

will please bear in mind the request of Bro. Stafford.]

P. Tempest, of Nebraska City, writes: "The work at this place is about as usual, progressing slow but sure. We expect Bro. Elvin (R. C. B.) will shortly deliver a course of lectures to the "Otoes." We are about having another of those pleasant gatherings at McLennan's Hall—a festival."

## Conferences.

### Semi-Annual Conference.

Minutes of the Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held at Galland's Grove, Shelby Co., Iowa, October 6 to 10, 1869.

The meeting was called to order by Bishop I. L. Rogers, and Conference organized by calling President Joseph Smith to the chair, and electing R. M. Elvin and Davis H. Bays, as clerks.

Session opened with singing. Prayer by Bishop Rogers, followed by the congregation singing the 111th hymn. The President, in stating the object of the meeting, made some very appropriate and stirring remarks. The minutes of the Annual Conference were called for and read.

On motion of Elder Charles Derry, the minutes were amended so as to read, *Pottawattamie District* instead of "Western Iowa District." Minutes approved as amended.

A letter from Bro. C. E. Brown was read by the President, reporting the Massachusetts District, in which Bro. Brown requests to be released from the presidency of said District.

*Reports of Districts.*—Kewanee, by letter, J. S. Patterson presiding. 11 branches, 297 members. Four branches not reported.

Pottawattamie, represented by J. M. Putney, president. 8 branches, 365 members, including some 50 or 60 officials,

mostly elders, some of whom are performing the duties of branch officers, and some few are preaching the word.

String Prairie, represented by Frank Reynolds, president. Does not know the exact strength of District. The work not in as good condition as might be.

Northern Illinois, represented by Pres. Joseph Smith. 453 members, including officials. Great call for preaching. Saints trying to live their religion.

Southern Nebraska, represented by R. M. Elvin. Total membership, 148, officials included.

North Kansas, represented by Davis H. Bays, president. Three branches, 51 members, including officials. District in good condition; Saints alive.

*Afternoon session.*—Little Sioux, represented by Elder Hugh Lytle. 310 members, 32 baptized since last report. Monies subscribed for missionary purposes, \$55,00. Work in good condition.

Galland's Grove, represented by Thomas Dobson, president. 300 members. District in good standing. Prospects fair.

Sub-district No. 3, St. Louis District, represented by J. S. Lee. Wm. Summerfield presiding. The president then read a letter from Bro. Summerfield, requesting the Conference to pass a resolution, authorizing them to organize themselves into a district, that they may report at the General Conference.

Bro. S. Maloney reported the Spring River Branch. 36 members.

Bro. Wm. Hopkins reported the work in California to be prospering. A letter from Elder Blair confirmed the report of Bro. Hopkins.

Elder E. Banta gave a brief but satisfactory report of his labors in California. Much good was done.

Bro. Thos. Standeven of Boone Co., Iowa, reported.

The necessity for the action of the committee appointed by the Annual Conference to settle difficulties then existing in the Nauvoo District, was removed, by

the offending and offended parties having made reconciliation. Committee discharged.

The North Kansas, Little Sioux, and String Prairie Districts, each reported their willingness to furnish a laborer to work for the weal of Zion.

Bro. Robert M. Elvin made a statement of Bro. E. Jasper's mission to Holland.

Brethren Geo. W. Congers and Prior L. Stephenson, were associated with Bro. Benj. H. Ballowe on a mission to Tennessee.

*Resolved*, That we meet on the ground at early candle light for preaching, for the special benefit of the Saints.

On motion, adjourned till 7 P. M.

During the intermission, baptism was administered to Robert A. Marchant, by Pres. Joseph Smith.

*Evening session.*—Preaching by Elders James Caffal and Davis H. Bays. Subject, Duty of the Saints, respecting a proper use of their time, talents and means. The Spirit of grace was present to cheer and comfort the heart of the Saints. After preaching Bro. Marchant was confirmed by Elder Davis H. Bays and Bishop I. L. Rogers.

*Forenoon session. Oct. 7.*—On missions, the following resolutions were passed:

That Elder Davis H. Bays be continued in the North Kansas District; and that Elder Hugh Lytle be associated with him.

That Elder Wm. H. Kelly be sustained in his Mission to Minnesota, and that Bro. Robert G. Eccles be associated with him.

That Elder C. G. Lanphear be continued in his mission to the South, as appointed by the last Annual Conference.

That Apostle Wm. W. Blair, H. P. Alexander H. and Elder David H. Smith, be sustained in their mission to California and Utah, Elder Blair presiding.

That brethren Jason W. Briggs and Josiah Ells, of the apostles' quorum, be sustained in the European Mission.

That Elder Thomas W. Smith be sustained in the Eastern Mission.

That Elders John H. Lake and Joseph Snively be sustained in their mission to Canada.

That Elder W. W. Wagoner and Gordon E. Deuel be sustained in the West Virginia Mission.

That Elder H. A. Stebbins be sustained in his labors in Wisconsin.

That we sustain H. P. Mark H. Forscutt in his labors under the direction of the First Presidency.

That we sustain Elder S. Maloney in his field of labor.

That we sustain Elder E. C. Brand in his field of labor in the Utah Mission.

Elder E. Jasper was sustained in his mission to Holland.

Elder George M. Rush was sustained in his labors in Scotland.

*Releases.*—B. V. Springer reported by letter, and was released from his mission to Indiana.

*Resolved*, That C. W. Lange be released from his mission to Wisconsin.

A motion "That the discussion of the subject respecting the establishment of a Theological School be deferred till the Annual Conference," was presented and lost.

The following was then offered:

*Resolved*, That the true policy of the church requires the establishment of a school for the purpose of educating the young men of the church with a view to the ministry"

Pending the discussion of this question, Conference adjourned to

*Afternoon session.*—Preaching by Elder Lytle and J. M. Putney, followed by President Joseph Smith. The Saints were edified and instructed.

*Evening session.*—Prayer meeting, Bishop I. L. Rogers presiding. The Holy Spirit was given to strengthen the faith and confirm the hope of the Lord's people.

*Forenoon session, Oct. 8.*—*Resolved*, That Elder A. McCord be associated with Elder C. G. Lanphear on a mission to the South.

On motion, Robert A. Marchant was

ordained to the office of an elder by Bishop I. L. Rogers and J. A. McIntosh, and appointed to labor in North-western Mo.

*Resolved*, That when this Conference adjourns, it do so to meet at Plano, Kendall Co., Ill., April 6, 1870.

On motion, the First Presidency was sustained, with all the spiritual authorities of the church in righteousness.

On motion, the further discussion of the resolution recommending the establishment of a Theological School was deferred till the April Conference.

Committee on Hymn Books, through President Joseph Smith, Chairman of Committee, stated that the Hymn Books would be forthcoming sometime within the present quarter.

Cold and rainy; prospect for continued bad weather. Motion to adjourn, lost.

On motion, adjourned till rain shall cease.

*Afternoon session*.—On motion Elder John A. McIntosh was ordained to the office of High Priest, under the hands of High Priests Hugh Lytle and Thomas Dobson.

The committee to select and purchase lands for the establishment of a colony, reported having visited Independence, Mo.; Topeka and Atchison, Kansas; Nebraska City, Neb.; and Council Bluffs, Iowa. A full account was given of the country viewed, and a statement of the plan upon which a colony might be established was briefly made by Bishop I. L. Rogers. A good spirit prevailed.

President Joseph Smith then spoke in plainness and power; proving by the law that wisdom for the management of the temporal affairs of the church belongs especially to the bishoprick, and not to the spiritual authorities of the church. He presented to the Saints the only correct manner in which the "gathering" can be successfully brought about.

*Forenoon session, Oct. 9*.—The following resolutions were passed:

That H. P. John A. McIntosh be appointed

to labor in Southern Illinois, with permission to extend his labors into Kentucky and Tennessee.

That we sustain the committee on Hymn Book.

That *Zion's Hope* be continued and sustained.

That we sustain the *T. L. S. Herald* with all our might, talent, and means.

That President Joseph Smith be continued as Editor of the *Herald* and *Hope*.

That the presidents of branches be requested to make an effort to increase the circulation of the *Restorer*, published in England, and Edited by Elder J. W. Briggs, for the support of the European Mission.

Resolution "that the propagation of the gospel by the distribution of tracts is reprehensible, being sectarian in its origin and tendency, and should be abandoned," was presented and lost.

*Resolved*, That Bro. Charles Derry be requested to labor in Western Iowa, and other places in the West, as circumstances may permit, and the Spirit direct.

Sister Isabella Hunt was received into the church on her original baptism.

Bro. George W. Crouse was also received by vote. Bro. James Carroll's ordination was referred to Bro. H. Halliday, of the Union Grove Branch.

*Afternoon session*.—Preaching by President Joseph Smith. Subject, "Who then can be saved?"

On motion Bros. Ralph Jenkins and George Montague be associated on a mission to East Virginia.

During intermission three precious souls were baptized by Bro. Eli Clothier.

*Evening session*.—The evening was spent in prayer, singing, and testimony. The hearts of the Saints were comforted, for the Lord did "confirm the word with signs following." Tongues, interpretations, and prophecy were enjoyed.

*Forenoon session, Oct. 10*.—Those baptized the evening before were confirmed by Elders Chas. Derry and Thos. Dobson.

The propriety of securing a large tent, in which the Semi-Annual Conferences may be held was then considered.

On motion, S. W. Condit, of Little Sioux, Iowa; R. M. Elvin, of Nebraska City; and James Caffall of Council Bluffs, were appointed a committee to ascertain what a suitable tent will cost, and report to each of the district conferences on the Western Slope, at their respective sessions.

Preaching, to a very large congregation, by Bro. E. Banta. Subject, Faith.

*Afternoon session.*—Preaching by Elder Charles Derry, followed by President Joseph Smith. Much interest was manifested.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Semi-Annual Conference in and for the Utah District, held in Independence Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 6 to 8, 1869.

Conference was called to order by E. C. Brand, and organized by appointing Alexander H. Smith, president, and Wm. Worwood, clerk.

The meeting was then opened by singing, "Give us room that we may dwell."

The opening prayer was offered by President Alexander H. Smith, who afterwards stated, in part, the business of the Conference, and showed the difference between the Conference of the Reorganized Church and that of the other party in the city, now in session.

Officials present: 1 high priest, 12 elders, 1 priest, 1 teacher.

The report of the Ogden District was given by Bro. John Anderson. The Salt Lake City Sub-District report was called for. Pres. Thos. Job and S. Kerry reported by letter. Elder Brand reported having baptized 25. He laid great stress upon the importance and necessity of circulating tracts.

The Salt Lake Branch was reported by Bro. Broadbent, and represented as follows: 60 members, 6 elders, 1 priest, 1 deacon; 1 cut off, 35 gone east; acting teachers, 2; children blessed, 4.

Malad Branch reported by A. B. Moore, represented as follows: 63 members, 9 elders, 1 priest, 1 teacher, 1 deacon.

Elder Samuel F. Walker had arrived from Nevada, and entered upon his mission in Utah. His report was then given.

Elder David H. Smith reported his travels to Malad. Had baptized 12.

Elder Wm. Worwood reported Nephi Branch. Bro. Lewis Miller, Elder Hurd, Elder E. C. Brand, Bros. Martin Rasmussen, Frank Wilson and T. Wells., reported in an agreeable manner. All reports accepted.

The president then called for report of Thomas Job's district. A reply was given by Elder D. Clark, of Lehi. Accepted.

Brethren were then called to volunteer their services for the ministry. The following names were given: Lars Edler, Anthony Metcalf, Wm. Worwood, A. B. Moore, John Anderson, Bro Bona, Henry Kersha.

The President said he was a preacher of the gospel, and taught as the Holy Spirit led him, and intended to remain in this city (Salt Lake) as long as the Lord would direct him.

Anthony Metcalf bore testimony to the truth, and workings of the Spirit to the convincing him that this was the work of God.

*Evening session.*—Preaching by Elder David H. Smith, followed by his brother, Alexander. Both beautifully portrayed the wonderful works of God in his great creations, and exhorted the Saints to give diligent attention to the strict requirements of the unchangeable God.

*Thursday, Oct. 7, 10 a. m.*—The business of Conference was resumed, reports were heard, and the following resolutions were adopted:

That Bros. Twells and Eccles be appointed to act as (door keepers) deacons.

That Elder Thomas Job be released from the presidency of the Utah District, agreeably to his request. Carried unanimously.