerely devout body of seventies to promulgate the gospel, and high priests to preside over the Churches, has been and now is felt very sensibly by very many who have the salvation of souls and prosperity of the church at heart.

Etiquette is not taught in the camp, nor the art of war in the nursery, neither are priests educated at Oxford, nor Rabbi's with the Jesuits; nor can we reasonably expect a plentiful supply of genuine L. D. S. elders to be furnished by the schools of the Gentiles; as well might we look for the

sturdy oak in the hot-house, or the orange in Lapland, as for thorough, devout, self-abnegating elders from the popular schools of fiction and fashion; 'tis contrary to the common course of nature—the child clings to the breast from whence it derives its nourishment, and the faith of the pupil is tainted with the mind of his professors.

Church property contributes to the stability of the work, and we need a school wherein to educate our own young men.

As discipline detracts not from the courage of the soldier, neither would a proper ministerial education detract from the piety and earnestness of the ambassadors of truth; but on the contrary would give confidence, couple wisdom with their knowledge, and judgment with their zeal.

Suggestions.—A quarter section of land could be purchased, a building erected, the land fenced and broken, professors elected, and the land worked conjointly by professors and students. Four or five hours a day of close study is sufficient, six or eight hours a day of farm labor would contribute to the health of both body and mind, and by this means a school could be made both efficient and self sustaining.

In keeping with the above, I respectfully offer the following:

Resolved, That this conference recommend for the consideration of the Twelve and the General Church Authorities, the feasibility and advisability of establishing a school for the education of our own young men, with a view to the ministry; and that the question be brought up at the next sitting of the General Conference.

Brethren John H. Lake and Joseph D. Snively associated in mission to Canada.

The following preamble and resolution were discussed at length, and resolution adopted:

Whereas, the past financial policy of the church is believed by many to have a damaging tendency, and to some extent is drying up the various financial streamlets that would otherwise flow freely to assist the work of God; wherefore,

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference, the true policy of the church, in this matter, is to be found in the epistle of the Twelve to the Church on tithings and offerings, viz.: through the branch presidents as Bishop's agents, should all moneys come into the church treasury, and that the spiritual authorities of the church should discountenance the paying of moneys directly to the Bishop, *where that policy works to the injury of the poor in districts or branches.*

On motion, adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Resolved, That when this Conference adjourns, it does so to meet at Galland's Grove, Shelby Co., Iowa, Oct. 6th, 1869.

By resolution the Conference recommends to the several Districts that they each furnish one or more men unencumbered, by the time of, and to, the next Semi-Annual Conference for missions. *

Resolved, That this Conference consider Bro. James Anderson a member of the Reorganized Church, on his original baptism.

EVENING SESSION.

Lecture by Elder David H. Smith; subject, "Angelic Visitation—Revelation."

Adjourned.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, MORNING SESSION.

Elder Thomas Kay was requested to labor with Elder Benjamin Ballowe, as he should be able.

It was

Resolved, That the Conference deprecate the circumstances which seem to surround many of the elders of the church, causing them to withdraw their presence from the different sessions of the Conference, and request for the future a closer attendance.

Upon motion, Zenos H. Gurley, of the Twelve, and H. P. Mark H. Forscutt were appointed a committee to inquire into and adjust the difficulties existing in the Nauvoo District.

*By "unencumbered" is meant, that the district support the families of those men if they have any.

Resolved, That brothers holding the priesthood, being convicted of inactivity in consequence of lukewarmness, may be silenced by the Conference, or quorum of which they are members, and henceforth be reported as lay members, until such time as they reform and are re-elected to fill their offices.

WHEREAS, A period of nine years has passed away since the church was organized with a First Presidency; and, whereas, there has never been a complete representation by report, it is hereby

Resolved, That this Conference does hereby deem it imperative upon it to demand that hereafter, every mission, district and branch, (where there is a branch not belonging to an organized district,) send to every Annual and Semi-Annual Conference, such properly authenticated reports as the general church authorities may from time to time require, that a complete report may be had.

Resolved, That this Conference sustain all the spiritual authorities of the church in righteousness.

Resolved, That we sustain the Bishopric of the church.

Resolved, That a Bishop for the St. Louis District be appointed and ordained.

On motion the minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Financial report of Elder M. H. Forscutt to the Bishop acknowledged by the Bishop, and read.

On motion adjourned.

SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 11.

The President then gave some instruction respecting the organization of branches.

Elders David H. Smith and John S. Patterson then addressed the saints in peace and with good effect; showing manifestly that the Spirit was with them. Text, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. iv. 4.

On motion adjourned.