

THE SAINTS' HERALD

EMERSON
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BOX 184

"HEarken to the word of the Lord: for there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife, and concubines he shall have none."—Page 116, Book of Mormon, chap. 2, par. 6.
"We believe that one man should have one wife, and one woman but one husband: except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again."—Page 330, Book of Covenants and Commandments, sec. 109, par. 4.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE MINUTES.

Minutes of the General Conference of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held in the Kirtland Temple, at Kirtland, Lake county, Ohio, April 6th to 15th, 1883. On separate motions, the temporary organization was formed as follows: Elder Zenas H. Gurley of Pleasanton, Iowa, Chairman; Elder E. L. Kelley of Cold Water, Michigan, Secretary; and Robert M. Elvin of Nebraska City Neb., Assistant Secretary; Elder John T. Kinnaman of Stewartsville, Missouri, Chorister.

Conference opened by singing "We hear thy voice, our Father;" throne of grace addressed by Pres. Joseph Smith.

Committee on Credentials on separate motion and vote, were appointed: Heman C. Smith, Hyrum Bronson, Charles Derry, F. G. Pitt, and Ebenezer Robinson. Bishop Geo. A. Blakeslee nominated for ushers Samuel Brown and Wm. M. Rummel; janitor, Emery Vickers. Committee on permanent organization: Alex. H. Smith, Elijah Banta and E. C. Brand.

While the body awaited the reports of the committees on credentials and permanent organization, President Gurley invited the President of the Church and his Counselor to address the meeting.

President Joseph Smith, upon being presented to the audience, said: That it was quite unnecessary for him to say that he took pleasure in the meeting of to-day; the circumstances surrounding the event were such that all who think—and all ought to think—could well discern the fact that events clearly spoken of in the past have their fulfillment in our gathering. Fifty years ago the speaker, he said, began his earth-life in this place, and at a time when those who were working in this place, and with whom he was associated, were warring against difficulties to

maintain and advance such principles as to them were of the highest truth. And it is not to be wondered at that under such trials the people who were thus laboring should partake in some manner of the spirit of the scenes. But to-day it is not in fact peculiar that we should be able to worship here; for that which is intended to be permanent pleases God, and so the original builders wrought, and that which is intended to be evanescent does not please him. And one of the great evidences of the truth of the principles which actuated the people then is, that so many are here to-day who inhabited here then and partook of that spirit and still rejoice in the truth. The fact exists that almost everywhere where our work has been taught, the prejudices of the people has given way, and every where the people in the past were driven from place to place who did not abide in the principles established here at the beginning—we are now permitted to enter and occupy without fear or alarm. The work means and is, the building up the waste places, and establishing the truth of the work, and many under the peaceful labor of teaching these principles have succeeded in calling out those who had been scattered, and they rejoice like Simeon of old, and are ready to say it is enough, "Let now thy servant depart in peace." The meeting to-day is looked upon with interest by the world, and if we respect ourselves and our work, they can not fail to respect us; but if we should fail to respect the work of which we have charge, and ourselves, it need not be wondered at if others fail to show us the courtesy we desire. The outlook is good, and to-day we have a standing, and most men are willing to hear; and when we have presented our faith to them, they are at liberty to judge for themselves, and our work is done. The gathering of this body or assembly is somewhat different to those past, in that it is a delegate one; how long it shall so continue, or what changes may take place, it is in the wisdom of the body to determine. But in all our deliberations and work, we should observe strictly the decorum of brethren, and remember he is strongest and wisest who is actuated by the kindest spirit.

Bro. W. W. Blair was the next speaker. He said: This Reorganized Church has a history and a purpose. Its beginnings were with the humble, and somewhat obscure ones, who were waiting for the consolation of Zion's scattered and sorrowing children. The dawn came in 1851-2, when "the enemy came in like a flood" among the different factions in the form of polygamy, priestly arrogance and oppression, "damnable heresies," "lying wonders," and a general departing from the faith as taught in the traditions, and in the standard works of the Church; then "the Spirit of the Lord" lifted up "a standard against him," and from thenceforward its followers have pressed ahead, their numbers increasing, their influence widening, till to-day we are found celebrating the service of God in one of the "waste places of Zion." The purpose of the Church was, and is, and is to be, to re-affirm and re-establish the Christianity of Christ as found in the New Testament and other books on doctrine and discipline endorsed by the Church up to the death of Joseph the Seer. The world needs the religion of Christ in theory, in principle, in form, in ordinance, in ceremony, in promise, and in spiritual power; and our work is to preach it, and live it, and thus bless and save all who will accept it.

Among other things he said: "Our conference has some reference to Joseph Smith, the Seer. We see him a poor, unlettered boy in the wilds of New York, persecuted and opposed on every hand. He organized a church of six members in the backwoods of New York. From that nucleus a great church has arisen, that has attracted the attention of the civilized world. If Joseph Smith was not inspired by God Almighty, he was the most wonderful man in this century. We praise him and the work he performed."

Elder Z. H. Gurley spoke as follows: Remove not the land marks of the Fathers, and regard this Temple to be one of the land marks; and for that reason are we here assembled in the house builded by faithful hands. We believe that the object of those who built this house was for purpose of blessing all men, and more especially such as would keep the laws of
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God. The Spirit and the experience of the past seem to indicate that those who should; did not carry out the purpose of the work here established. The manifestation and intent of the Spirit were, that here should be found a Temple where the people of God should come to worship with clean hands and pure hearts; but on account of sin and that departure from the old landmarks, this house has stood so long unoccupied. Some will inquire, well what is your purpose. Let me say, that if we fail to sustain and honor the object of the work and the spirit promptings, we can not succeed. But we are here with the bright and blessed assurance that the Spirit of God witnesses a blessing to the race, and if we labor faithfully to remove the foul stain from the work, and wipe out the blackness of apostacy, God will own and accept us. All those who give countenance to the doctrines of Utah, are giving aid to the foulest system that ever cursed the race; so I say, and wish to be understood and go upon the record, for I do not propose to handle that thing any longer with gloves, it must and shall be stamped out, and if we so labor, the people of this State, and these United States, will seal it with a loud Amen. Our work is that of mercy; the Courts must care for the criminals, our best efforts shall be to direct all to return to the primitive faith of the Church. We believe it to be the duty of the Reorganization to arise to a higher standard in favor of ennobling of mankind; we must work for the suppression of the diabolism of the nineteenth century. I would rather my child should die an infidel, than to accept the doctrine of Mormonism as taught in Utah. We bid God speed to all men who are working for good. The seed of truth was here planted in 1830, and inasmuch as the work has been shamefully betrayed, we are here for the purpose to rescue all those who will receive the restoration of the truth. Mr. Cannon stated last Winter before the Judiciary Committee the reason that the people of Utah receive and practice polygamy was upon the accepting of a "purported revelation" thereon. We have asked the Government to make a distinction between us and the people of the west; should the Government condone the crime of polygamy on the basis of religion, we shall still cry against the sin and shame. Judge Jere Black says he is ready for the test case. So are we; and we pray for the test to come speedily.

Adjourned till to-morrow forenoon for business. Closed by singing "Praise God

from whom all blessings flow." Benedic- by Z. H. Gurley.

Preaching in evening by Elder John Gilbert: A forceful sermon upon the necessity of our doing something to inherit eternal life.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH.

The morning prayer meeting, in charge of Brn. Wm. B. Smith and Geo. S. Yerrington; a peaceable and spiritual waiting before the Lord.

At ten in the forenoon business was resumed. Opened by singing "Sweet the time, exceeding sweet." Prayer by Elder Josiah Ellis.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

Report of committee on credentials read:

We your committee on credentials beg leave to report the following:—

	No. Votes.
Northern Illinois District: Frederick G. Pitt, John S. Patterson.....	44
Pittsburgh District: G. T. Griffith, George H. Hulmes, Hiram Robinson, J. Craig, M. S. Sutton.....	19
Southern California District: D. S. Mills....	25
Little Sioux, Iowa, District: C. Derry, W. C. Cadwell, J. M. Putney, David Chambers.....	38
South-eastern Illinois District: G. H. Hilliard.....	17
Michigan and Northern Indiana: G. A. Blakeslee, Andrew Barr, C. Scott, Alvin Patterson, Edward Whaley.....	37
Decatur, Iowa, District: E. Banta, E. Robinson, Z. H. Gurley, I. A. Bogue, J. R. Lambert.....	53
Kewanee, Illinois, District: H. C. Bronson, Robert Holt, R. J. Benjamin, John Chisnall, Robert Fuller.....	26
Massachusetts District: John Gilbert, F. M. Sheehy, George S. Yerrington, A. W. Glover, C. D. Seeley.....	34
Florida District: Frank P. Scarecliff.....	29
St. Louis District: B. V. Springer.....	31
London, Canada, District: John H. Lake....	24
Northern Nebraska District: W. M. Rumel.....	19
Kent and Elgin District: A. McKenzie, Arthur Leverton, Peter McBrayne.....	17
Des Moines, Iowa, District: R. Etzenhouser	18
Pottawattamie, Iowa, District: C. A. Beebe.	26
Freemont, Iowa, District: J. Goode, S. S. Wilcox, D. Hougas, Wm. Leeka, H. Kemp.	25
Far West, Missouri, District: J. T. Kinnaman, W. T. Bozarth, T. W. Smith, L. W. Babbitt, Temme Hinderks.....	29
String Prairie and Nauvoo District: B. F. Durfee, Don C. Milliken, Eliza Newberry, Sarah Schroder, J. A. Jacobs.....	21
Galland's Grove, Iowa, District: John Hawley, Eli Clothier, J. W. Chatburn, Henry Halliday, David Hall.....	39
Southern Nebraska District: Robert M. Elvin.....	23
Chicago Branch: J. R. Lambert.....	5

The following cases we have not been able to decide whether they are proper delegates or not, for the reason that the delegates are not members of the district:—

Malad, Idaho, District: W. W. Blair.....	4
Nevada District: W. W. Blair.....	9
Montana District: W. W. Blair.....	5
Texas Central District: Heman C. Smith....	8

We your committee reject the credentials from the following branches, for the reason that they form a part of organized districts, and consequently we can not receive credentials from them as branches.

Salt Lake, Santaquin, Lehi, Springville, Waship, and Plain City branches, Utah.

We your committee further report that a note was received from Bro. L. R. Devore, of the South-eastern Ohio and Western Virginia District, stating that he had been appointed delegate, but no credentials were received officially signed.

We also report that we received what purported to be credentials from fourteen members in Chicago, which we reject, knowing no law authorizing scattered members to send delegates.

Eastern Iowa District: Warren Turner.....	10
Independence Missouri, District: A. H. Smith, R. May.....	16
Philadelphia District: Wm. Small, Edith I. Heck, Archibald Cameron, Joseph A. Stewart, Samuel Hopkins.....	8

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.

Joseph Smith	W. W. Blair	J. Ellis
E. C. Briggs	J. H. Lake	T. W. Smith
J. R. Lambert	W. H. Kelley	A. H. Smith
Z. H. Gurley	E. C. Brand	J. F. McDowell
M. T. Short	C. Scott	G. T. Griffiths
W. T. Bozarth	J. S. Patterson	I. A. Bogue
B. V. Springer	H. C. Smith	C. Derry
G. A. Blakeslee	E. Robinson	W. B. Smith
P. Cadwell	J. Parsons	D. S. Mills
E. G. Pitt	C. A. Beebe	G. E. Deuel
George Hicklin	F. P. Scarecliff	G. Yerrington
G. H. Hilliard	M. H. Bond	R. M. Elvin
H. Kemp	H. C. Bronson	J. T. Kinnaman
J. Gilbert	F. M. Sheehy	B. F. Durfee
John Hawley	J. A. Robinson	H. Robinson
B. Corless	J. P. Knox	E. L. Kelley
E. Banta	J. Chisnall	G. T. Mottashed
D. J. Powell	L. R. Devore	J. A. Carpenter
A. Barr	J. Brighthouse	A. Leverton
J. A. Stewart	W. Turner	S. Brown
W. M. Rumel	J. H. Merriam	W. H. Garrett
W. Lewis	C. Badder	O. N. Dutton
T. Matthews	L. W. Torrence	R. J. Benjamin
M. S. Sutton	J. J. Morgan	T. J. Beatty
Joel Allen		

On motion, the report of the committee was received and they continued.

Elder W. W. Blair asked for the rule by which certain districts and branches were unfavorably reported upon, and deprived of their rights.

Secretary read from the Articles on Representation.

Bro. Heman C. Smith chairman of the committee, explained the reason why the committee could not report favorable upon those credentials.

Bro W. H. Kelley moved, that delegates present who have proper credentials of appointment, though they be not members of the district which they represent, be entitled to seats in this body.

The above was spoken to by Brn. W. H. Kelley, J. S. Patterson, E. L. Kelley and C. Derry. Motion put upon its passage and prevailed.

Bro. W. W. Blair made enquiry in

relation to Utah and other districts. Moved to adopt as amended by the resolution of Bro. W. H. Kelley. Spoken to by W. W. Blair and J. H. Lake. Brn. Joseph Smith and E. Robinson moved the following amendment to the amendment: Resolved, that the several credentials received from the branches composing the Utah District be accepted as the action of the district conference assembled; and that the basis of representation and voting be the same as obtains in other districts. Spoken to by W. H. and E. L. Kelley, W. W. Blair, J. H. Lake, Joseph Smith, E. Robinson, E. Banta, B. V. Springer, Geo. H. Hilliard, D. S. Mills, A. H. Smith, A. Patterson, Jas. Brighthouse, A. Leverton and J. T. Kinnaman. Put to vote and lost. The amendment spoken to by J. R. Lambert. Put to vote and carried.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

Report of committee on permanent organization read and adopted:

We, your committee on permanent organization present the following: For presiding officer Pres. Joseph Smith, assisted by his Counsellor, W. W. Blair; as secretary, Elder E. L. Kelley, assisted by Elders R. M. Elvin and Heman C. Smith; chorister, Elder J. T. Kinnaman; as ushers, Elders W. E. Rumel and S. Brown; as janitor, Bro. E. Vickers.

Adjourned till half-past one in the afternoon. Closed by singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Benediction by E. L. Kelley.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Presidents Joseph Smith and W. W. Blair in the chair at the appointed hour. Opened by singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name." Prayer offered by Elder J. H. Lake.

Under instruction of the President the Priesthood were seated immediately before the stand by quorums. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

MINISTRY REPORTS.

Elder *W. W. Blair*, of the First Presidency, present, reports as follows:

In Eastern Nevada there are numbers of the Utah Mormons, and some who have left that connection. There are also some of the Reorganized Church, including a branch at Elko. In Idaho there are probably ten thousand Utah Mormons. There are also considerable number who have left that connection. There are three branches of the Reorganized Church in that Territory, Malad City, Elkhorn and Soda Springs. There are a number of scattered members; also, notably in Cassia, Owyhee and Nez Perces counties. In Wyoming the number of members are few, but opportunities fair for missionary labor. The Montana District, three branches, two of which are active and spiritual; the other one so scattered that meetings are seldom had. There are in the district many who were connected with the Utah Mormons, the Morrisites, and the

Canaanites; some of whom are most excellent people. This district is gaining fairly. The Utah District is the principal theater for missionary effort. Much opposition is offered to our ministry and people by the Utah Mormons; still our missionary efforts for the past three years have been in a degree successful. The fruits of the mission are seen in the fair increase in membership, the erection of a solid, commodious brick chapel in the center of Salt Lake City, now well furnished and free from debt, and having a Sunday School; they are also seen in the position won as a loyal, Christian work; and in the influence for good exerted among all classes, notably among the Utah Mormons, as is seen in the reformation wrought in their teachings and practices in the direction of genuine Christianity and pure Americanism. The financial part of the work has been fairly sustained by the mission, so that for the past year the mission has been, perhaps, more than self-sustaining. The outlook is good; though there are many adversaries, hindrances and obstacles in the way. The mission should be well supplied with a ministry adapted to its peculiarities.

Elder *Z. H. Gurley*, of the Quorum of Twelve, present, reports:

Last November I parted with family and commenced my journey eastward, calling at Chicago, where I had the pleasure of meeting with the Saints of that great city; and at the instance of our worthy brother, Elder Wm. H. Kelley, had the pleasure of addressing them twice. My next stop was at the residence of our worthy Bishop, George A. Blakeslee, where I found a very pleasant and properly governed family; the best of all was I found the spirit of peace there. Here also at Galien I met a few of the Saints and friends, and from what I saw and felt, was favorably impressed with the friends and work in that region. My next stop was at Chagrin Falls and Kirtland, Ohio; and as soon as I obtained actual view of this last named place,—the Temple,—and its surroundings, so I could speak advisedly in relation to it, I moved onward, stopping two nights at Pittsburgh, Pa., where, fortunately, I met some of the Saints at their business meeting. Here the same cheerful smiling faces met me, as they had done one year before; and as I talked with Bro. Ells, one of the pioneers of the work there, and Bro. George Hulmes, president of the branch, Bro. Joseph Parsons and others, I felt assured that the good cause was firm and properly onward. I met here Bro. Hiram Robinson, then laboring under Bro. Ells, and prior to this in my mission; though young, and laboring under some disadvantages, he has proven faithful, and so far as I could learn has met with fair success. My next stop was Washington City, D. C., where I remained some two weeks or more, during which time I was introduced to the Secretary of State, Hon. F. T. Frelinghuysen, by Senator J. W. McDill and Hon. W. P. Hepburn, who stated properly the object of our mission, and asked for us the relief from the improper effect of the "Circular Letter" of the Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, former Secretary of State, whereby the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints had been and still was very improperly confounded with the Mormons of Utah; who as we know have placed their hopes of heaven and their fears of hell upon the acceptance or rejection of a

certain "purported revelation," whereby polygamy, murder, and all manner of blasphemy is tolerated. The Secretary said that the case was somewhat peculiar and delicate, and wished me to appear in writing for my people, as he wished us "upon the record;" to which I readily assented. And making known the result of my visit there to Bro. Joseph Smith, my associate in this special matter, we arranged conjointly the documents we deemed necessary, and formally presented the same, as will appear in our report. For these interviews we are indebted to the Hon. W. P. Hepburn of Iowa, whose kindness and courtesy was all I could ask.

From this city I moved onward to Philadelphia, being met at Baltimore by Bro. Joseph Stewart, where I assisted him in disposing of questions relative to baptisms administered by Elders of the old church, &c., by which several old members there united with us. At Philadelphia I succeeded in establishing a mission at 2244 Ridge Avenue, with Elders John Stone and Absalom Grist in charge, which at last accounts was prospering, with regular services each Sabbath day. I only regret that I could not establish more missions in that great city. The branch there is also in fair condition, holding regular services at Ninth and Callowhill street; Elder Wm. Small, presiding. I baptized two precious souls here, in the waves of the Delaware river, on New Year's Day.

At Hornerstown, N. J., we have a faithful little band of Saints, presided over by Bro. Wm. Brown,—whose Aunt, sister Sallie Moore, now upwards of seventy years of age, united with us upon her original baptism; which sacrament she received at the hands of Bro. Benj. Winchester, many years ago. This to me was an incident of interest and pleasure, to find that after all these long weary years of darkness which has been over the Church, that she still confesses her Lord, and with us acknowledges him. In addition to this, I had the pleasure of baptizing four others at this place, and am pleased to report that the work there is in a prosperous condition. My next stop was at Brooklyn, N. Y., where I found the branch somewhat disorganized; but after laboring a few days, had the pleasure of seeing it reorganized, a hall hired, and regular services resumed. The Saints there have passed through a variety of trials; but are kind, warm-hearted, and spiritual; their prospects in the work are fair. Our worthy brother, Joseph Squires, presiding. I had the pleasure here of forming the acquaintance of Bro. W. O. Owen, whom Brn. Briggs and Derry will remember, and who was a convert in their missionary labor in England, I believe. I trust the work may receive aid from his labors. Journeying still eastward, I called at Bridgeport, Conn., where we have a few members—the result of Bro. Squires' work in part. Pressing on, the next stop was Providence, R. I., where I met a large, healthy branch of Saints, ably presided over by Bro. F. M. Sheehy; here I met Brn. Frank Potter and Yerrington, the latter being one of the veterans. Had the pleasure of speaking twice to these Saints with fair liberty. Met the Saints at Boston several times, speaking as I felt led, and feel that they need help in the way of missionaries. Bro. Webster is faithful, and still at his post as president; but the city is large, and laborers are needed there. Some local Elders reside in the city, and if they only would,

I think could bring to pass some good as missionaries; may the Lord give them and all others courage to do. Here, as at Providence, the Saints have excellent halls to worship in, with good music, both vocal and instrumental, which I consider a blessing. This feature is noteworthy in the Massachusetts District; for at Fall River and Plainville, also, good music greeted the ear, and certainly was very cheering to me. At Fall River I had full houses, and there met Elders John Gilbert, District Missionary; John Smith, Pres. of District; and John Potts, President of Branch. This branch has a pleasant chapel builded with their own money, which will accomodate an audience of two hundred. At Plainville, Bro. Charles Coombs presides; and they too have builded an house unto the Lord, in the dedication of which I had the pleasure of assisting. This work is praiseworthy on the part of this little band of Saints, especially so when we consider the fact that all, or nearly all of these dear friends at Plainville and Fall River are laborers in factories, &c.; and from their daily toil have laid by, until a house to worship in is the result. God will bless such efforts everywhere. Let the good work of building houses go on. Massachusetts District has some eight or nine branches, with a total membership of about 600, and is in good condition. The Philadelphia District has some four branches organized, and with the scattered members will probably approximate to 150 or 200 souls, and is in fair condition. Bro. Joseph A. Stewart, presiding.

On my return from the east, I was met at Philadelphia by Brn. Jos. Smith and G. A. Blakeslee, and with them said good bye to the faithful ones there, and went to Washington, finishing up the work before referred to. Throughout the entire journey, I have been well received and well treated by all whom I have met. Have had more calls to "come and help us," than I possibly could fill. I need help in this mission; it is an excellent field, with millions of people, many, very many of whom are good. Have enjoyed fair to good liberty in speaking the word, and feel to leave the care thereof with Him who "doeth all things" well. Have seen and met some things to annoy and displease; have sought to administer the law in love,—firmly, but calmly. All things considered, I am well pleased with the outlook; but the cause we love needs more missionaries in the east, for it will I think yet prove one of our best fields for proselyting, as the people are very intelligent and industrious.

Elder *John H. Lake*, of the Quorum of Twelve, present, reports:

Since the last session of your honorable body, held at Lamoni, Iowa, September, 1882, I have been laboring in the mission assigned me, in charge, in Canada, in the districts and branches, and have effected some new openings; have enjoyed good liberty of the Spirit in presenting the gospel to the people. Prejudice is fleeing away; many friends have been raised up unto the gospel, and are now defending the same. The Saints of the mission are at peace with each other, so far as I am informed. The only unfavorable report I have to make is, that there is a careless lethargy with the Saints; they seem to fail to see the necessity of keeping their lamps trimmed and burning, and oil within. But I have

labored to get them to discharge their duties towards each other and their neighbors and friends; and to worship God in Spirit and in truth.

I have baptized four; blessed seven children, solemnized two marriages, administered to the sick whenever called upon so to do, in some instances with marked effect. The Lord truly confirmed his word with signs following. The brethren associated with me, to labor in the mission, have done very good work in different parts of the mission, in battling for the truth. And I presume they will each report their labors. The local laborers have done some work outside of the branches. I hope they will still continue to do so; and may God bless them with his Spirit, to enable them to stand firm to the truth. I think I am safe to report to you that the mission is in much better condition than when I was placed in charge; and I am satisfied that with proper management, and the blessing of the Lord, that there are many in Canada that will obey the gospel and rejoice in the hope of eternal life.

And in closing this report, dear brethren, I wish to say I don't feel to weary in the battle, although I have been struggling (in my weak way) as an Elder, to preach the gospel of Christ for twenty years, if I live to see this coming June. Yet I am with you for the victory. I hope to see the latter day work made honorable, and the bride (the Church) adorned with pure linen clean and white, the righteousness of the Saints, and be ready to meet the Bridegroom at his coming. And to this end I shall labor and pray, hoping to be sustained by you in righteousness.

Elder *Joseph R. Lambert*, of the Quorum of the Twelve, present, reports:

Since the middle of last December I have sought in every way known to me, so far as strength and ability would permit, to advance the interests of God's work in the City of Chicago. Whatever may be thought or said of my labors, I am conscious of having acted without partiality or ill feeling to any. For the last two Sundays Bro. M. T. Short has kindly done the preaching, the only help of that kind received. In addition to preaching, I have taken charge of the prayer meetings, business meetings, meetings of Elders' Courts, and have done not a little of that labor which rightfully devolves upon the Teacher. Much more of this kind of work should have been done, but poor health would not permit. The peculiarities and difficulties of the situation were soon made apparent. Things which transpired before my coming, (whether they furnished just cause for complaint or not, I do not say), together with the action of the Northren Illinois District, since last fall, conspired to make the situation more embarrassing. The conclusion was soon reached that, so far as the Saints were concerned, the leading effort would be to preserve the work from total ruin, and bring about reform as fast as the peculiarities of the situation would allow. Soon after I arrived, a number of brethren found supposed cause to justify them in drawing off from us, most of whom have even refused to attend preaching meetings. They have, however, first, without my knowledge, and second, over my public protestation, held prayer meetings of their own, from house to house. Such movements as this are not entirely new to the Church. The manner in which this one is disposed of will

affect the work for good or for evil, not only in Chicago, but elsewhere. The foregoing will serve as a weak indication of what we have to contend with in striving to build up the work in that city.

The present outlook, so far as the branch is concerned, is not flattering, though we have made some advancement, and are not discouraged. Among the Chicago Saints, not excepting those who move in harmony with the general order of the work, is found a large and very discordant element. These brethren are not blest with a surplus of wisdom, but are anxious to express their views, as a rule, and each one seeming to be wedded to his opinions. Some of them, too, are very combative. We make these statements, not to reflect upon the Saints, but because we believe they are due the Church and the missionaries who labor there. For the last six weeks, or more, the attendance from without has been gradually but slowly increasing. With but few exceptions, I have had good liberty in preaching, and have felt the power of the gospel of God's dear Son.

Whatever may be thought of the wisdom of continuing this mission, (and there are some strong reasons in its favor), my experience is this; when the dark clouds are lifted, and the light and the blessing of God's Spirit bursts upon us, there comes the strong conviction that the gospel standard should be kept raised in the City of Chicago. Some one of tact, patience, firmness in the right, a fair representative of the word, of irrefragable character, and possessed with physical as well as spiritual nerve, should be placed in charge. Whether my days be few or many, I desire to devote them wholly to the service of God.

Elder *Alexander H. Smith*, of the Quorum of Twelve, present, reports:

Having been appointed by your honorable body, at last fall session, to preside over the Missouri Mission, I hereby report my labors in that field. I have labored in the following places: Galesburg, Oronogo, Independence, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Stewartville and vicinity, Cameron and Bevier, Missouri; Wyandotte, Columbus and Pleasant View, Kansas; Colchester, Ills; Grundy county, Mo.; Galien and Coldwater, Mich.; and Steuben county Ind. You will see I have labored outside of my field. I have been hindered some as to time, in service in my field, away from home; but my whole time has been devoted to the work. I have done what I could, having had charge as presiding officer at one time of the Independence District, and the Branch at Independence, and the State of Missouri, my Mission. Have had excellent liberty in preaching the word. Have ministered to the sick with marked success in many instances. With one or two exceptions, I believe the mission in good working order. There are far more calls than I have had men to supply. The work is fast assuming proportions which demand more men, more means, and more willing laborers. A better feeling seems pervading the entire membership in my mission since the activity of the Bishopric. A more healthy tone, and brighter prospects are opening before us, and should I be continued in present field, I purpose a more vigorous and extended campaign for the coming year. I pray for the visitation of God's Holy Spirit upon your councils.

Elder *T. W. Smith* of the Twelve, present, reports:

My labors in the ministry have not been very extensive since last Fall Conference. Shortly after my return home I visited the Delana Branch, Missouri, and held several meetings in connection with Bro. W. T. Bozarth. I have preached several times for the Saints in Stewartsville, and also for the German Saints in their chapel, and a number of times in the chapel of our home branch. I visited Burlington, Iowa, in the beginning of Winter, and preached a number of times there. On my way to Conference I called at Lamoni, Iowa, and spoke twice, and at Lucas, Iowa, and preached twice there, and at Burlington and spoke three times. I have administered to the sick and afflicted frequently, sometimes with others, and sometimes alone, and the blessing of health and cure was given in a number of cases; and in others no immediate help followed. I am ready for the field, wherever duty and the good of the cause may require.

Elder *Charles Derry*, of the High Priests' Quorum, present, reports:

Since the last conference I have labored in the field appointed to the best of my ability, under the circumstances. I have had good attention in all places where I have preached, both in Iowa and Nebraska. In some places I have been denied a hearing, and in one instance was notified by a Methodist class leader, that I could not have a certain house under his control any more; but the people in the neighborhood opened their houses, and manifested great desire to hear. I believe good will be done there. I have baptized four; but others have been led to accept of the truth where I have labored. My faith in God and his truth remains unshaken. I shall do what I can, but I feel that I could do full as much good if my field was not so large as now.

Elder *C. G. Lanphear*, of the High Priests' Quorum, present, reports:

My desire is to do all I can in the cause, and feel the Spirit of the work, and the importance of its great light and benefits to be derived thereby, to those that are thirsting for the word of life. I was out in the way of gospel effort and labor, though not under any special appointment of the Church; from July till January, and preached about twenty-five times. Attended two district conferences, one in Kansas and one in Missouri. Was very kindly received by the Saints, and my wants kindly cared for and supplied. I hope to be able to do something in the way of disseminating gospel light to the world in the course of the season.

Elder *R. J. Anthony* of the Quorum of Seventy, reports from Cold Water, Florida, as follows:

I started for my field of labor as soon after your Fall session as was practicable. Arrived in Kentucky early in December, and until now have been preaching and visiting the mission. I am not prepared to make a full report. I did some preaching at Bardwell, Kentucky, and there seemed to be a very good interest. I visited the Farmington Branch with Bro. G. S. Hyde, and from there we went into Tennessee, and did some labor there; but I am not able to say what the interest is in that part of my field. The weather was so bad during my stay in Kentucky

and Tennessee, that it was almost impossible to get to our appointments. I visited the Three Rivers and Bluff Creek Branches in Mississippi. Bro. F. P. Scarcliff met me in Mississippi, and we labored there some little time, trying to encourage the Saints and convince others. We found the work in a languishing condition; but during our stay the interest revived. I feel confident our visit in Mississippi did good; from appearances it is the best field I have seen in the South, there are many good openings for the word there. I have not been able to visit the Alabama District yet, and as I have no report from the local authorities, I am not prepared to say what the condition of the work is. I have received a card from Bro. Franklin Vickery, asking me to visit them, stating that they need preaching. I have not visited all the branches, but where I have been, I find the work languishing; there are many good, true Saints, some have grown cold and careless, and some have suffered the tempter to lead them astray, and have tarnished the fair name of Saint, and brought reproach upon the Church. As yet have seen nothing flattering in Florida. I have advised and tried to encourage the Saints to the best of my ability; have tried to impress upon their minds the necessity of living a pure, upright, and devoted life to God and Christ. I have flattered myself with the thought that in some places the drooping spirits have revived, and pray God it may be so. I have baptized five, preached when and where I could, but so far my labor has been mostly in the branches; and now I am going out into new fields, believing that the cause will move along under the watchcare of local authority. From reports the people are anxious to hear the gospel; but this mission is like all others that I have visited, local Elders do not always have time to open up new fields and remain while the interest demands the labor. I believe this a good field for proselyting; people are anxious everywhere to hear. I recommend that you send at least five or six Elders to this field, if it is at all practicable, and let them come at once,—the Summer season is the best for labor here in the extreme south. We must have some one in Kentucky and Tennessee; the Fall is the time to do missionary labor there. We ought to have one especially to look after the Brighmites in Georgia and Tennessee. My desire is to labor in the service of my Lord, and expect to continue to do so; but I will have to ask you to release me, as I have some business matters to look after at home that will require my personal attention during the Summer. I shall leave the matter with you and abide your decision.

Elder *Glaud Rodger*, President of the Quorum of Seventy, reports from Lamoni, Iowa:

Having hitherto for many years labored with you for the advancement of the great cause of our Redeemer for the salvation of man, I am not changed in faith nor purpose; but ever trusting in the good Spirit for my guide, I hope to endure to the end. Last conference I was appointed to labor as circumstances might permit; I have done so, though I can not boast of much good being accomplished. Being so long in warmer climates, the past winter has been severe on me, and kept me from doing the good that my heart desired. My present circumstances are such as may hinder my travels in the vineyard yet for

some months. But when again at liberty, I hope to be found faithful to a calling I believe to be of God. I would prefer to labor where I believe I can do the most good and where laborers are surely needed,—California and Nevada; but if the Spirit directs otherwise, all well. I shall ever pray for humility to submit to the will and counsel of God, whose loving kindness and tender mercy I have shared in for many years, and in whose power I shall trust for salvation at the end of the race.

Elder *John C. Foss*, of the Quorum of Seventy, reports from Independence, Mo., as follows:

On the 13th of February I left Stewartsville, Missouri, for this place, I commenced immediately to build a house. Some of the Saints here assisted me.

I assisted the president of this district in organizing the Armstrong Branch, blessed two children, solemnized one marriage. I have been laboring very hard to place myself in a condition so to give my entire time and talent to the cause of Christ, and am now ready to take the field and go at your command, and I will try and do the best good I can.

Elder *J. T. Davis*, of the Quorum of Seventy, reports from Mound Valley, Kas., as follows:

Since we last met at Lamoni, Iowa, my efforts in preaching have been confined to Crawford, Cherokee, and Labette counties; as a rule we have good hearing and large congregations, and I think we have succeeded in removing a great amount of prejudice and tradition; but I think the work is only in its infancy here as yet. The demand for preaching is great, and the elements to contend with are the various forms of modern orthodoxy, spiritualism, and infidelity. The country is thickly settled by energetic and enterprising families. The field is important and the work should be prosecuted with vigor. As yet I have not been able to go into the Indian Territory, but I think to go there in a few weeks—we have an invitation to enter the Territory where the Verdigris river enters below Coffeyville, to preach to the Indians, and they say the country is thickly settled all along that stream, hence I intend to go and see what can be done for the Lord among the Lamanites. I have been greatly blessed in my labors, and know nothing better then continue, if your judgment will so order.

Elder *J. F. Mintun*, of the Quorum of the Seventy, reports from Freemont, Nebraska:

After my re-appointment to this mission at the Fall Conference, I returned home, but was there only a few days till I was taken with the fever and ague. Through the mercies of God, by the prayer of faith, I was restored after about two weeks' illness. I then acted as one of a Court of Elders at Galland's Grove, in behalf of our Quorum. I returned home and entered upon my missionary duties on the 20th of November. I have preached ninety-four times, held a discussion of three days of three hours each, which resulted in good to the cause; have baptized two, confirmed and assisted in confirming three, ordained one Elder, one Priest, and one Teacher, blessed six children, and whenever called upon have acted in other positions ac-

ording to my calling. I have been exceedingly blessed in all my labors; God bearing witness to my labors by them resulting in good. I desire to continue in the work of the Lord, for it is my only comfort beyond this vale of tears; and as you may order, so I hope to be able to do, God being my helper. Prejudice is fast giving way in Nebraska, and the work of leading souls to Christ is moving slowly but surely onward.

Elder *J. S. Patterson* of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports:

The following is offered as a brief synopsis of my missionary labors. Since the September Conference my time has been exclusively devoted to the ministry; and my travels have extended as far over Northern Illinois as the severity of the past Winter would admit of. I have held a series of meetings at Cortland, Leland, Amboy, Sandwich, Plano, Mission, and in the neighborhood of Piper City, and have endeavored to make our efforts as interesting and instructive as possible, leaving the results with him who giveth the increase. Some have signified their intention of uniting. Our reception has been cordial at some places, at others cold and formal; we have been made to realize that all are not brethren who bear the name, but knowing the work is of God, none of these things move us. The Northern Illinois District, over which I at present preside, is partly in running order and partly otherwise. I have done my best to infuse life and vigor where it appeared necessary, but with rather indifferent success in some localities. I find quite a general dissatisfaction in the district over the action of last Fall Conference, in the matter of the Chicago Branch being severed from the district without their knowledge or consent; they believe their rights to have been infringed, and a dangerous precedent established; but hope that their request for a re-hearing may meet your favorable consideration. The *Herald* as a weekly, meets with favor all over my field of labor. So far as advanced years and a consequent bodily weakness will admit of, I am still at the service of the Church, trusting that the conference may result in good for the cause, and knowing that only our righteous acts are approved of God, and feeling that no man can ever rise on the ruins of his fellow men, or brethren, I sincerely pray and trust that all our efforts for the right may be exercised lawfully, with unshaken faith in the ultimate triumph of truth.

Elder *Gomer T. Griffiths*, of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports as follows:

Since the Semi-Annual Conference of 1882, I have endeavored to promote the cause, in dispensing the word of life and in officiating in all the ordinances that appertain to my office. I have preached at Hyde Park, Plymouth, Nanticoke and Pittsburgh, Pa.; Warnock, Lampsville and Byesville, Ohio; Glen Easton, W. Va. Have baptized 15, confirmed 15, blessed eight children, ordained two Teachers, administered to the sick with some good results. The present prospects for preaching are very good in Ohio and West Virginia; plenty of new openings. Prejudice is rapidly abating in most places where I have been. The Macedonian cry is heard from all parts of the mission. The Saints are beginning to realize that they must be more assiduous and vigilant in the future, before they can be instrumental in the

hands of God in bring about the redemption of Zion. The Saints and friends here have been kind to us, for which we feel grateful. The good Master has abundantly blessed my labors, and I am still willing to labor in the field, providing I can get a suitable place for my wife, otherwise I must provide one myself.

Elder *Heman C. Smith*, of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports:

Have labored in Texas exclusively since last report, preaching in Anderson, Robertson, Burleson, Bell, Blanco, Bandera, Bexar, Bastrop, Stevens and Young counties. I have been blessed in my labor with the Spirit of the Master. Though my trials have been severe, and my burdens sometimes almost more than I could bear, yet I have received much encouragement, and often while under the influence of the Spirit I have felt quite sanguine of success in the South-Western Mission. The work in Texas is improving in some respects, in others it is not. There is more, and a wider spread interest in the work than before, and more respect is paid us by the thinking class. The Saints are not progressing spiritually as I wish they were; yet we have been blessed with some notable cases of healing, for which we praise the Lord. We have not been able as yet to open the work in Louisiana. Bro. Montague has labored some in Arkansas, and reports a good interest. I see by the *Herald* that Bro. B. V. Springer has labored some in Arkansas, also, which I was very glad to hear. In the Indian Territory the work is about at a stand still. Bro. Montague and Luff, and I have each made some effort there, but our labors were not very successful.

We have a wide expanse of territory in this mission, and so far only three of us to labor. We struggle against contending odds. I think the Church does not fully understand the needs of the work here, or they would make some more effort to aid us than they have done. The District Conference will send in a petition for Bro. D. H. Bays and W. T. Bozarth; and if the circumstances of these brethren would justify it, I would be glad if the petition could be granted; they have both been in the mission, and each have many friends who would welcome them. Bro. Montague is in North Texas, and has been laboring faithfully. He is faithful, reliable and agreeable, and should be continued. Bro. Cato has been hindered much by ill health; but has done considerable labor, he is zealous and faithful, and I would recommend his being continued in the work here. As for myself I am at the disposal of conference after a few months, and am willing to continue in the mission if the needs of the work seem to you to demand it. The most of the serious difficulties are now in a fair way to be adjusted, though there are some things yet to be looked after, which may be the cause of some trouble.

Elder *G. S. Hyde*, of the Quorum of Seventy, reporting from Clear Water, Neb., says:

I have endeavored to do as best I could, seeking to adapt myself to circumstances, laboring where and when I thought the most good could be done; the results the future will reveal. Since the Fall Conference I have baptized none. I can not say conscientiously that prospects for future ingatherings into the fold from the people of Ten-

nessee and Kentucky is very flattering; yet when we consider the importance of the gospel represented by us, and the moral worth of those whom it is designed to save, we feel that the interest and demand for labor in those States are fully sufficient to justify missionary labor there. We are sometimes led to think that the work of God for the consummation of latter day events is, in some respects, in its infancy. Perhaps not in point of time. The gospel germ has been planted there, and some good fruit has grown upon the tree of righteousness. With regard to future labor, brethren, I am with you. I love gospel because it is my friend. I love to preach it, because in so doing spiritual power and the ability to resist and overcome evil are imparted. I prefer "our gospel" to many others taught in the world for various reasons: First, it is identical the one taught by Paul, Peter, James, John and Jesus the "Mediator of all." Second, it is a better gospel than the diluted and attenuated theories passing among the unwary or unwise, because it contains the essence of power by which its truth is demonstrated, and its adherents are made free from the bondage of sin. Third, it breathes and begets higher moral sentiment, it generates grander aspirations, and secures to man a better conception of the creature and the Creator. In the last six months I have preached fifty-three times and attended to such of the duties as naturally devolve upon the itinerant ministry.

Elder *J. F. McDowell*, of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports as follows:

I have labored in Des Moines District; have delivered over one hundred sermons and lectures, baptized seven, blessed five children, attended to eight confirmations; have administered to the sick with marked results; God's power having been immediately displayed. On our way eastward, Bro. Etzenhouser and self tarried in Dubuque about two weeks; here we met with opposition in obtaining occupancy of some chapels, which resulted in an exchange of thought in the leading daily papers, from which we think "the truth" and "the way" did not suffer. We found two "old time" folks, whose hearts were retouched by God's spirit, acknowledged the "voice of the Good Shepherd" in the message delivered, and the husband renewed his covenant with God by baptism, after years of wandering in sorrow and uncertainty. We left others on the verge of the liquid grave, whose hearts have received new life, and whose souls shall not rest contented until they have followed Jesus all the way. I have received renewed and increased evidences of the divinity of the work; and I feel assured that its march points only toward eternal conquest, and that it shall be crowned with victory amid acclamations of angelic hosts, and voices of the redeemed shall pronounce it an infinite success, for God shall stand and pronounce the supreme benediction which belongeth to the consummation of dispensations, and the closing of the ages of time!

Elder *Columbus Scott*, of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports as follows:

I have labored almost continuously since last September in Michigan. Having been under the necessity of laboring alone, I have not been able to meet the great demand for labor, in the localities visited. Some most excellent fields for the ministry of the gospel are opening up in

central Michigan, the demands of which I hope will not be overlooked nor forgotten by the present conference. I hope another proclamation will be made for "volunteers," that the great campaign may move on to glorious and certain victory. More laborers are needed: will the Church arouse to the importance of the occasion, and the requirements of the great cause. So far as the spiritual status of the work in the mission is concerned, the Saints are generally active and alive to the work. Have baptized three, and confirmed three; administered to the sick, which in instances, was greatly confirmed with blessing attending. Have otherwise ministered in word and ordinances, with spiritual acceptance and satisfaction. We have encountered some causes of struggling, temptations and trials, in trying to move along in the path of duty; but the hand of the Father has led us, and this has been sufficient. I believe my chief desire in life is to assist in moving the cause of Christ along in the world, according "to the measure of the gift" bestowed, and am still willing to do all I can, as divine wisdom may indicate.

Elder *E. C. Brand*, of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports:

Since last conference I have been laboring in Northern and Southern Nebraska and Western Iowa: in Nebraska at Bates School House, Plattsmouth, Omaha, Blair, Fairfield, Wilber, DeWitt, Dorchester, Mt. Hope, Pleasant Grove and Fremont; and in Western Iowa at Plum Creek, Fremont and Ross School-house; preached 82 times, baptized four, confirmed one, ordained one Elder by direction of conference, married one couple, blessed eight children, traveled 2,286 miles, opened three new places with good prospects. In Northern and Southern Nebraska the work is taking a more permanent hold. There is a strong feeling of inquiry among the people, and an awakening among the Saints; from whom I have met with great kindness, and my wants have been well supplied. The power of God has been made manifest, not only among the Saints, but also outside of the Church.

Elder *B. V. Springer*, of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports:

Pursuant to my appointment of the last Annual Conference, I have endeavored to magnify my calling in the field assigned me, to the extent of my ability, and am happy in being able to report some good results. I deem it proper to call your attention especially to that portion of country visited by myself last winter, comprising the counties of Howell and Oregon in Missouri, and Fulton county, Arkansas. I am quite sure that a good work can be done there, if proper labor is had. Bro. Heman C. Smith would be welcome there. I have been greatly blessed in my labors, notwithstanding the trials I have had to undergo, for I realize that God is in this work, and that they that are for us are more than they that are against us. I have been blessed temporally. God bless the Saints of the St. Louis District,—my wants have been amply supplied. As to the future, I can only say that I am willing to go wherever you may decide.

Elder *Joseph Luff* reports from Salt Lake City, Utah, as follows:

By the Fall conference of 1882, I was appointed to the Rocky Mountain Mission, and in about three weeks from the close of its session, I was

in Salt Lake City. Since then I have devoted all my time to the ministry, except when my health was too poor to allow it. I have labored under the direction of Bro. Blair. Have visited Malad and Eikhorn, in Idaho; and Provo, Pleasant Grove, American Fork, Lehi, and Union Fort, in Utah; besides attending to the interests of the work in Salt Lake City, a great portion of the time. After my arrival here, I was rather impressed with the idea that if I hoped to accomplish any good I had better make up my mind to stay from two to three years. Expressing that thought, I was advised to bring out my family, which I did. My health has been poorer than at any time in my life, and my bodily suffering greater. At the present time I am feeling rather better. If it is thought expedient by the Church to sustain me in this mission, I am willing to remain. Everywhere I have been throughout the mission, a feeling of regret has been expressed over the removal of Bro. R. J. Anthony from this mission. His return is anxiously looked and hoped for. No opportunity has been afforded the members of this mission of expressing, in conference, their feeling in the matter, on account of the conference east being held at the same date as ours here; but had such opportunity been afforded, a special appeal would have been made for his return. Polygamy never was more boldly or plainly enjoined upon the people here than now. It is the theme of nearly every discourse delivered, and throughout the territory it is being offered as the only alternative to damnation hereafter, and loss of position in the church here. The mission needs more laborers; but whether it will justify the outlay required in sending them or not, I will not predict.

Elder *Hans N. Hansen* reports from Ephraim City, Utah:

I submit a report of my labors in this field, to which I was appointed by last General Conference. I left home December 5th, 1882, and went immediately to work. I have preached in Salt Lake and Sanpete counties; have met with much opposition, and much darkness to contend with; but yet have felt blessed in my efforts to some extent. I have been much encouraged by the kindness of the few Saints that it has been my privilege to meet with, for indeed they have received and cared for me as a brother, and no where have I found a more warm-hearted people than the Saints in Utah. I have only baptized and confirmed three; although I have scattered seed in plenty, I have reaped but sparingly; but the work is the Lord's, and he must give the increase—hence I am content. On account of my temporal affairs it will be necessary for me to return home this Summer, but trust that whether in Utah or any where else, I may be found by the grace of God in the discharge of my duties.

Elder *F. P. Scarcliff*, present, reports:

I have labored in the Florida District, baptized two, preached seventy times. More laborers are needed in this part of the mission; I have not been able to respond to many urgent calls. We are constantly reminded by the papers in the South that the Utah Church is making a special effort in the South, and that they are quite successful in making converts. The South is comparatively speaking a great untried field. In many places openings can only be made in the

face of great opposition; but still the doors are open in many parts of the mission. The work in the South ought not to be abandoned, but more laborers sent. I think that labor in New Orleans, Mobile and Atlanta, and other cities would be an advantage to the work; not so much for what might be done by making converts, but for the influence it would have throughout the country. Large cities are not very numerous in the South, and their influence is considerable.

Elder *R. M. Elvin*, present, reports:

After conference last Fall, sickness caused me to lose part of October and November. I have preached sixty times in Iowa at fourteen places; and forty-one times in Nebraska at eleven places. In addition to the above labor, I accepted of a challenge from the Rev. N. M. Allen of the Missionary Baptist Church. We met in January and discussed for six nights, each session was of two hours' duration; the attendance was very large, much above the capacity of the house to accommodate, and the order was excellent; thus there were hundreds who listened to the gospel, that under no other circumstance could have been prevailed upon to give ear to our testimony. The Father sustained me by the granting of the Holy Spirit, giving life and power to the word spoken. I have travelled in the discharge of my duties as a missionary 1,845 miles, much of this travel was accomplished per wagon during the intense cold and mid storm and deep snow. Baptized and confirmed three, united two couples in the bonds of wedlock, and blessed eight children. I have administered to quite a number of sick, and in most cases with an immediate result for good, and in some cases, with greater and more speedily results than could have been expected. Financially I have been closely pressed, but am willing to endure with the Church during its hours of adversity and poverty, believing that if I endure the cross with the Church militant, in patience, with a cheerful and humble heart, I shall be permitted and entitled to a crown of reward and glory in the Church triumphant, when the Master cometh to make up his Jewels. I find joy and peace of mind while engaged in the calling of a messenger of the gospel of salvation, and my hope is to be found worthy to stand firm and true, to have and retain the confidence of the Church and my Heavenly Father.

Elder *J. H. Merriam*, present, reports:

Being appointed to the Canada Mission under Bro. J. H. Lake, I reported to him at London Conference, on 4th November, since then have put in my entire time battling for the truth, and can say have been blessed in so doing. Have opened up some new places, where good has been done; baptized four and blessed six children, have been assisted by local brethren both in ministry and by temporal means. The work in Canada demands attention to make it successful. Prejudice is giving way, and the work seems to be getting a good footing. The Saints have great confidence in the President of the Mission, and a general desire expressed to have him return.

Elder *H. Robinson*, present, reports:

I have labored in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. I have taken orders for books and papers, and collected moneys for the office. Blessed a number of children, administered to the sick with marked results, attended prayer

meetings, and instructed the Saints. I have baptized and confirmed thirteen; opened two or three new places,—one in Monroe county, Ohio,—that bids fair for a good work to be done; left many believers anxious to hear the words of life. I am still willing to labor in the vineyard, if found worthy.

Elder *John D. Bennett*, reports from Cuba, Republic county, Kansas:

My labors have been confined to Washington, Republic, Cloud, and Clay Counties, Kansas. My regular appointments are at five points. I leave home on Saturday and visit two or more points, and return on Monday, making a trip of about fifty miles, to be repeated on the following Saturday. During the winter I have held several serial meetings; my average regular and serial are very nearly three appointments per week. My mission was voluntary and the field my own choice, conference only confirming the choice. Hence "I went this warfare at my own charges, freely giving one-third of my time through the cropping season, and weeks together during the winter months. My Book of Covenants has gone to pieces, and my Book of Mormon "is not;" these, the side-arms of the Christian warriors, and I miss them sorely but am unable to purchase them; I have not seen a *Herald* for upwards of three months, which with a hymn book would be useful and comforting could I possess them, but poverty forbids.

Should the Twelve and the conference so concur, I shall be pleased to continue my labors in this field, and if the Bishopric have funds on hands to spare to aid me to some extent, it will be thankfully received; if not I will trust the Master, and do all and the very best I can to advance the interest of the work.

Elder *A. F. Cato*, reports from Bandera, Texas, as follows:

I left Cook's Point in company with Bro. H. C. Smith, went to the Elmwood Branch to hold a two days' meeting. During our stay (nine days) there were six added to the Church. We went from there to Hearne; held a few meetings with Central Texas Branch, baptized one. Went thence to Elkhart, held meetings with the Elkhart Branch; baptized two. From October 24th to the 10th of December I was not able to do any thing. I attended the conference of the Texas Central District, which was held with the Elmwood Branch. Since that time I have been with Bro. Smith till he started to Bastrop county to attend the quarterly conference of the Central Texas District. At Medina and Bandera I continued the work for awhile longer. We labored in the counties of Bell, Burleson, Robertson, Anderson, Bastrop, Blanco, Bexar and Bandera; baptized seven. We can not boast of a great increase since last Conference. I am willing to continue in this mission for the coming year, or go to any other place you may think best.

Elder *Gordon E. Deuel*, present, reports:

After the Fall Conference I preached some in Nebraska and baptized one in Glenwood, Iowa. On my arrival in Canada I attended the London District Conference and spoke twice; after which I came to Kent and Elgin District, preached some in Blenheim; after that I went to Tilbury. From there I went up into Romney by invitation, assisted Bro. J. H. Merriam. After that preached

once in Chatham, on Christmas day, on the street, then returned to Blenheim and made my way into Howard Township, and preached in town hall, Morpeth; I also preached a number of times in Ridgetown and baptized twelve and blessed quite a number of children. I have administered to the sick a number of times with good effect; one instance I might mention, a case of a disease of forty years' standing, and the brother testifies that he was healed when ministered to. I have preached altogether twenty-three discourses, baptized 13. I am at the disposal of your honorable body.

Elder *James A. McIntosh*, reports from Picton, Ontario, as follows:

I have preached 57 times, baptized 5, confirmed 4, ordained one Priest; administered to eighteen sick persons, with good in nearly all cases; attended five sacrament meetings, blessed two children, traveled 488 miles (50 of this on foot); made three new openings. I might have done more labor than I have performed. I may have erred in some respects, but in none intentionally. If any action is taken to organize the Fifth Quorum of Elders, I have previously sent in my name at request of *Herald*; you can call it up if necessary, as I desire to do all I can in the Lord's vineyard.

COMMITTEE REPORT.

Report of committee to wait upon the Secretary of State read. On motion the report, with the memorial, was received and adopted, and ordered to be spread upon the minutes, and the committee discharged.

We your committee appointed at the Fall session for 1882, at Lamoni, Iowa, to present certain matters before Hon. F. T. Frelinghuysen, Secretary of State of the United States, beg leave and report as follows:

Elder Zenas H. Gurley, of the committee, visited Washington, the Capital of the United States, in December last, while prosecuting his mission in the east, and consulted with gentlemen representing the State of Iowa, in Congress, and with Senator McDill and Representative W. P. Hepburn, of the Eighth District of Iowa, called upon the Secretary. From what he then learned, he corresponded with the other member of the committee, and by agreement we met at Philadelphia, on February 24th, 1883, and on the 28th, proceeded to the seat of government. We at once made an effort to secure an interview with the Secretary. By the aid of Hon. W. P. Hepburn, who secured the assistance of Senator W. B. Allison, of Iowa, the effort was successful; for on the 5th of March we were introduced to the Hon. Secretary of State, at his office, by Senator Allison, in company with Hon. W. P. Hepburn, Mr. Allison making the statement of the object of our visit. We laid before the Hon. Secretary the accompanying paper, stating the reason for presenting it to him; at the same time presenting copies of the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants with passages referred to marked. The Secretary received the books, thanking us for them and promised that he would give the subject a consideration. Your Committee take pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy and constant kindness of Messrs Allison and Hepburn of Iowa; and the courtesy of Messrs Burrows

and Willetts of Michigan and Senator McDill of Iowa. Hon. W. P. Hepburn was steadfast in his kindness and did all he could to aid us in our efforts to secure the object of our visit to Washington. Bishop George A. Blakeslee, at the request of the committee, accompanied them to Philadelphia and thence to Washington, to be present at the interview with the Secretary of the State, on the 5th of March, which object was defeated by the recall of the Bishop to Lamoni, by telegram from that place, in connection with Herald Office affairs.

Your Committee further report that they have lodged with the Bishop, G. A. Blakeslee, a bill of expenses incurred as your committee, and ask that the same be allowed and ordered to be paid.

JOSEPH SMITH, } Com.
Z. H. GURLEY. }

April 6th, 1883.

COPY OF DOCUMENT.

TO THE HON. F. T. FRELINGHUYSEN,
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE
UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D. C.

As a committee appointed by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, to which we belong, we beg leave to present the following to you, on behalf of said Church.

1. The Reorganized Church is the proper representative successor of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, organized by Joseph Smith and others, April 6th, 1830, then numbering about thirty souls, and now numbering in the United States and Territories, Great Britain, the Canadas, Australia and the Society Islands about 20,000 members.

2. The members of the Reorganized Church are loyal to the Governments of which they are citizens; and neither teach, nor practice any religious tenet that is subversive of those Governments, or destructive to good citizenship, as witness the position of said Church in defining her relation to governments and laws, viz: "We believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of men, and that he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them, either in making laws or administering them, for the good and safety of society. We believe that all men are bound to sustain and uphold the respective governments in which they reside, while protected in their inherent and inalienable rights by the laws of such governments, and that sedition and rebellion are unbecoming every citizen thus protected, and should be punished accordingly; and that all governments have a right to enact such laws as in their own judgments are best calculated to secure the public interest at the same time, however, holding sacred the freedom of conscience.

We believe that the commission of crime should be punished according to the nature of the offense; that murder, treason, robbery, theft and the breach of the general peace, in all respects should be punished according to their criminality and their tendency to evil among men, by the laws of that government in which the offence is committed, and for the public peace and tranquility all men should step forward and use their ability in bringing offenders against good laws, to punishment.

"We believe that all religious societies, have a right to deal with their members for disorderly conduct according to the rules and regulations of such societies, provided that such dealings be for fellowship and good standing; but we do not believe that any religious society has authority to try men on the right of property or life, to take from them this world's goods, or put them in jeopardy either of life or limb, neither to inflict any physical punishment upon them—they can

only excommunicate them from their society and withdraw from their fellowship.

"We believe that men should appeal to the civil law for redress for all wrongs and grievances, where personal abuse is inflicted, or the right of property or character infringed, where such laws exist as will protect the same."

The Church by her President Joseph Smith in 1844 (just prior to his death) gave to the world an epitome of faith and doctrines which were held sacred—and the only principles necessary to salvation, this, if we mistake not was made in answer to the inquiry of Hon. John Wentworth of Chicago and published by him in his paper, the *Democrat*, and also published by I. Daniel Rupp, in his History of the Religious Denominations in the United States during that year, and is as follows:

"We believe in God the Eternal Father and his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

"We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression.

"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

"We believe that these ordinances are: (1) Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) Repentance. (3) Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. (4) Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. (5) "We believe in the resurrection of the body; that the dead in Christ will rise first, and that the rest of the dead will not live again until the thousand years are expired.

"We believe in the doctrine of Eternal Judgment, which provides that men shall be judged, rewarded or punished, according to the degree of good, or evil, they shall have done.

"We believe that a man must be called of God, and ordained by the laying on of hands of those who are in authority, to entitle him to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances thereof.

"We believe in the same kind of organization that existed in the primitive Church, viz: Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, etc.

"We believe that in the Bible is contained the word of God, so far as it is translated correctly. We believe that the canon of Scripture is not full, but that God, by his Spirit, will continue to reveal his word to man, until the end of time.

"We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting gospel, viz: the gift of faith, discerning of spirits, prophecy, revelation, healing, visions, tongues and the interpretation of tongues, wisdom, charity, brotherly love, etc.

We believe that marriage is ordained of God; and that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock, for either man or woman, except in cases where the contract of marriage is broken by death or transgression.

This your Honor was the faith of the Church up to 1844 A. D. under Joseph Smith, its founder—the same is affirmed by the Reorganized Church of to-day, and we submit that, in justice and by right under the laws of this government and in harmony with itself—it is now and must necessarily ever remain as the only and true faith of said Church, the declaration of polygamic Mormons to the contrary notwithstanding.

3. The tenet of polygamy is not now, and has never been taught by said Reorganized Church, nor was it any part of the faith of the Church organized by Joseph Smith in 1830, as this committee can clearly show; and as was shown before the Judiciary Committee during the Session of last Congress, pending action on the Edmund's Bill. To the contrary the Reorganized Church did in June, 1852, and has since

constantly maintained a persistent opposition to the tenet of polygamy and those who have affirmed and practiced it; and has now an organized mission under the ministerial charge of Elder W. W. Blair, an American citizen, in Utah teaching against it.

4. The effort against this delusive doctrine made by the Reorganized Church, has not been confined to Utah; but in all parts of the United States, in England, Wales, the Canadas, Denmark, Switzerland, France, Australia and the Society Islands, the Elders of the Church have been actively engaged in denouncing it, and saying and declaring none other things than those provided for by law as accepted and held sacred by the Church from its inception down to the present time.

"Wherefore my brethren, hear me and hearken to the word of the Lord, for there shall not any man among you have save it be *one wife*, and concubines he shall have none, for I, the Lord God, delighteth in the chastity of women, and whoredoms are an abomination before me, saith the Lord of Hosts." Book of Mormon; Jacob 2: 6-9. And again "Wherefore it is lawful that he (man) should have *one wife*, and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation; and that it might be filled with the measure of man, according to his creation before the world was made." Doctrine and Covenants p. 161:—Witness also the marriage contract as used by the Church and based upon the foregoing fundamental law, to wit: "You both mutually agree to be each others companion, husband and wife, observing the *legal rights* belonging to this condition; that is, keeping yourself wholly for each other and from all others during your lives." D. & C. p. 330. These we submit to your honor as being wholesome laws and in harmony with the position of the Church in defining her relation to governments and the duties of her members therein. The practice of Utah Mormons is so absolutely the opposite being in violation and abrogation of said laws that to call them "Latter Day Saints," appears at once a misnomer they having abandoned the faith of that Church and by virtue thereof should by right be called polygamists—The correctness of this position will appear at once when we consider the fact that their representative men, Orson Pratt in debate with Dr. Newman at Salt Lake City, and Del. George Q. Cannon before judiciary Committee of House of Representatives last winter—in answer to the question direct made statement that their practice of polygamy and its concomitants rested not upon the Bible or any other book, but upon a certain document which Mr. Cannon was pleased to name a "purported revelation"—and now as that document sets up a "new plan of salvation;" and is in violation and total disregard of the faith, laws, teachings and usages of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints we aver and ask that the claim set up in this paper be allowed it being just to all parties concerned, for, if the Government feels to condone the polygamic practice of Utah Mormons upon the ground of its being their religion, then in that case, as now, we ask and insist that the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints be relieved from the reproach and shame sought to be fastened upon their faith by such teaching and practice of polygamy and that the line of demarcation be fully drawn that we no longer be improperly confounded with Mormons of Utah.

The impossibility of any true Latter Day Saint accepting any dogma which would lead him to violate the laws of his country may be seen in the following:

"Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the law of God hath no need to break the laws of the land; wherefore be subject to the powers

that be, until He reigns whose right it is to reign, and subdues all enemies under his feet." Doctrine and Covenants p. 177. This we submit renders it impossible for any consistent member of the Church to live inharmoniously with the laws of the Government, and he is especially enjoined to be subject unto these laws until Christ comes—and greater importance may be attached to this when we consider the fact that the Church received this as the voice of God to them in August, 1831.

5. In carrying on the work of propagandizing, both in the United States and abroad the Reorganized Church has been confounded with the Mormon or polygamic Church in Utah, over which Brigham Young did, and John Taylor does now preside, and which has since August, 1852, and does still teach and practice the tenet of plural marriage, or polygamy, in contravention and in defiance of the wholesome laws of the United States; and it has not been until quite recently that the said Reorganized Church has been able to compel the recognition of the difference between it and the Mormons of Utah on this point, and that not until the matter at issue was brought into the courts, in the northern district of Ohio; and before Congress at its last session.

6. This confounding of the Reorganized Church and the Utah Mormons together as one; as being polygamic and disloyal to the United States, in that they both taught and practiced tenets subversive of good citizenship and contrary to the laws, has worked disadvantageously to the progress of the said Reorganized Church; and especially so since the circular letter of William N. Evarts, late Secretary of State, to the Governments of Foreign Nations asking them to discriminate against the emigration of Mormons from those nations to the United States. The effect of this letter of Secretary Evarts referred to, was such that in Germany, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Italy, Norway and the Society Islands, missionaries of the Reorganized Church were regarded with suspicion and were refused liberty to propagandize, as such liberty is given to missionaries of other American churches; and Consuls of the United States will not give the ordinary guarantees of protection to them as citizens of the United States while pursuing their missionary labors. The same disability and suspicion in a modified form attached to missionary labor in England and the Canadas and in New Mexico and the Southern States.

7. While we as a Church do not expect the Government of the United States to enact laws to specially favor, or foster, the religious views of the Reorganized Church, or to instruct the officers of the Government at home or abroad, to give special protection to the missionaries of said Church as religionists; we deem it right and a duty to ask that the Government shall secure to us as loyal citizens of the United States, all the privileges and immunities of such citizens at home, and protection abroad; and to ask that no enactment of Congress, nor instruction of the general officers of the Government shall discriminate against us to our injury as law abiding citizens.

In this case, we represent to you, that the effect of the letter of W. M. Evarts referred to has been to our injury in the manner specified; and we by our committee, ask of your Honor such favorable consideration as shall free us from said disability and that you so instruct the consuls of the United States to the various Governments named in this memorial, and others when necessity requires, that the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as the legal successor to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints organized April 6th, 1830, are not polygamists, and not disloyal; and that said Reorganized Church

should be exempted from the disabilities imposed by said letter of instruction to Foreign Powers, from the late Secretary of State, Hon. W. M. Evarts, and that you will in such way as may by you be deemed proper, convey to the proper officials of said foreign governments, the information herein set forth, that we may be freed from the disability and suspicion complained of.

9. The members of the Reorganized Church are scattered in church organizations, of congregations, throughout the United States and Territories; largely in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Michigan and Indiana and for their character for loyalty, etc., as herein set forth, inquiry may be made of the representatives of those States, Hons. James F. Wilson, J. W. McDill, W. P. Hepburn, John A. Kasson and others of Iowa, specially referred to.

10. We suggest to your Honor, that an effective aid may be given to the Legislative and Judiciary departments of the Government in suppressing the evils known to exist in Utah, ostensibly fostered by the dominant church there as a part of their religion, if this distinction between the Reorganized Church which we represent, and the Utah Mormon Church be formally recognized by the Government, and officially noticed by your Honor in the manner asked for by us.

For the prosperity and future success of our country we shall ever pray.

JOSEPH SMITH } Committee.
Z. G. HURLEY }

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
February 22d, 1883.

Motion adopted that the Bishop be ordered to pay the expense of the committee.

Motion to adjourn to meet for business on Monday, at ten o'clock. Amendment: that the conference hereafter adjourn by the appointment of the Presidency.

Closed by singing "O how sweet is the soul cheering thought." Benediction by Pres. Joseph Smith.

Preaching in the evening by D. S. Mills. An elaborate sermon upon ancient and present revelation.

SABBATH, APRIL 8TH.

The morning prayer meeting was in charge of Brn. John Hawley and H. Robinson.

At half-past ten o'clock the meeting was opened by singing "The morning breaks, the shadows flee." Prayer was offered by Elder W. W. Blair. Sang "O bow thine ear, thou God of saints." Preaching by President Joseph Smith. Closed by singing "Joy to the world, the Lord will come." Benediction by Robt. M. Elvin.

The afternoon meeting was opened by singing "God moves in a mysterious way." Prayer by Elder C. Derry. Sung "Hark! listen to the trumpeters." Preaching by Elder Joseph R. Lambert. Closed by singing "This world will be blest by and bye." Benediction by Josiah Ells.

Services opened in the evening by singing "Guide us O, thou great Jehovah."

Prayer offered by Elder E. Robinson. Sung "Glad are we that now the gospel." Preaching by Pres. W. W. Blair. Sung "There is a land immortal." Benediction by E. Robinson.

MONDAY, APRIL 9TH.

A prayer meeting opened at nine o'clock, which continued during the forenoon, in charge of H. Robinson and L. R. Devore; the gifts were manifested.

Business opened in the afternoon by singing, "Glorious things are sung of Zion;" prayer by Pres. Joseph Smith.

Minutes of Saturday read, corrected and approved.

Additional report of the committee on credentials showed that Philadelphia District was entitled to eight votes, and gave the names of the delegates.

Brn. W. W. Blair and E. C. Brand, moved the following:

Resolved, That Elder W. W. Blair be authorized to represent the Utah District in this Conference.

Spoken to by W. W. Blair, E. L. Kelley and Z. H. Gurley.

Substitute by E. L. Kelley and J. S. Patterson:

Moved as a substitute, That the question of election of delegates from the Utah, Independence, Eastern Ohio and Western Virginia Districts, be referred to the committee on credentials, for their examination, and report to this body.

Moved to amend by adding the scattered members of Chicago Branch.

Spoken to by H. C. Bronson and Z. H. Gurley. Amendment put to vote and lost.

Substitute spoken to by E. L. Kelley, F. G. Pitt, J. Hawley, J. S. Patterson, Z. H. Gurley, W. H. Kelley, A. H. Smith, and A. W. Glover.

Brethren J. T. Kinnaman and J. H. Merriam

Moved to amend by instructing the committee to ascertain by evidence attainable by them, who are entitled to certificates from said districts, and report favorably upon them

Moved by Brn. E. L. Kelley and H. C. Bronson, as an amendment to the amendment, by adding the words "if any," after the word "who."

Amendment to the amendment put to vote and carried. Amendment as amended put to vote and carried. Substitute as amended put to vote and carried.

Report of the committee on the case of St. Louis District vs. J. W. Thorpe read. The report was objected to by George Hicklin. Moved by Z. H. Gurley and George Hicklin to recommit the report to committee. Spoken in favor by George Hicklin and Z. H. Gurley; against by Robt. M. Elvin. Motion put to vote and carried.

MINISTRY REPORTS.

Elder *W. H. Kelley*, of the Quorum of Twelve, present, reported:

Since the last Semi-Annual Conference I have been actively engaged in the work assigned me; and I have no discouraging reports to make. The work is still moving slowly but surely along, and there is much to comfort and strengthen the believers and laborers in the faith. I have not been able to visit so many points in the fields assigned to me as I wished, but have done the best I could. Much of my time was spent in the Chicago Mission up to the holidays, when Bro. J. R. Lambert arrived, and has been directly in charge since. The spirit of opposition to constituted authority in Chicago still exists—harbored by a few. This opposition, as before, has been strengthened and encouraged by the action and resolutions of the Northern Illinois District Conference, and sympathy shown by individuals of the district. This opposition has been, so far as I have learned, as radically opposed to Bro. J. R. Lambert as myself, and I am convinced will be towards any one who does not fall in with the views and sentiments of the agitators. While I was opposed to the setting of Chicago off in the first place, and making a special mission of it, I am thoroughly convinced that it would be unwise and work serious injury to the cause to unite it with the Northern Illinois District at the present time. The wisest thing, in my judgment, that can be done touching that mission at present, will be to continue the mission, and also continue Bro. J. R. Lambert in charge.

Since the latter part of February I have been engaged in repairing the Temple and getting it ready for the conference, and arranging at the hotel for the entertainment of the brethren. This work has been done with a great deal of labor and anxiety, but for all of this we shall be amply repaid if the work done shall prove to be satisfactory to your honorable body; and we leave the work and preparations to speak for themselves. Brn. Jesse White; J. Shook, wife and daughter; and Bro. J. Lamereaux and daughters; each and all aided in this work, and deserve the thanks of the Conference.

I consider Ohio to be an important field of labor, and should not be neglected in the appointment of Missionaries. The same interest continues in Michigan and Indiana to become acquainted with the faith. Each year confirms me in the faith of Christ; and I am still in the confident belief that the work will accomplish its purposes in the earth and triumph, whatever may become of men. I am in the field; and may the Lord encourage his people and make strong his cause that truth may spread abroad.

Report objected to by J. S. Patterson. It was moved to receive the report. Spoken to by W. H. Kelley, J. S. Patterson, Z. H. Gurley, F. G. Pitt and Jos. R. Lambert. Previous question moved. Motion put to vote and carried.

Elder *E. C. Briggs*, of the Quorum of Twelve, present, reports:

I have preached but little since my appointment last conference. My reasons are that my circumstances have been such that I could not go to the field appointed; and only held few

meetings in the vicinity of my own regions, since about the middle of February, and now will take the field as deemed wise by the conference, and hope as I once was in my might and faith, alive to the interest of the kingdom of God, and my fellow men.

Elder *D. S. Mills*, of the High Priests' Quorum, present, reports:

As president of the Southern California District, I herewith submit a brief report of labors, and of the work in said district. As you are doubtless aware, since Bro. Glaud Rodger returned home I have been sustained in the presidency of said district. My labors have been within the counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino, which are larger than some of the New England states in area. I have been aided by Elder E. J. French who was appointed for that purpose, and also by Elder Hiram Holt, both of whom are active, able, and filled with the Spirit of the work to which their souls are wed. We have as yet had no difficulties to settle, as a good degree of love and union prevails. God has confirmed our labors everywhere with signs following, and the faith of the Saints is increasing; and as a whole are blessed both temporally and spiritually. Outsiders are interested, and the usual attendance at our meetings is large. We have added sixteen feet in length to our house at Newport, and yet it is too small. Our branches are alive and in good working order—a healthy growth is noticeable—and our additions are of the best class of people. Within the past five months I have baptized 16, some of them are able young men, who will shortly aid us in the ministry; there is work enough in that district for twenty active Elders. Old prejudices are yielding, and we have a standing as much respected as any denomination in that district; our influence is extending on all sides, and the work has received an impetus. Since the active labors of the Bishopric have commenced their efforts are endorsed by the Saints. Full confidence is established; and the outlook is better than it has been. I expect to be no tax to the Church in my ministry, but entirely self-sustaining; and in the strength of Israel's God do what I can for his kingdom. My soul is filled with thanksgiving and joy in this conference in the Temple of our God.

Elder *J. F. Mintun*, of the Quorum of Seventy, makes an additional report from Magnolia, Iowa:

Since April 1st I have preached three times and baptized one, blessed children and administered to sick with immediate relief. I have seen more good accrue from administration of James' prescription (Jas. 5:15) during the last month than ever before. It proves to me that the work of faith is increasing in the earth. When I look back one year and a half ago, when I turned my face westward to fill my mission, I exclaim, How good is the Lord, and how merciful.

Elder *W. T. Bozarth*, of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports:

I was appointed to labor in Missouri, and have done all that I could in the presentation of the word. Sickness in my family kept me at home over one month. I have preached in the following counties: DeKalb, Davis, Caldwell, Linn, Grundy, Mercer. I have opened a number of

new fields, and have found good interest. I have more calls there now than I can fill. With the labors of the past six months I have got the work in a better shape now to do good than I have ever had before. Some are waiting baptism as soon as I can return, and others are interested, and say come and preach more. I do think that the work should be kept up there. I am still willing to labor to the best of my ability.

Elder *M. T. Short* of the Quorum of Seventy, present, reports:

I have proclaimed the word in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas, since the last general gathering. In the State first named I baptized three ladies. Domestic economy and the sickness and death of my venerable father claimed a very small fraction of my time. The lukewarm churches I visited seemed to revive, and the spirit of inquiry was from fair to good. I held my first and last informal discussion at Ottumwa, Iowa; my opponent in this night after night contest, was U. M. Browder, of the Christian Church. He was learned, arrogant, dogmatic, dishonest, and a pervaricating crank. This investigation continued in the Christian Church, until the flood of irresistible truth deluged and bore away the transparent philosophy of this man, and then they closed the house, although at the onset they talked of fairness. Many miles have I traveled, very many times preached, and kindnesses have cheered the blue-eyed missionary. I remember loving hands in a wholesale manner. I am the only traveling appointee within a hundred miles of the Mississippi above St. Louis, while the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin are entirely destitute. I cry for help, and beg for an associate in travel. The field is great and inviting. Open hands to aid, ears to hear, and hearts to receive and retain are in that broad domain. I seldom have such liberty and power as was enjoyed recently at Buffalo, Iowa, and the effect was telling.

Elder *George Hicklin*, present, reports:

Since the Fall Conference in 1882, I have labored in the Canada Mission. I have attended district conferences at Zone and London; and have labored at Tilbury, Blenheim, Corinth, Brownsville, Culloden, London, Osborne, Egremont and Ellice; have preached 103 times, and attended one funeral, and baptized six, confirmed seven, ordained one Elder, blessed two children, and have administered to the sick many times with marked results, and attended other ministerial duties. Canada needs more laborers, as there can be many new places opened. I am willing to labor and do all I can for the Kingdom of God, and place myself in the hands of this Conference, and shall try and fill any appointment made for me inasmuch as my wife can be cared for.

Elder *Joseph P. Knox*, present, reports:

I have been laboring in the Des Moines District the past winter, and have done to the best of my ability all that I could; but feeling the office of my calling urging me forward in the great fight, I offer my service to you for disposal.

Elder *Joseph F. Burton*, reports from South Rawdon, Nova Scotia:

I have been laboring in Hants county principally; have baptized eleven persons, organized the Upper Newport Branch, ordained two Elders, one Priest, one Teacher. Preached as often as

convenient, principally in private houses. The ministers of the so-called Evangelical Churches are using their influence against us in pulpit, press, and privately. Still the knowledge of the truth is steadily increasing, and by the foolishness of preaching, by tracts, fireside conversations by friends and enemies, the word goes from village to village, and many are anxiously enquiring what is this new doctrine. We have many friends for the gospel's sake in this country, and think this a promising field, and that the outlook is good.

Elder *C. H. Caton*, of Birmingham, England, reports:

In submitting the statistical report of English Mission, I call attention to the marked progress in some parts of the mission during the year 1882. The opening up of the work at Burton-on-Trent promises to become a good field; every week brings fresh tidings of some one requiring baptism. The Lord is working amongst them with great healing power, and in consequence the brethren and sisters are rejoicing and praising his holy name. The organizing of a new branch at Wigan, in Lancashire, is an important step to the Manchester District, and by letter we learn that prospects for preaching were never better than at this time. I believe it is safe to say that throughout this country, so far as I can learn, there never was greater enquiry for truth than at this time. What with "Salvation Armies," "Blue Ribbon Armies," Messrs. Moody and Sankey, and one thing or another, the public mind is become incited to enquire "What is truth?"

Words fail me to describe the willingness, and energy put forth by our "Soldiers of the Cross," to respond to the calls for preaching. With more means, (which means money) we could accomplish much more than we do. However, we are fully satisfied that as our numbers increase, so will our funds. So we toil in hope, and faint not. Bro. Wm. Potts, of Burton-on-Trent, has built a neat little room in connection with some houses, and he very kindly lets the Saints have it, free of charge, for a meeting room. At Stafford, the brethren have secured a good hall, and are holding forth every Sunday. I rejoice in this, because for ten years we have hoped and the Stafford Saints hoped and worked hard for an opening in that town. Now it is accomplished we feel sure good will come of it. The brethren right through the mission, with one or two exceptions, are working heartily for the progress of the work;—as they teach so they endeavor to live.

With regard to sending some one from America to this mission, personally I am of the opinion that there is no pressing necessity for such a course. The affairs of the mission are looked after by Bro. Thomas Taylor to the fullest extent that means will allow. In England, as it seems to be in America, the expenses of branches falls on the few who can and will pay, and thus cripples the general church fund, in consequence. I know Bro. Taylor is ready to give up to any one Conference thinks well to appoint, and if it suits the Church funds better to retain him in charge of the mission, he is willing to continue to do his best. I bear testimony that I have proved him a noble man. However, should you in your greater wisdom, decide to send some one here, I do assure you we shall leave no stone unturned to make them happy and comfortable while with us. And

let me here say, that I shall be one to lend a helping hand in so doing, notwithstanding the sentiments above expressed. Of course I know something how matters stand with the people here; and if I did not speak the feelings of my heart, according to knowledge, I should do wrong both to myself and the Church. The facts in the case are of a solid nature—means. If the Bishop has a deep purse, well filled, and can draw hard and fast, then there is plenty of room for one, two or three, to be kept in the field in this country. If not, well then my opinion is that local effort will accomplish all that, under the circumstances, can be.

In the Birmingham Branch we have adopted the weekly offering for the Bishop's fund, and by the grace of God we shall have a nice little sum to hand over at the end of the year. We hope other branches will soon take the same steps.

There is a growing desire right through the mission to see Bro. Joseph Smith pay a visit to this country. We are sure good would come of it, if he were here for a few months only. And as he has been to Utah, California and "Eastward," we should be highly delighted if he were to change his home for a little season and dwell amongst us. Brethren, think of this. Try to see that "Old England" has some sort of a claim to a visit from the President of the Church. If it was in my power I would bear the expense of such a visit, for I am sure it would do us all good.

Elder *Josiah Ells*, of the Quorum of Twelve, reported verbally, as follows:

I have for the last few years been unable to labor in consequence of ill health; but I am now improving, and hope to do a little for the cause. So far as preaching is concerned, I am superannuated; but I will visit among the brethren and do all the good I can, if they desire me to. Some have sent for me to come and visit them, and say they will not expect me to preach. My faith is as good as it ever was. If ever the truth was precious to me, it is to-day. I rejoice exceedingly in the prospects before you, and that young men are being raised up; and my heart is made glad by reading their reports. I know, if I know anything, that the work is of God. I have heard the voice of God declaring it. May the character of the Master be reflected in our lives, I pray.

Letters were read from Tehopea and Metuora of Papete, Tahiti; and addressed to the President of the Church, showing an active effort on the Society Islands. Petition for the return of G. T. Griffith and Hiram Robinson to the mission in which Lampsville, Ohio, is located, was read. Resolutions of the Massachusetts District Conference, asking that one of the Twelve be sent to labor in that district, and for the appointment of John Gilbert as a traveling missionary there, were read and referred for consideration when missions were considered. Letter from J. Armstrong expressing desire for appointment was read and referred. Petition from Julia V. Neal, John Barker, and thirty others, of Oak Island Texas, for the return of Heman C. Smith to the South-

Western Mission was read and referred for consideration under the head of missions. Petition from Central Nebraska District for the appointment of G. S. Hyde to that field was read and referred. One from the Central Texas District for the return of Heman C. Smith was read and referred. One from the Florida District that R. J. Anthony be continued in the South Eastern Mission.

The resignation of W. H. Curwen as a member of the Board of Publication was read and passed subject to call, or regular order.

The following resolution from the Little Sioux District was read and passed subject to call.

Moved as a substitute that the delegates appointed to Annual Conference be requested to lay the subject of holding a general camp-meeting somewhere in the west during the coming Fall before conference and ask that it appoint such a meeting.

Benediction by J. H. Lake.

In the evening a large audience gathered to hear the lecture of Elder W. O. Clark of California. Bro. Clark is an old-time Latter Day Saint, a traveler and lecturer of note in many parts of the world and one who has the good of the human race at heart. In his lecture he entertained the audience by sketches of his travels in Palestine, and deductions from his observations there and in India, Italy, France and California to show the desirableness of giving our life to temperance in all things.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10TH.

At nine a.m. a prayer meeting was held in charge of brethren J. A. Robinson and G. E. Deuel. The power and gifts of the Spirit were richly poured out. Preaching at 10:30 a.m. by Eld. Charles Derry, upon the nature and necessity of a whole service unto the Father.

Afternoon session, 1:30 p.m. The session opened by singing, "Yes! we trust the day is breaking;" prayer was offered by Bro. J. S. Patterson.

Majority and minority reports were received from the Committee on credentials, and read:

MAJORITY REPORT.

We, your committee beg leave to report the following as delegates; and according to the instructions given your committee by your honorable body, find that they were appointed to represent the following districts, and recommend that they be admitted to seats in this body:

	No. Votes.
Eastern Iowa District: Warren Turner.....	10
Utah District: W. W. Blair.....	27

Independence District: A. H. Smith, Rod- erick May.....	16
South Eastern Ohio and Western Virginia District: L. R. Devore.....	9
H. C. BRONSON, C. DERRY, F. G. PITT, E. ROBINSON.	

MINORITY REPORT.

As a member of your Committee on Credentials, I beg leave to submit a minority report. I heartily agree with the other members of the committee, in admitting A. H. Smith, F. C. Warnky, R. May and J. C. Foss to seats as delegates from Independence District, and also in granting Warren Turner a seat as delegate from Eastern Iowa District, for the reason that satisfactory evidence was had before the committee that they were duly elected by voice of district conference; but with all good feeling toward my brethren of the committee, I respectfully protest against admitting W. W. Blair as delegate from Utah, and L. R. Devore as delegate from South Eastern Ohio and Western Virginia District, for the reason that they were not appointed by action of conference; but by branches within the limits of organized districts, for which there is no provision in the law. My reasons for objecting are as follows: First, the Conference in adopting our first report agreed that such elections were illegal. Second, these matters were referred to us with instruction to "ascertain by evidence attainable who, if any, are entitled to certificates." Now, as the Conference has before decided such elections improper, I can not report that they are entitled to certificates; and must therefore protest against the majority report in admitting the delegates from Utah, South Eastern Ohio and Western Virginia. Respectfully submitted,

HEMAN C. SMITH, of Com.

Moved by Brn. George H. Hilliard and John Chisnell, That the Majority report be adopted. It was spoken to by Brn. E. L. Kelley, Chas. Derry and A. W. Glover, when it was moved by Brn. E. L. Kelley and E. C. Briggs, to substitute the minority for the majority report. Spoken to by Brn. F. G. Pitt, C. Scott, and W. W. Blair. The previous question was moved and the vote ordered. The vote upon the minority report was put, result declared, and a division was called, on which 20 voted for and 44 against. It was declared lost. Brother William H. Kelley then spoke upon the adoption of the majority report. By request a division of the report into subjects was ordered; and upon separate motions adopted as follows: (1) Eastern Iowa District, Warren Turner, 10 votes. (2) Utah District, W. W. Blair, 27 votes. Spoken to by W. W. Blair, E. C. Brand, E. L. Kelley and Z. H. Gurley. Previous question was ordered and the second clause was adopted. (3) Independence District, A. H. Smith and R. May, 16 votes. (4) Southern Ohio and Western Virginia, L. R. Devore, 9 votes; adopted. The report was objected to as a whole, when it was moved to adopt, which carried. Division was called, resulting in 46 for, 18 against.

MINISTRY REPORTS.

Elder *James Caffall*, of the Twelve, report as follows:

To President and Brethren in Conference, peace:—That peace, even God's peace, may be with you in your sessions will be the fervent prayer of many hearts, who fain would linger within the hallowed walls of Kirtland Temple too; but distance, and other forbidding circumstances, conspire to prevent; hence will wait in hope to hear that you have enjoyed a refreshing time from the presence of the Lord.

Since last report three adults have been added in Russel county, Kansas, and three in Colorado. I have spent most of my time in the latter place, but to find difficulties and hindrances to the progress of the cause. A good share of the population of Colorado is transient or floating, which has been one preventive to retaining an organization in Denver. As many as twenty-two members of the Church have been in Denver; quite a number of which are now preparing to go elsewhere. Additional barriers to those referred to in my last report, have arisen to prevent the erection of a house of worship in Denver, not necessary to detail. Denver is a modern city, with no attractiveness that genius can suggest, or money purchase left out, especially in church building. About thirty orthodox churches are seen, towering heavenward, with all the appendages, such as fairs, bazaars, sacred concerts, etc. From fifteen to twenty dollars being asked for the use of a hall for Sunday has been a preventive to securing a public place for preaching; frequent opportunities for journeys on foot of ten, twelve, fifteen and twenty miles occur, while to reach distant points is expensive; indeed it seems almost impossible to prosecute the mission without a good share of filthy lucre. I have thought it policy to continue efforts until success came, or proof developed of no success to be had. I have abandoned two localities where efforts have been made, north of Denver; and just struck another place, called Sterling, intending at an early day to respond to calls to visit the southern part of the State. Prejudice created by folly committed by our own members has done much towards creating prejudice in the public mind. It is doubtless a gigantic work to cast the devil out from individuals or societies; but to prevent his entrance is the more excellent way. But in this work there has been too great a failure. And his Satanic majesty seeing bars down, which according to his rules of logic has been tantamount to an invitation to enter; and not wishing to be wanting in appreciation of such little favors, when once in, has decided to stay awhile. And under such circumstances he proves the most tantalizing, gossiping, lingering visitor ever known. And it sometimes happens that those so forward in extending invitations, flee at his approach, leaving others to entertain or dispute with his Satanic majesty in that which appears to him a legitimate occupancy. I do not believe that the Church needs any new theological truths; but do believe that greater fervency is needed to honor and put in force the old ones. And I think that the act of conference, of 1879, prohibiting expelled members from entering the Church save by baptism, should be abrogated or efforts made to have it respected, that evidence of consistency, in a willingness to be governed by our own acts may be seen. I assume nothing in say-

ing that a moral excellence among is an absolute necessity; and that assumption or sheer negligence of proscribed duties is not only a preventive to this, but may indulge the unworthy and discriminate against the worthy. That Christ understood himself as well, when instructing his apostles touching offenders, as when telling Nicodemus that he must and how he should be born again. That both are equally imperative. That when, where, or through whom trouble exists, a necessity is involved for a thorough investigation, culminating in a decision; said decision reached by law, and the preponderance of evidence that the innocent may be vindicated, the guilty punished, and the fair fame of the Church maintained, I verily believe. Liberty being defined to some, means to do as you please, or to be under no restraint whatever, which is a preventive to a just discrimination between a proper activity and priestly domination. To hear the plaintiff and encourage the tattler is vastly different. The latter too frequently occurs, or so I think. The Church ought to hear, believe and sustain her representatives, or prove their unworthiness and dismiss them. None should be thought transgressors in Zion until legitimately so declared. Nor should a proper investigation be hindered when a necessity exists therefor. And he that would shrink from duty because its performance might give offence or become officious because of advantage, must be either ignorant or governed by policy instead of principle.

At sundry times I have prepared eight articles illustrative of our faith and in contradistinction to Brighamism, six of which have found publicity in the Denver daily *Republican* and two in the *Greely Tribune*. But with those who have read, and seen immorality unrebuked in our own members, such efforts avail but little. I shall nevertheless, while claiming to be a representative of the Church, loudly and boldly proclaim that the discipline of the Church revealed through Joseph Smith, disavows immorality, in any shape or form. I do not understand that mercy calls for smothering up wrong doing or that pure friendship is thereby evidenced. He or she is my friend who points out, or warns me of a wrong—I admit of course there is a proper way to proceed, nor does it mean a watching for iniquity.

The publishing of gospel sermons in the *Herald* I think a great acquisition, a much needed improvement, it doubtless will be productive of good. I look upon the *Herald* as a necessity, but am not so sanguine of big results growing out of its change from a semi-monthly to a weekly as some. I trust this is not treason, for if I am disappointed in my expectations I shall feel not aggrieved.

The letter to Mr. Patterson on the Book of Mormon, I think should be published in tract form, and thousands of them sent broadcast through the land. Some policy culminating in supplying the ministry with a more liberal supply of tracts would be good. We have many well written tracts, but sometimes emergency arises requiring something different. The activity and teaching of the Bishopric is truly commendable and inspiring, but with due deference I confess myself unable to fully endorse their position touching surplus, ect., though its possible I may be converted, but require a probationary term of a few weeks at least. This I think

the Bishopric wont deny me. Shall the Church fully endorse and decide to be governed thereby I shall offer no objection. I hope some wise decision may be reached that will satisfactorily settle the Chicago Mission question. I would not impugn motives, but think a mistake was made in making Chicago a special mission, especially as it was in the limits of an organized district. Special legislation, resignation, and disorganization are not provided for in the gospel economy; though its possible emergencies may arise creating a necessity therefor, but very rare, I think. A General Conference, in a sense, is all powerful, yet branches and districts are bodies corporate, and as a General Conference looks to them for support, she should in turn legislate to protect and guard their rights, but when by the legislative acts of conference it had been made a special mission, a change should have been sought and legitimately obtained, if obtained at all.

Respectfully and in hope

JAMES CAFFALL.

Elder *Wm. B. Smith*, of the High Priests Quorum, present, reports:

Since uniting with the Reorganized Church, I have been so isolated from usefulness in the ministry, that I can not report having done much for the advancement of the cause. I have, it is true, preached occasionally to the people in the surrounding country where I live, attending funeral discourses, and in all have held forth the latter day work at all times when and where opportunity offered release from my farm labor. It is needless to say to this conference, brethren I am with you in the faith and spirit of the work, to build up Zion, and to spread the gospel news of salvation abroad. From the early rise of this Church of Christ I have been one of its pioneers, and having passed up through the many trials this Church has suffered, to the present time, it would now be sacrilege and sin to me to lay down my armor and cease to fight on, until the victory in Christ Jesus shall be one of an eternal inheritance in the kingdom of our God. I respectfully submit to this conference that I am at liberty, should they be so impressed by the spirit of the Master, to go into the field to labor, wherever this conference may deem it wisdom that I should go; and it is further my desire and wish to be relieved from the monotony of a life confined on a farm where necessity of hard labor like a canker worm is constantly destroying my ministerial and spiritual food and spiritual life; and that my temporal days and temporal life may be prolonged, I ask this conference to make such action in my case as will give me a life and place that will enable me to add my testimony with the rest of my brethren that are here in conference for the coming year, as the Lord by his good spirit shall direct.

Statement from Elder *James Caffall*, was read, and by motion ordered spread upon the minutes:

STATEMENT.

To the Conference:—If not incompatible with known rule, I ask publicity for the following: Whereas, at a District Conference held at Netawaka, Kansas, November 25th, 1882, by a committee, the action had in the Fanning Branch in December, 1875, ultimating in severing one Wm. Gurwell from the body, was declared illegal; with which my name was closely connected, or presented as the prime mover; and where-

as the force of circumstances precluded the possibility of attending conference to meet the parties concerned, ect. I ask the withholding of judgment by all who know, or have heard but one side of the case, until a proper investigation can be had.

MINISTRY REPORTS.

Elder *F. C. Warnky*, reported from Independence, Mo.:

My labors in the ministry since last conference are as follows. I have preached in two different school districts, several times in this county; also a few times in Wyandotte, and I have regular appointments in Kansas City; besides the last three months I have acted as President of this Branch. The interest here is fair, yet not enthusiastic; while many are investigating there are but few that believe. I feel firm and my whole heart's desire is to do what I can in the spread of the truth.

Elder *Thomas Taylor*, of Birmingham, England, reports:

I have much pleasure in stating that the work of the Lord in this country is still moving steadily onward, our efforts to spread the truth have been and still are followed by success. Some are being added by baptism in most places, and we are greatly blessed with the gospel promises; more particularly in cases of healing the sick. We have had some very miraculous cases of healing, one has taken place at Burton-on-Trent, quite recently, which of course helps to strengthen the Saints in the work they have espoused, and prospects on the whole are very encouraging. The majority of the brethren and sisters are working wisely and zealously for the spread of the cause. Prejudice is fast giving way and the people are beginning to understand that we are a distinct and separate body of people from the Utah Mormons. If any one should be appointed by your honorable body to the English Mission, we shall esteem it a great favor if you will notify us of the same, because our Mission Conference is set for about the middle of May, and we would postpone it till he comes.

Appeals were presented as follows: from A. B. Kuykendall, and Thomas Tyler, Elmwood Branch, and Chicago Branch. On motion these were referred to a committee of three for examination and report to this body. D. S. Mills, H. Robinson and John Hawley, were appointed said committee.

Report of the Bishopric and Bishop's Agents were presented, the summary read, and on motion the report was referred to a committee of three, chosen on separate motions, consisting of P. Cadwell, J. T. Kinnaman and C. A. Beebe.

The following was presented by F. G. Pitt and E. C. Brand:

Whereas, The revelation of September, 1882, contemplates the consideration of the expediency of the discontinuation of the Chicago Mission by this conference; therefore be it Resolved, That the consideration of the Chicago Mission be made the special order of the day, on Wednesday, April 11th, at half-past one in the afternoon.

It was spoken to by Z. H. Gurley, A.

H. Smith and E. L. Kelley; put to vote and lost.

On motion, the following statistical reports received, were ordered entered in the minutes: Massachusetts District, and New-
port (Nova Scotia) Branch, were read

Report of Chicago Branch read. It was moved to receive and spread upon the minutes. This was spoken to by W. H. Kelley, M. T. Short, J. R. Lambert, E. C. Brand, J. S. Patterson and Z. H. Gurley; when the vote was ordered and the motion prevailed.

A petition from certain members claiming to be the First Chicago Branch, was presented. On motion the petition was read, and it was moved that it be referred to a committee of three to be appointed by the chair; but upon motion it was tabled, subject to call, or to come up in the regular order.

Church Recorder's report was read, and it was moved to refer to a committee of three. A substitute was offered to receive and spread upon the minutes, which prevailed.

Closed by singing, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." Benediction by Pres. Joseph Smith.

The Saints' Herald.

JOSEPH SMITH - EDITOR.

Lamoni, Iowa, 28th April, 1883.

WE read our remarks about the sort of spirit that should prevail at the late conference, a good deal as a man might read any saying, after the occasion had passed, as it reached us at Kirtland the day before the session would adjourn. But the advice had been antedated by performance; for certainly it is fair to presume that men never assembled under so great stress, who held themselves under better control than did those who gathered at Kirtland; once and once only did there seem to be any irritability felt, and then only for a moment; the presiding officer's gavel was not used to enforce order once during the entire session of ten days.

The arrangements for the reception and care of delegates and visitors were excellent and ample, the committee appointed for the purpose having discharged their duty faithfully and well.

The citizens were very kind, and all that they could do they seemed willing to do to entertain and make comfortable those who desired accommodations away from the hotel proper, which had been rented

by the committee for the occasion. This hotel was just across the street from the Temple, and was occupied by the committee, with the family of Bro. John Shook, himself, wife and daughter, from Buchanan, Michigan, in charge, and Bro. Charles Butler, of Galien, Michigan, and Bro. J. Lamareaux, of Solon, Ohio, and his two daughters, and some others as assistants. Some of the sisters visiting conference, lent a hand also, when necessary to make things go.

A most excellent temper prevailed during the session, and better sermons, take them as a whole, have not been delivered at any former session.

THERE was a question asked by the brethren of the Seventy last fall, to which answer was requested from the Presidency, with reference to the position occupied by members whose names were dropped from the Quorum, 1, for cause; 2, inactivity; and 3, disability.

1. If the cause assigned is sufficient to warrant further proceedings for membership they should be instituted; but until such proceedings are had they are Elders.

2. If dropped from the list by virtue of a rule of the Quorum requiring report, or labor, or readiness to labor not complied with, or because of inactivity, they are by virtue of their ordination Elders, and under the same rules and regulations as obtain in regard to Elders of the Church.

3. If for disability to travel, the same rule applies as in the case of inactivity; except that disability is a valid excuse for not laboring, while inactivity may, or may not be, as the circumstances of each case must upon an examination disclose.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

Bro. R. J. Anthony writes from Coldwater, Florida, April 9th, that he is being well received. Saints walk from four to six miles to hear him, which is "as good as north or western Saints would do. Bro. Anthony believes that the same amount of labor expended there as in the north would result in as good, if not better results in numbers.

Bro. James Moler arranged with the Pastor of the Disciple Church in Putnam county, West Virginia, for a discussion to be held at Bethel, in said county and state, beginning on the 18th of April, the following being the subject for an examination:—"Resolved, That the Disciple Church is the same in faith, organization and practice as the Church organized by Christ and the Apostles."

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Communications.

ARTICLES under this head do not necessarily receive the endorsement of the Editor: writers are responsible for their own views. Contributions solicited.

THE HOLY GHOST.

"THE Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." "Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come."

Jesus made this promise to his disciples, just before his ascension. This shows us that after Jesus ceased to be with them, they were to be continually guided by revelation. But even the Holy Ghost was not to teach without the Father revealed it; for Jesus said, "He shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak."

It is strange that preachers of the orthodox world, dare to lead the people without its being revealed to them; for Jesus and the Holy Ghost did not presume to do such a thing.

The reason why the Holy Ghost is called the Comforter, is because of the office which he was to perform; for he was to comfort the disciples revealing to them still further knowledge of the things of God. This same Comforter is promised to all who will obey the gospel; for Acts 2:38 reads: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," which promise says Peter, "is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Consequently all persons in all ages, who will accept the plan of salvation as taught by Christ and his apostles, will receive this Comforter, which will guide them into all truth.

The Holy Ghost was also to be a revelator to the church; for John, speaking to church generally, says: "Ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." Therefore, we see that the revelations of the Holy Ghost are indispensably necessary, to comfort and teach the church. Hence, in the Church of Christ, there is a unity of faith, such as is found in no other body or sect. In the Church of Christ there can be no difference of opinion, in regard to baptism, or any ordinance; for the Holy Ghost will

teach the church all things pertaining to doctrine or ordinances, things present, or things to come. The various schisms which have torn asunder modern orthodoxy, among which we will mention eternal punishment, election and infant damnation, can have no existence in the Church of Christ. For there all matters of importance are decided by revelation. With such a revelator, knowledge abounds in every heart. With such a guide, there is no danger of being deceived. They have a test by which they can try all things, prove all things, judge all things, and overcome all things not ordained of God. When the church falls into sin, and neglects her duties, revelation is necessary to reprove and chasten her. We have many examples of the people of God being reprov'd by revelation for suffering contentions to get among them, and destroy the harmony of the church. (Rev. 2d and 3d chapters).

We read in 1 Cor. 1:10, the following: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment." Are the orthodox churches of the present day following this rule? No, far from it; for they teach doctrines entirely in opposition to each other, and yet they all declare they are guided by the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit must be a very uncertain guide, if he teaches one church to sprinkle infants, another to immerse, and only adults; and another to either immerse, pour, or sprinkle; and still another that it is not necessary to be baptized. If all these churches which teach and practice doctrines so very different, are in possession of the Holy Spirit, then that Spirit is divided against itself, and must fall; but the Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth, and always teaches the same doctrine; and when we see such differences of opinion in the orthodox world, we may know certainly that the "Spirit Guide" is not there, and the only church that enjoys it is the one that believes in present revelation.

Some argue that the divisions in the churches is owing to judgments and opinions of men; this I do not deny; but it only shows that men tried to govern the churches instead of the Holy Ghost; hence the strife and disorder in the Christian world. The Savior prayed for the most perfect union to be in his church. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word, that they all may be

one; as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in me; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."—John 16:20. This plainly shows us that the church must have no more differences in sentiment, than there is between the Father and the Son; and there is no possible way to bring this about, except through present revelation. This, and this alone, can accomplish the work, and perfect the Saints. All other substitutes will be inadequate to the task; and herein is the religion of heaven distinguished from all other religions. Again, Jesus says: "No man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him."—Matt. 11:27. Here is the most positive testimony, that no man can know God without he obtains a revelation, and that no one can have eternal life without such revealed knowledge. Think of this, all you enemies of present revelation, and tremble; for the only way to know God and obtain eternal life, is by revelation.

"Revelation's holy light,
Is the light, is the light,
And all else is dark as night,
Save this light of God.

MRS. DANIEL JONES.

GENERAL CONFERENCE MINUTES.

[CONCLUDED.]

CHURCH RECORDER'S REPORT.

Bro. H. A. Stebbins reports from Lamoni, Iowa:

I present to the Annual Conference of April, 1883, the following list of branches by States with the net membership of each as said branches stand upon the General Church Record of names, according to the latest reports received by me from branch and district officers, up to March 22d, 1883. In several instances I know that reports have not been made to the Church Recorder showing the gains and losses, hence the General Church Record does not agree with the mention made in the minutes of district conferences or in letters to the *Herald*. Yet on the whole there has been pretty fair order observed in reporting, and in the majority of instances replies have been received to inquiries written by me.

I have not received any corrections to the Australian records; although I understand that there have been great changes made that should be reported and entered on the Church Record, but no one in Australia knowing the facts seems willing to take it in hand. Neither from England nor Wales have I received any reports, with the exception of the regular and always correct report of the Llanelly Branch by the orderly and efficient clerk thereof. All other regions have been reported about as usual.

The following three hundred and seventy-eight branches are supposed to be in an organized condition, and the majority are such in fact, but a few of them are without organization and without meetings. The present membership of each on the Church Record is as follows:

AUSTRALIA.—Bungay 23, Bungwall 15, Hunter River 29, Port Stephens 12, Sydney 20.

DENMARK.—Aalborg 19.
 ENGLAND.—Birmingham 70, Burton-on-Trent 16, Clay Cross 29, Devonport 8, Enfield 8, Farnworth 34, Hackney 29, Hanley 41, Limehouse 69, Manchester 60, Sheffield 25, Stafford 7, Summerfield 21.
 SCOTLAND.—Penston 15.
 SWITZERLAND.—Zurich 29.
 WALES.—Aberaman 27, Carnarvon 8, Llanelly 56, Llan-samlet 29, Merthyr 15, Nantyglo 7, Ogmore 27, Rhonda 12, Ystradgynlais 15.
 CANADA.—Alliston 14, Baddertown (new) 23, Bayham 30, Bienheim 46, Carlingford 31, East Dover 13, Egremont 46, London 150, Lindsley 13, Wilkesport 35, McKillop 10, Olive 26, Picton (new) 24, Pace River 10, St. Thomas 15, Toronto 14, Osborne 32, Walsingham 15, Wellington 23, Zone 39.
 ALABAMA.—Butler 35, Kempville 10, Lone Star 68, Salem 17, Macedonia 14, Pleasant Hill 43, Pleasant View 15, Perseverance 75.
 ARKANSAS.—Silver Hill 12.
 INDIAN TERRITORY.—Delaware 25.
 FLORIDA.—Coldwater 50, Eureka 37, Hinote 16, Mill View 9, Mount Olive 44, Santa Rosa 37, Unity 15.
 CALIFORNIA.—Alameda Creek 56, Humboldt 19, Jefferson 21, Laguna 22, Lodi 9, Long Valley 17, Newport 133, Nortonville 14, Los Angeles (new) 18, Oakland 41, Sacramento 83, San Benito 31, San Bernardino 196, San Francisco 24, Santa Maria 16, Stockton 44, Santa Rosa 68, Uniontown 19, Visalia 13, Watsonville 49.
 COLORADO.—Rocky Mountain 27.
 IDAHO.—Malad 38, Soda Springs 18.
 ILLINOIS.—Alma (Schuyler Co.) 27, Alma (St. Clair Co.) 43, Alma (Marion Co.) 15, Alton 39, Amboy 39, Barry 10, Belleville 72, Braidwood 66, Brush Creek 76, Bryant 14, Buffalo Prairie 77, Caseyville 37, Chicago 61, Deer Creek 21, Dry Fork 20, Elvaston 23, Henderson Grove 33, Kewanee 85, Leland 9, Marengo 15, Millersburg 43, Mission 109, North Bend 23, Pecatonica 9, Peoria 26, Pilot Grove 31, Piper City 19, Pittsfield 48, Plano 167, Princeville 13, Rock Creek 42, Rock Island 15, Sandwich 78, Saint Davids 10, Streator 35, Springerton 48, Truro 13, Tunnel Hill 77.
 INDIANA.—Canavan 24, Clear Lake 61, Eden 26, Hope 4, Low Gap 17, Mount Pleasant 16, New Trenton 16, Olive 17, Pleasant Ridge 31, Union 24.
 IOWA.—Boomer 14, Boonesboro 23, Boyer Valley 39, Buffalo 20, Burlington 67, Butternut Grove 39, Camp Creek 16, Coalville 20, Council Bluffs 137, Crescent City 69, Davis City 60, Des Moines 46, Des Moines Valley 46, Elm Creek 33, Edenville 72, Farm Creek 30, Farmington 52, Franklin 7, Galland's Grove 230, Greenville 16, Jackson 16, Keokuk 41, Keystone 52, Lamoni 423, Little Sioux 150, Lucas 165, Mason's Grove 90, Magnolia 161, Mill Creek 20, Montrose 41, Newton 52, North Coon 23, North Star 63, Pilot Creek (new) 18, Pilot Rock 37, Pleasanton 95, Pleasant View 18, Plum Creek 90, Redding 14, Salem 81, Shelby 22, Shenandoah 92, Sheridan 47, Six Mile Grove 26, Spring Creek 46, Union 58, Weston (new) 21, Unionburg 21, Union Center 90, Union Grove 17, Union Hill 11, Wheeler's Grove 81, Hamburg (new) 22, Creston (new) 14.
 KANSAS.—Arcadia (new) 14, Atchison 18, Blue Rapids 53, Centralia 20, Columbus 38, Elmira 26, Gaylord 38, Good Intent 24, Goshen 41, Indian Creek 16, Jacksonville 8, Mound Valley 38, Netawaka 17, Pleasant View 73, Prairie Home 19, Minersville (new) 7, Scranton 30, Solomon Valley 13, South Logan 15, Wyandotte 51.
 KENTUCKY.—Farmington 30.
 MAINE.—Bear Isle 12, Brooksville 41, Deer Isle 25, Green's Landing 39, Kennebeck 38, Mason's Bay 33, May 33, Olive 42, Pleasant River 19, Pleasant View 25, Rockland 13, Saco 6, Seaside 23, Union 9.
 MASSACHUSETTS.—Boston 66, Brockton 13, Douglas 21, Dennisport 72, Fall River 113, New Bedford 18, Plainville 45.
 MICHIGAN.—Bridghampton 18, Coldwater 57, Forester 21, Galien 73, Genesee 15, Hersey 64, Hopkins 18, Lawrence 53, Lebanon 37, Maple Valley 30, Mill Creek 16, Reese 22, Sherman 24, St. Clair 9, Saint Johns 24, Union 27, Vassar (new) 12.
 MINNESOTA.—Grand Prairie 16, Hope of Zion 16, Lake Crystal 8, Oak Lake 23.
 MISSISSIPPI.—Three Rivers 37.
 MISSOURI.—Allenville 32, Alma 25, Belton 11, Bevier 110, Boone Creek 23, Breckenridge 15, Carrollton 39, Center Creek 16, Center Prairie 24, Cheltenham 33, Clear Fork 14, Clintonville (new) 9, Dejana 61, Eureka 15, Far West 52, Grand River 9, Gravois 54, Hannibal 28, Holden 8, Independence 189, Kansas City 23, Lone Rock 42, Mount Hope (new) 7, Oregon 22, Platte 71, Pleasant Grove 37, Renick 20, Ross Grove 23, Salt River 29, Starfield 33, Stewartville 63, Stewartville City 44, Stewartville German 57, Saint Joseph 90, Saint Louis 169, Waconda 42, Whearso 21, Valley 24.
 MONTANA.—Butte 18, Gallatin 37, Willow 16.

NEBRASKA.—Blue River 69, Cedar Creek 20, Clear Creek 11, Clearwater (new) 18, Columbus 38, Deer Creek 22, Douglas 33, Hays (new) 16, Lake Shore 30, Moroni 23, Nebraska City, 108, Omaha English 72, Omaha Scandanavian 32, Palmyra 39, Plattford (new) 15, Plattsmouth 23, Platte River 32, Platte Valley 35, Pleasant Grove 21, Union 20.
 NEVADA.—Carson 35, Dayton 8, Elko 11, Franktown 14, Mottsville 45.
 NEW JERSEY.—Hornerstown 21.
 NEW YORK.—Brooklyn 26, Savannah 8.
 OHIO.—Amanda 29, Belmont 22, Churchill 16, Jackson 21, Lampsville 23, Lebanon 31, Liberty 18, Syracuse 57 West Wheeling 24.
 OREGON.—Coos County 12, Myrtle Creek 15, Prairie City 8.
 PENNSYLVANIA.—Danville 21, Hyde Park 22, Mansfield 14, New Park (new) 16, Pittsburg 106, Philadelphia 54, Plymouth 18.
 RHODE ISLAND.—Pawtucket 15, Providence 175.
 TEXAS.—Bandera 26, Central 21, Cheeseland 14, Elkhart 14, Elmwood 33, Red River 24, Shawnee 8, Stockdale 24.
 TENNESSEE.—Eagle Creek 31, Foundry (new) 14.
 UTAH.—Beaver 20, Ephraim 40, Heber City 21, Kaysville 8, Lehi 42, Plain City 23, Provo 25, Salt Lake City 178, Springville 28, Union Fort 41, Wanship 36.
 WEST VIRGINIA.—Clarksburg 19, Fairview 29, Sugar Creek 36, Union Grove 10, Wayne (new) 17.
 WISCONSIN.—Binghamton 39, Excelsior 13, Freedom 40, Janesville 26, Webster 17, Wheatville 18.
 These three hundred and seventy-eight branches aggregate fourteen thousand and forty-three (14,043) members.
 In regard to the following branches I understand that they are all in a disorganized condition, the majority of them having been so for several years, either by the official pronouncement of district conferences or by a general going to pieces, so far as official organization is concerned, and by the cessation of meetings and the absence of other evidences of spiritual life as parts of the body of Christ, the Church. However the number of names given with each is as they stand upon the General Church Record, even though in many cases these members are "scattered abroad" and are unknown to the general Church, as to their faith or their dwelling places.
 The record of these fragments shows as follows:
 WALES.—Beauport 6, New Tredegar 20.
 CANADA.—Botony 17, Buxton 5, Norton Creek 17.
 ALABAMA.—Brewers Creek 8, Flat Rock 21.
 FLORIDA.—Evening Star 38, Gainesville 12.
 CALIFORNIA.—Brighton 4, Davisville 19, Healdsburg 15, Pine Mountain 9.
 CONNECTICUT.—Brooklyn 7, Fair Haven 5.
 COLORADO.—Denver 10.
 ILLINOIS.—Batavia 13, Boone County 6, Elm River 15, Canton 46, Fox River 29, Victoria 9, Wabash 16.
 INDIANA.—Yellow River 9.
 IOWA.—Buena Vista 7, Burlington German 5, Chariton 26, Croton 7, Davenport 30, Evening Star 9, Fontanelle 4, Fremont 10, Glenwood 28, Harlan 10, Hazel Dell 7, Inland 9, Lemars 9, Nephi 5, Pleasant Grove 11, Pleasant Ridge 2, Pleasantville 7, String Prairie 20, Vincennes 15, Yell 14.
 KANSAS.—Armstrong Academy 22, Black Wolf Creek 8, Fanning 21, Leavenworth 13, Nobletown 21, Pleasant Ridge 3, White Cloud 8.
 MASSACHUSETTS.—North Dartmouth 7, South Yarmouth 14.
 MINNESOTA.—Little Cannon 12.
 MISSISSIPPI.—Bluff Creek 8.
 MISSOURI.—Bigelow 4, Coon Creek 4, Galesburg 15, Guilford 4, Hazel Dell 16, Joplin 11, Knoxville 6, Moselle 5.
 NEBRASKA.—Bell Creek 12, Desoto 19, Elkhorn 4.
 OHIO.—Kirtland 20, Monroe 11.
 OREGON.—Sweet Home 48.
 RHODE ISLAND.—Simmonsville 11.
 TEXAS.—Lone Star 5, Oak Island 14.
 UTAH.—Providence 17.
 WISCONSIN.—Burlington 29, Darlington 7, Willow 27
 PENNSYLVANIA.—South Bethlehem 1.
 These seventy-seven fragments aggregate one thousand and eighteen members, (1018) making a total of present names upon the Church Record in the whole four hundred and fifty-five organized and disorganized branches of fifteen thousand and sixty-one members

(15,061) officials included. The aggregate one year ago was fourteen thousand six hundred and forty-one (14,641), making a net gain of four hundred and twenty (420) for the year, against nine hundred and forty-six (946) net gain in last annual report.

The net gain in branches the past year by baptism, by letter, and by vote has been six hundred and eighty-four, and by the organization of eighteen new branches two hundred and eighty-five and by the counting of four fragments of branches twenty-eight, making a gain of nine hundred and ninety-seven total. The loss by Letter of Removal, by death and by expulsion has been five hundred and seventy-seven, which taken from the gain of nine hundred and ninety-seven leaves the net gain of four hundred and twenty as previously stated. In ninety-nine branches there has been a net gain over the losses, but one hundred and forty-two branches have fallen off and had net losses greater than the gains.

It should be understood that nine hundred and ninety-seven gain does not represent all who have joined the branches by baptism, letter or vote, but only the net gain by branches, that is the increase in each above decrease during the past year, where such net increase has occurred over losses of all kinds, as is the case with the ninety-nine branches. Likewise the five hundred and seven-loss only represents the net losses over gains in those branches which have suffered losses that aggregate more than their gains have been, as is the case with the one hundred and forty-two branches.

The yearly gain since 1876, as reported annually, has been as follows:

1876-1877.....net	752	1880-1881.....net	713
1877-1878.....net	775	1881-1882.....net	946
1878-1879.....net	1116	1882-1883.....net	420
1879-1880.....net	1235		

Also the following table that I have prepared shows the standing by States in the 1882 report and in what States there has been a net gain over losses and in what ones there has been a net loss over gains, with the present standing of each State upon the General Church Record:

COUNTRIES AND STATES	1882 Report	Net Gain	Net Loss	Present Total
Australia.....	99	.....	.....	99
Denmark.....	24	.....	5	19
England.....	421	.....	4	417
Scotland.....	15	.....	.....	15
Switzerland.....	30	.....	1	29
Wales.....	224	.....	2	222
Canada.....	538	110	.....	648
Alabama.....	304	2	.....	306
Aarkansas.....	8	4	.....	12
California.....	958	.....	18	940
Connecticut.....	14	.....	2	12
Colorado.....	39	.....	2	37
Florida.....	2	9	.....	258
Idaho.....	5	1	.....	56
Illinois.....	17	3	35	1718
Indiana.....	251	.....	16	245
Indian Territory.....	25	.....	.....	25
Iowa.....	328	166	.....	3494
Kansas.....	641	19	.....	660
Kentucky.....	28	2	.....	30
Maine.....	363	.....	5	358
Massachusetts.....	370	9	.....	369
Michigan.....	513	9	.....	522
Minnesota.....	75	.....	.....	75
Mississippi.....	46	.....	1	45
Missouri.....	1660	.....	4	1656
Montana.....	81	.....	10	71
Nebraska.....	619	92	.....	711
Nevada.....	115	.....	2	113
New Jersey.....	20	1	.....	21
New York.....	36	.....	2	34
Ohio.....	263	9	.....	272
Oregon.....	83	.....	.....	83
Pennsylvania.....	199	53	.....	252
Rhode Island.....	201	.....	.....	201
Texas.....	172	11	.....	183
Tennessee.....	28	17	.....	45
Utah.....	470	11	.....	481
West Virginia.....	84	27	.....	111
Wisconsin.....	229	.....	13	216
Total	14641	543	123	15061

This shows, as said before, a net gain over all losses of four hundred and twenty members, so far as I have received reports or been able to obtain corrections through correspondence.

I would also report that I have done but little on

Index work because I wished to labor towards the perfection of the Records as much as possible before this session of the General Conference

In the evening the Temple was filled with an appreciative audience, to hear the lecture of President Joseph Smith. The exercises of the hour began with a good selection of music by the choir, and prayer was offered by Elder John H. Lake.

Elder Smith then entered upon the theme of his lecture, and discussed "Temperance" in its relations to religious and political society, dwelling upon the uses of alcoholic spirits; the legal idea of restraint of our personal liberties; and the idea of discouraging the manufacture of liquors by the efforts to decrease the demands. The lecture was full, complete, and able, and was warmly received by the audience, by frequent interruptions of applause.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11TH.

Prayer meeting was in charge of Brn. B. V. Springer and Wm. T. Bozarth. Preaching in the forenoon by Elder Columbus Scott, assisted by Elder J. F. McDowell. The subject was that of the grand character and mission of Christ the Lord.

The afternoon session was opened by singing, "Come! thou fount of every blessing." Prayer was offered by Elder F. G. Pitt.

The chairman of committee on revising and enlarging Rules on Representation, stated that the committee had consulted and agreed upon a report, but in the hurry of leaving home, overlooked the report, had telegraphed for it, but should it not arrive in time, he would be under the necessity of asking for further time.

The assembly took into consideration the resignation of W. H. Curwen, as a member of the Board of Publication:

I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Board of Publication, on account of my inability to attend the meetings of the Board, since its removal from Plano, Illinois, my business requiring my attention elsewhere at that season of the year.

At the request of Pres. Smith, Elder Alex. H. Smith was called to the chair, by vote of the assembly.

Moved by John Gilbert and Geo. S. Yerrington, to receive the resignation. Spoken to by W. H. Kelley, J. S. Patterson, Z. H. Gurley, John Chisnall and John Gilbert. A substitute offered by E. L. Kelley and Geo. H. Hilliard, That Bro. W. H. Curwen be released from acting further as a member of the Board, and that a committee be appointed to settle with him and other members of the Board of Publication, as to the accounts of the

office. This was spoken to by William H. and E. L. Kelley, when it was moved by E. L. Kelley and John Chisnall, That the whole matter be referred to a committee of three to be appointed by the body, to consider and report what is the proper action to be taken. Motion to refer, prevailed.

Moved, That Wm. H. Kelley, be one of that committee; a substitute, That Alvin Patterson, C. A. Beebe and John Gilbert, be that committee; and they were directed to report to this body.

Bro. Alex. H. Smith vacated the chair, and President Joseph Smith resumed charge.

Report of Second Quorum of Elders read:

The members of the Second Quorum of Elders met but there was not sufficient present to do business, only to receive reports. The following named brethren reported in person: John Gilbert had been constantly in the field since last conference, laboring under Massachusetts District Conference appointment. And is now recommended from that district for General Conference appointment. J. H. Merriam has labored in Canada under General Conference appointment; and is desirous of continuing actively in the work. B. F. Durfee had labored as circumstances had permitted in South Eastern Iowa, and wishes to become an active laborer in the vineyard if desired. O. N. Dutton was presiding Elder of the Janesville, Wis., Branch. Reports by letter were read from F. C. Warnky, S. Mahony, W. C. Cadman, I. N. White, John Smith, by proxy, was president of Massachusetts District.

REPORT ON APPEALS.

We, your committee, submit the following report. In the case of Mr. Gillett vs. Constable, We report that after careful examination, we fail to find any evidence of action of Church authorities in the case, and have nothing from which an appeal can be founded.

We your committee recommend that in the matter of the Elmwood Branch vs. the Texas Central District, which we have examined and on which S. P. Sherrill claims the right of being heard; that it be referred to a Court of Elders from this conference. In the matter of the case of Philander Hinks vs. the Chicago Branch, after having carefully examined the written evidence in the case, as submitted to us, we are led to sustain the action of the court, and of the branch, from whose decision the appeal is taken, and find no just or legal grounds for appeal.

D. S. Mills, H. Robinson, J. Hawley.

Moved, That the report be adopted and the recommendation complied with, in the case of the Elmwood Branch vs. Texas Central District. Motion prevailed.

The Chair appointed as the court, brethren George Hilliard, John Chisnall and L. R. Devore.

Moved, That Bro. H. C. Bronson, act in behalf of Texas Central District.

Petition of Church Hill Branch, for the ordination of an Elder, was read. Moved,

by Brn. G. H. Hilliard and F. P. Scarcliff, that the request be complied with. Moved by John Gilbert and E. C. Brand, to refer to the district. Spoken to by W. H. Kelley, Josiah Ells, J. R. Lambert, G. T. Griffiths, G. H. Hilliard, Joseph Parsons and Z. H. Gurley. Motion to refer carried. A second vote was ordered and the motion to refer again carried. Division was called which resulted 31 for, 21 against.

Moved by B. V. Springer and B. F. Durfee:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this body that hereafter no one shall be entitled to a seat in the conference as a delegate who has not been duly appointed according to the Articles of Representation.

Brn. Z. H. Gurley and E. L. Kelley raised the point of order, as to the advisability of the resolution. President W. W. Blair, ruled the resolution out of order. An appeal was made from the decision of the chair. Spoken to by W. H. and E. L. Kelley, B. F. Durfee, Z. H. Gurley, W. W. Blair and A. H. Smith. The vote was ordered and the chair was sustained 35 to 23.

Delegate C. A. Beebe, of Pottawattamie District, called up the preamble and resolution in relation to requesting President Joseph Smith to resign the Editorship of the *Herald*

WHEREAS, At the conference of this district, held last May, a resolution was adopted, asking Bro. Joseph Smith to resign the Editorship of the *Herald*, that he might devote more of his time to preaching. And, whereas, our delegates to the Fall Conference were instructed not to present the same, in consequence of the *Herald* having refused to publish the notice of the resolution, at the request of the district. And, whereas, it has since been brought to the notice of the church in various ways; therefore be it

Resolved, That our delegates to the Annual Conference be and are hereby instructed to present to the Annual Conference the resolution passed last May, asking the Editor of the *Herald* to resign, and if possible obtain a favorable vote thereon. And they are especially instructed to oppose its being referred to the Board of Publication, as that is the body which has hired him.

Bro. J. H. Lake was by vote called to preside, and Bro. Smith relieved. Moved by E. C. Brand and John Chisnall, That inasmuch as the resolution referred was not signed, that it should be laid upon the table; but on motion of E. L. Kelley and H. Kemp it was decided to consider it. It was then moved by J. S. Patterson and W. T. Bozarth, That we adopt the Resolution. This was spoken to by W. W. Blair, Z. H. Gurley and E. L. Kelley. Brn. E. L. Kelley and F. G. Pitt, offered as a substitute:

That it is the wish and desire of this body that
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President Joseph Smith be retained as Editor of the *Herald* and *Hope*, but that no work be required of him by the Board of Publication, but that which comes strictly under the duties of Editor; so that he may have more time to devote to his duties as president of the Church.

Spoken to by E. Banta, A. Patterson, E. L. Kelley, C. A. Beebe, M. T. Short, Z. H. Gurley, C. Derry, C. Scott, A. H. Smith, A. W. Glover and J. R. Lambert.

The vote was ordered taken on previous question, and the substitute prevailed. Brn. M. T. Short and C. A. Beebe requested their vote in the negative, be recorded. It was so ordered.

Moved by Z. H. Gurley and C. Derry:

That the Board of Publication be requested to consider favorably the appointment of Bro. Elijah Banta as Business Manager of the *Herald* Office.

Spoken to by Z. H. Gurley and E. L. Kelley, when on motion by E. L. Kelley and J. S. Patterson, the matter under consideration lie on the table. Pending the consideration, M. T. Short and Z. H. Gurley, moved to adjourn for business tomorrow afternoon, which the chair ruled out of order, as conflicting with the rule for adjournment. Closed by singing "Praise God from whom all blessing flow." Benediction by Pres. W. W. Blair.

Preaching in the evening by Elder G. H. Hilliard, assisted by Elder E. Robinson.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH.

The morning prayer meeting was in charge of Brn. E. C. Brand and J. S. Patterson. Preaching during the forenoon by Brn. F. P. Scarcliff and J. S. Patterson.

Afternoon session, April 12th, opened by singing "Come, thou fount of every blessing;" prayer was offered by President Joseph Smith. Minutes of yesterday read, corrected and approved.

Bro. James Brighthouse requested permission to withdraw papers in the appeal of persons from Chicago. Moved by J. S. Patterson and C. Scott, that permission for the withdrawing of papers be granted. E. L. Kelley and G. S. Yerrington moved as a substitute, that those papers be placed in charge of the President of the Chicago Branch. Moved as an amendment to the substitute, by E. L. Kelley and H. Kemp, that the President of the Chicago Branch be instructed to return all personal papers to the persons to whom they belong. Spoken to by J. S. Patterson, J. Brighthouse, W. H. Kelley, Z. H. Gurley. Amendment put upon its passage and prevailed. Substitute as amended put to vote and prevailed.

Moved by J. H. Lake and T. W. Smith, and adopted.

Resolved, That in further sessions of this conference, those who speak upon questions, motions, or resolutions, be limited to five minutes each, and no one to be allowed to speak twice until all have spoken who may desire, and then only on leave granted by motion and vote.

Moved by E. L. and W. H. Kelley to reconsider the resolution. Spoken to by E. L. Kelley, H. C. Brunson, E. Banta, F. G. Pitt. Motion to reconsider put to vote and lost.

Report from the Quorum of the Twelve read and ordered placed in minutes.

The following preambles and resolutions passed by the Quorum of the Twelve, are presented for your consideration.

1st. Whereas, We believe that Marriage is ordained of God, and that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock, for either man or woman—except in cases where the contract is broken by death, or transgression; therefore

Resolved, That it is our understanding that in case of separation of husband and wife, one of which is guilty of the crime of fornication, or adultery, the other becomes released from the Marriage bond, and if they so desire may obtain a divorce and marry again.

2d. Whereas, that as a quorum we do not approve the further publication and sale of the History of Joseph Smith and the Church, written by E. W. Tullidge; and Whereas, Bro. Jason W. Briggs was appointed years ago to write a History of the Reorganization; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we earnestly request Bro. Briggs to proceed at once to prepare and complete the work required at his hands, and submit the same to the Church for approval.

Report of First Quorum of Elders:

We submit the following report:—R. M. Elvin (present) has traveled 1,800 miles, preached 101 discourses, held one debate and baptized 3. E. Banta (present) has done but little preaching but was getting ready to take the field and work. F. P. Scarcliff (present) has been on a mission and constantly in the ministry, baptized 2. F. G. Pitt (present) preaches on Sundays, keeps up branch meetings, and works in the Sunday School. J. Chisnall (present) has labored some in the branch, and desires to do what he can. H. C. Brunson (present) is president of district, and devoting his entire time to the ministry since last fall. G. Hicklin (present) has been on a mission, devoting his entire time to the ministry, traveled 1,290 miles, preached 103 discourses, and baptized 6. Henry Kemp (present) preached nearly every Sunday, been blessed in his efforts, and baptized 4. G. E. Deuel (present) has been laboring constantly, as a missionary, preached 84 times and baptized 13. G. S. Yerrington (present) has done what he could, preached 40 discourses and baptized one. R. J. Benjamin (present) is not a public speaker, but is doing the best he can. M. H. Bond (present) has preached 20 times, and if it is made clear that it is his duty, will take the field and labor constantly. C. A. Beebe (present) his labors have been confined to the branch. Is now presiding over a district. G. H. Hilliard (present) has labored as circumstances would permit, is now presiding over a

district, baptized 2. T. J. Andrews is laboring constantly in the cause in one way or another, acting as Bishop's Agent, and doing what he can. D. Hougas is preaching and attending to other duties of his calling as best he can. M. B. Oliver has done but little public preaching, but is doing considerable in a private way. J. P. Dillen has not done much preaching but is trying to do his duty. W. Newton is presiding in a branch, preaching and trying to discharge his duty faithfully, baptized 5. J. F. Burton preached 67 times, lectured 3 times, and officiated in other duties of his calling, baptized 11. I. M. Smith has been presiding over district till lately, devoted about half his time to the ministry. G. Walker has labored what he could in the district. J. Kemp is president of branch, preaches nearly every Sunday, is acting as Bishop's Agent. J. Ruby has been laboring in the district, is doing all he can, hopes to still continue to do his duty. J. M. Stubbart preaches some and assists in the branch labor as he can. J. W. Brackenbury is preaching some, and doing the best he can under his circumstances. Hans Hansen has been preaching some, and hopes still to do good. C. C. Reynolds is preaching in the branch, and laboring some in the district, also Bishop's Agent. W. Anderson has labored as his circumstances would permit, baptized 2. T. J. Franklin has been preaching as his circumstances would permit, baptized several. A. Hendrickson is not a public speaker, is 82 years old, does some work in a private way. J. R. Badham is not doing public work in the ministry. H. N. Snively has been laboring some in the ministry. H. C. Smith has done no preaching owing to affliction, has administered to the sick some.

On motion, J. R. Badham was released as secretary, and O. B. Thomas chosen to fill the place.

J. M. Putney, Eli Clothier and C. A. Beebe, were appointed to investigate complaint against members of the quorum; also, R. M. Elvin, M. H. Bond and G. E. Deuel, appointed to investigate other complaints in the quorum.

E. L. Kelley was admitted a member of the quorum, to fill vacancy.

Aggregate baptized and reported by quorum 49. G. Hicklin, F. P. Scarcliff, R. M. Elvin, F. G. Pitt, H. Kemp, G. E. Deuel, M. H. Bond and G. S. Yerrington, presented themselves, and were recommended for missions.

Number of brethren present 15, reported by letter 20.

The Third Quorum of Elders reported as follows:

We beg leave to report as follows: J. T. Kinnaman, John Hawley, D. J. Powell, Wm. Lewis, reported in person. R. Farmer, E. H. Gurley, W. N. Abbott, by letter.

Report of Court of Elders in the case of J. W. Sikes was presented and adopted, and the Court discharged.

The following were received into the quorum: George Mottashed, Arthur Leverton, Edgar Harrington and D. E. Powell.

Resolved, That we instruct the Secretary of the Quorum to get a printed list of the names of members of the quorum; also, that the secretary send a copy to each member of the quorum, with a request to remit ten cents for the same.

The First Quorum of Priests reported as follows:

The members of the First Quorum of Priests met on third floor of Temple. A. W. Glover was chosen to preside, and R. Etzenhouser, secretary *pro tem*.

R. May labored in Eastern Kansas, had been blessed, opened new fields, and expected to continue. John Shook had not preached, but had given out printed matter, and co-operated with others. A. W. Glover had labored as circumstances permitted at Dennisport, Fall River, Boston, Plainville, found that the work is gaining ground.

R. May, D. C. White, A. W. Glover and John Shook, asked for Quorum Licences, and were instructed to present items to Asa S. Cochran, Secretary of Quorum, Lamoni, Iowa, and be supplied.

R. Etzenhouser reported having been in field constantly since November 1st, had baptized one, been blest in his labor, and was ready to take the field under general appointment. Reports were received and read from D. C. White, O. H. Brown, F. Steffe and W. M. Rumel.

Resolution passed that since Bro. Rumel has been ordained an Elder, we as a quorum express our regret, and yet rejoice in his worthiness of a higher calling, and ask the favor of God upon him in his more arduous labor.

Brn. P. Cadwell, J. T. Kinnaman and C. A. Beebe, the committee to whom was referred the Bishop's reports, report that they have examined the same and find them correct.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

We your committee hereby submit that from the written documents in our possession, we find nothing upon which we can base any action whatever, and ask to be released.

H. Robinson, D. S. Mills, J. Hawley.

We your committee appointed to investigate appeal case of Elmwood Branch vs. Texas Central District, have examined the case, and find the action of the branch to have been irregular, and recommend that the decision of the District Conference be confirmed.

G. H. Hilliard, L. R. Devore, J. Chisnall.

Moved by H. C. Bronson and G. Hicklin, That the report be adopted and the recommendation be concurred in. Spoken to by H. C. Smith, H. C. Bronson, Z. H. Gurley, J. R. Lambert, J. S. Patterson, W. H. Kelley and R. M. Elvin. Motion put to vote and prevailed. Division was called, resulting in 20 for, 11 against.

Committee report on resignation of Bro. W. H. Curwen:

We your committee to whom was referred the resignation of Bro. W. H. Curwen as one of the Board of Publication, hereby beg leave to report that as a result of our examination, we recommend that his resignation be accepted.

A. Patterson, C. A. Beebe, J. Gilbert.

Moved by Z. H. Gurley and J. T. Kinnaman, That the report be received, adopted, and the committee discharged. Motion prevailed.

Brn. John S. Patterson and F. G. Pitt moved a resolution touching book-binding.

Being instructed by our district, we offer the following for your consideration:

Resolved, That we hereby call the attention of the publishing Board to the fact that many of the books on sale are very poorly bound, and request that in future they endeavor to put better bound books on sale.

This on motion of Z. H. Gurley and W. H. Kelley was referred to the Board of Publication. Moved by F. G. Pitt and Z. H. Gurley, as a substitute, That we adopt and refer. Substitute prevailed.

Brn. Charles Derry and John Hawley presented preamble and resolution, authorizing the holding of annual reunion meetings:

Whereas, In consequence of the Church dispensing with the Semi-Annual Conference, the Saints in the Western States feel there is a great void, and also one great means of spiritual strength taken from them; and believing as we do, that not only can the Saints be strengthened in their faith and hope, but also that the people of the world will be induced to attend such meetings, as shall be hereinafter named, and that thereby much good may accrue to the cause of God in general. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That this General Conference does authorize the holding of yearly meetings in the Fall of each succeeding year, at such time and place, or times and places, as shall be deemed wisdom in the mind of the conference, such meetings to be called Annual Reunion Meetings of Latter Day Saints. Be it further

Resolved, That this privilege be extended to all sections of the Church wherever it may be desired; and further, that a committee be appointed, as may be deemed proper, to select such time and place, or times and places, for the holding of such meetings as shall be most convenient for the section or sections where such meeting or meetings may be held.

Moved by E. C. Brand and G. Hicklin, That we adopt the preamble and resolution. Spoken to by W. H. Kelley, C. Derry and J. Hawley. Brn. Z. H. Gurley and C. A. Beebe, moved as a substitute, "That the Chair appoint a camp meeting to be held this coming Autumn in Western Iowa, and that he be authorized to associate with himself a sufficient number of the Eldership to perform said work." Spoken to by E. C. Brand, J. H. Lake, E. L. Kelley, G. Hicklin, C. A. Beebe, H. Kemp and R. Etzenhouser. Brn. W. W. Blair and E. C. Briggs moved as an amendment to the substitute:

Resolved, That this conference recommend that mission or district authorities of the Church arrange to hold the reunion meetings each Autumn within their respective limits for religious exercises.

Moved by F. G. Pitt and G. S. Yerrington to refer the whole matter to a committee, appointed by the chair. Motion to refer prevailed.

The chair appointed on said committee: W. W. Blair, Charles Derry, John Hawley.

Brn. John Gilbert and F. M. Sheehy moved:

That we request the Board of Publication to take measures, as soon as possible, to publish the Tune Book that has been so long anticipated by the Church.

RULES ON REPRESENTATION.

Report of committee on revising and enlarging Rules of Representation, was read:

Your committee on revising and enlarging Rules of Representation, appointed at your Fall session for 1882, beg leave and report that they have consulted and agreed upon the following; which though not perfect, will, we trust, form a sufficient basis for your action.

Sec. 1. That the general officers of the Church, known as the Presidency, the Twelve, the High Council, the Seventy, and the Bishopric (proper), are *ex-officio* members of Conference, and entitled to a voice and vote as representatives of the spiritual authorities of the Church at large.

Sec. 2. That all High Priests and Elders are entitled to voice and vote in General Conference, when present.

Sec. 3. That organized districts be authorized to appoint at their last quarterly session of district conference, next preceding the session of General Conference, delegates to said session of General Conference, who shall be entitled to represent said districts; which delegates so appointed shall be declared members of said General Conference, entitled to voice and vote.

Provided 1st. That the choice and appointment by said districts shall be made by a majority of those present and voting in regular or called session of district conference, of the holding of which due notice shall have been given as to time and place within the district, together with a statement of any important business or action that is to be presented to, or likely to be had by said General Session, affecting said district, and to which their approval or disapproval is desired; that instructions to said delegates may be given as to their action.

Provided 2d. That the only qualification to eligibility to the office of delegate from district to General Conference shall be membership and good standing in the Church.

Provided 3d. That each district shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five members of said district, and one vote in Conference for each delegate to which they may be entitled. The delegates present at Conference from any one district shall be entitled to cast the full vote of the district of which they are delegates, unless otherwise instructed by their district conference; *provided*, that in case of a disagreement of views among the members of said delegation, the full delegation not being present they shall be entitled to cast only their individual votes as said delegates.

Provided 4th. That no one delegate shall represent in the same conference more than one district.

Sec. 4. That each regularly organized branch of the Church not included in an organized district, shall be entitled to one delegate, who shall have the same privileges as delegates of districts.

Provided 1st. That due general notice to the members of branch of the time and place of meeting for the choosing of said delegate be properly given as in cases of districts.

Provided 2. That delegates shall be entitled to

act as such as hereinbefore provided, upon presenting certificates of appointment signed by the presidents, or clerks of districts or branches appointing them.

Sec. 5. That in all cases of grave importance, affecting the polity and faith of the Church, districts and branches may instruct delegates to cast a majority and minority vote, for and against; but in no case shall the number of the votes cast by said delegates so instructed exceed the number to which the district appointing shall be entitled as hereinbefore provided; and in case of a tie in districts, or branches, on questions presented to them, certified to said delegates, the votes of said districts or branches, shall be cast in equal numbers by the delegates.

Sec. 6. That districts may organize their sessions of conference agreeably to the above rules, by providing for delegate conferences, of which the basis of representation shall be one delegate for each six members in each branch or fraction thereof.

JOSEPH SMITH,

Chairman of Committee on Representation.

April 11th, 1883.

On motion the committee on credentials was discharged at their request.

Brn. J. T. Kinnaman and Z. H. Gurley moved.

That the proposed amendments to rules on representation reported by the committee be received, spread upon the minutes, and that further consideration of the same be deferred to the next Annual Conference, and that due and legal notice of the same be immediately published in the *Herald*, and that the committee be continued.

Motion put to vote and prevailed.

Brn. J. R. Lambert and G. T. Griffiths moved that the Petition of Chicago be now taken up. Spoken to by Bro. F. G. Pitt. Reading of petition asked for. Bro. Z. H. Gurley raised the point of order, that the reading amounted to a discussion. President W. W. Blair ruled that it did not. Bro. F. G. Pitt appealed from the decision of the chair. Spoken to by F. G. Pitt, H. C. Bronson, J. S. Patterson, W. H. Kelley, J. R. Lambert, Z. H. Gurley and W. W. Blair. Put to vote and prevailed. Division called: 19 for, 21 against.

Bro. H. C. Bronson spoke upon the taking up the petition. The vote was ordered by the previous question, and prevailed. A division was called, and 40 voted for, 10 against. The petition was then read. Brn. G. H. Hilliard and G. S. Yerrington moved that this petition be referred to a committee of three, to be appointed by the Chair. Spoken to by Bro. H. Robinson. E. C. Brand and J. R. Lambert moved as an amendment, that all parties interested be instructed to appear before the committee, and throw all possible light upon the case. Bro. J. H. Lake and G. Hicklin, moved as a further amendment, that the committee consist of five, and be appointed by the body. Amendment to the amendment put to vote and prevailed. Amend-

ment as amended put to vote and prevailed. Motion as amended was put to vote and prevailed. On separate motions the following committee were appointed: A. Patterson, F. M. Sheehy and John Gilbert, C. A. Beebe and H. Robinson.

Letter of Secretary of State read:

Department of State,

WASHINGTON, April 4th, 1883.

MESSRS. JOSEPH SMITH AND Z. H. GURLEY,
Committee, &c., Lamoni, Iowa

GENTLEMEN:—I have to acknowledge your communication of the 22d of February last, in regard to a circular letter issued by the Honorable W. M. Evarts when Secretary of State, to the diplomatic agents of this country abroad, requesting Foreign Governments to discriminate against the emigration of Mormon converts to the United States, and you ask that a distinction be made between the polygamous Mormons of Utah and the non-polygamous Mormons of the reformed church to which you belong.

In reply I have to state that Mr. Evarts' circular was directed against polygamy, and intended to warn those persons abroad who emigrated to this country for the purpose of joining polygamous communities, that they would thereby expose themselves to the operation of the penal laws of the United States.

It is contrary to the practice of this Government to give by circular, as is proposed, any sanction or endorsement of a specific form of belief. It is for the agents of any religion to make known its character. Law abiding immigrants are secure against interference.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

On motion it was received and spread upon the minutes, and that the Secretary of Conference furnish the same to the press reporter.

Report of High Priest's Quorum read:

We hereby most respectfully ask your honorable body that Elder Elijah Banta be ordained into the High Priests' Quorum at this Conference.

We also most respectfully present and recommend Bro. Wm. B. Smith of our Quorum for active service in the ministry, as he desires to act thus in his office.

We further wish to have published in the *Herald* this notice, that all the members of this Quorum be and are hereby requested to report by letter, on or before the 1st March of each year, to the President of this Quorum.

CHAS. DERRY, *president.*

Moved, That the report be received and spread upon the minutes.

Closed by singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name." Benediction by Bro. B. V. Springer.

Preaching in the evening by Elder J. F. McDowell, assisted by G. T. Griffiths. Prayer offered by C. Scott.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH.

The morning prayer meeting was in charge of Brn. George H. Hilliard and R. Etzenhouser. The forenoon preach-

ing was by President Joseph Smith upon the sacredness of the marriage covenant.

Business was resumed in the afternoon. Opened by singing "Come, let us anew." Prayer offered by Elder John Chisnall.

Moved by Brn. John Gilbert and H. Kemp, That at their request the committee on appeals be released; prevailed.

Report of the Quorum of Seventies read as follows:

Have held three sessions. There are forty members in good standing. Twenty-one have been and are under General Conference appointment; nineteen, with few exceptions, are engaged locally in ministerial duties. The name of E. C. Wildermuth was dropped from the quorum. Memorial resolutions were drafted relative to decease of Bro. C. N. Brown, and will be published.

A report of Elders' meeting read as follows:

A meeting of all the Elders was held, at which the following resolutions were adopted:

(1.) That we as brethren in Christ, discountenance the use of unbecoming language, light speeches, jesting, or mimicking the foolishness of the world, either in act or word.

(2.) That we ask the prayers of all the Saints in behalf of those Elders who are addicted to the use of tobacco, that God will give them wisdom to overcome the habit.

Brn. W. W. Blair, Charles Derry and John Hawley, the committee on Re-union Meetings reported:

The committee to whom was committed the papers in respect to Re-union Meetings by the Church, beg leave to report that they respectfully recommend that this conference advise that mission and district authorities arrange for such re-unions for religious services, when and where it may be by them deemed best.

Moved by Brn. G. H. Hilliards and G. T. Griffiths, That the report be approved. Motion prevailed and the committee was discharged. Report from the Quorum of Twelve was read:

REPORT OF QUORUM OF TWELVE ON
MISSION APPOINTMENTS.

To the Elders and brethren in the Conference,—
Greeting: We respectfully submit for your consideration, the following names and fields of labor, and ask your approval:—

1. W. W. Blair: to be sustained in charge of Rocky Mountain Mission.

2. The Chicago Mission to be continued, and Bro. J. R. Lambert to take charge, with the addition of Northern Illinois.

3. E. C. Briggs: Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

4. T. W. Smith: Southern Illinois and Southern Indiana.

5. W. H. Kelley: Michigan, Northern Indiana, Northern Ohio, Western New York, and Western Pennsylvania.

6. J. H. Lake: Dominion of Canada.

7. Josiah Ells: Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

8. A. H. Smith: Missouri and Kansas.

9. Z. H. Gurley: present field, with New England added.

10. James Caffall: Nebraska and Colorado.

11. Glaud Rodger: California and Nevada.
 12. M. T. Short: Eastern Iowa and Illinois adjacent.
 13. W. T. Bozarth: present field, under Bro. A. H. Smith.
 14. E. C. Brand: present field, with the privilege to go to Rocky Mountain Mission, if requested by Elder in charge.
 15. B. V. Springer: St. Louis District and Arkansas.
 16. J. F. McDowell: Iowa and Northern Illinois.
 17. G. T. Griffiths: Ohio, West Virginia and West Pennsylvania.
 18. Heman C. Smith: present field.
 19. J. C. Foss: referred to A. H. Smith for appointment of labor.
 20. Isaac Bogue: under direction of W. H. Kelley.
 21. George A. Montague: present field.
 22. J. F. Mintun: present field.
 23. J. T. Davis: present field and the Indian Territory.
 24. Duncan Campbell: under the direction of W. H. Kelley.
 25. I. N. Roberts: under the direction of A. H. Smith.
 26. William B. Smith: Iowa and Illinois.
 27. Charles Derry: present field.
 28. J. F. Burton: present field.
 29. A. J. Cato: South-Western Mission, under H. C. Smith.
 30. John Gilbert: New England Mission.
 31. F. M. Sheehy: New England Mission.
 32. Hans N. Hansen: present field.
 33. George Hicklin: Missouri and Kansas under A. H. Smith.
 34. Gordon E. Deuel and J. H. Merriam released from Canada Mission.
 35. Frank P. Scarcliffe: present field.
 36. Henry Kemp: South Western Iowa.
 37. Hiram Robinson: under Bro. J. Ells.
 38. Temme Henderks: to labor under A. H. Smith, among the Germans.
 39. Samuel Brown: Canada, under J. H. Lake.
 40. James A. McIntosh: present field.
 41. Peter N. Brix: Scandanavian Mission.
 42. Thomas Taylor: sustained in charge English Mission.
 43. Thomas Jenkins: sustained in charge of Welsh Mission.
- R. J. Anthony, J. S. Patterson, Columbus Scott, Joseph Luff, E. H. Gurley, R. M. Elvin, H. C. Bronson, deferred for consultation with them. Several other names not yet reached.
- Moved by E. L. Kelley and G. S. Yerrington, That the report be received, adopted, and the recommendations be concurred in. Moved by E. C. Brand and J. R. Lambert, That the report be taken up item by item. Spoken to by W. H. Kelley, C. Derry, J. F. McDowell and J. R. Lambert. Put to vote and prevailed.
- Clause 1 was on motion adopted.
- Clause 2 was moved by G. T. Griffiths and G. H. Hilliard, That we adopt the recommendation.
- The President presented a preamble and resolution from Northern Illinois District:
- We, the undersigned representatives of the Northern Illinois District having been instructed

by our constituents, present to you the following preamble and resolution adopted at a conference of said district, held at Mission, LaSalle county, Illinois, October 21st and 22d, 1882. Trusting that you may give them your early consideration.

Report of Committee on Chicago Branch. To the Northern Illinois District of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in conference assembled, greeting: We your committee appointed to draft preamble and resolutions, regarding the action of General Conference in deciding that the Chicago Branch was not connected with the Northern Illinois District beg leave to suggest, that the following preamble and resolution be presented to the Church at their next April Conference:

Whereas, we learn from the report of our delegate to General Conference and also by minutes of General Conference as published in *Saints' Herald*, that General Conference has declared that the Chicago Branch is not connected with the Northern Illinois District, notwithstanding the fact that the said Chicago Branch was formerly turned over to the Northern Illinois district; at a conference in Streator, in the fall of 1880, by M. H. Forscutt, the missionary then in charge at Chicago, and has reported at every district conference since that time.

And, Whereas, by the action of General Conference in this matter the Chicago Branch has been severed from the Northern Illinois District, without the district having any voice in the matter, Therefore,

Resolved: That we the Northern Illinois District in conference assembled herewith enter our protest against this action of General Conference, and respectfully ask the Church at their next Spring Annual Conference, to reconsider their action in this matter, and correct the mistake which we believe they have made.

Our instruction to present the above is found in the following resolution, passed at a District Conference held at Sandwich, DeKalb county, Illinois, February 17th and 18th, 1883.

Resolved, That our delegates are hereby instructed to carry out the spirit of the resolution adopted at our last conference, in regard to the Chicago Branch being a part of the Northern Illinois District.

F. G. Pitt, John S. Patterson.

Spoken to by Bro. Z. H. Gurley, who with Bro. E. L. Kelley, moved that the preamble and resolution be laid upon the table. Spoken upon by F. G. Pitt and J. S. Patterson; and being put to vote, prevailed. Motion to adopt the recommendation of the Twelve was spoken to by J. S. Patterson, M. T. Short, A. W. Glover, C. Scott, E. C. Brand, W. H. Kelley, J. H. Lake, T. J. Kinnaman, F. G. Pitt, Z. H. Gurley, J. Hawley and J. R. Lambert. Previous question was then moved, but the assembly not being favorable, it was lost. Brn. F. G. Pitt and J. Hawley moved as a substitute:

Resolved, That the Mission in Chicago be discontinued, and that Bro. Lambert be appointed to labor in Chicago and Northern Illinois."

Spoken to by Alex. H. Smith, E. L. Kelley, E. Robinson, J. S. Patterson, Z. H. Gurley, J. H. Lake, F. G. Pitt and W.

H. Kelley. The vote on this substitute was ordered by the previous question, and on being put to vote was lost. The motion to adopt was then put to vote and prevailed.

On separate motions, clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were adopted. Clause 16 was on motion deferred. Clause 17 was adopted. Clause 18 was moved to adopt. A motion to defer was lost, and the motion to adopt prevailed. Clauses 19 and 20 were adopted on separate motions. Clause 21 was moved to adopt, and was amended by adding the words, "Indian Territory," in which form it prevailed. Clauses 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 were on separate motions adopted. Clause 27; moved to adopt. A substitute was moved, That the field of labor be this portion of Ohio. Moved as an amendment, to strike out the words Dakota and Minnesota. Amendment put to vote and prevailed. Motion as amended put to vote and prevailed. Clause 28; moved to adopt. An amendment was moved to add Maine. Spoken to by Z. H. Gurley, W. W. Blair, A. W. Glover, T. W. Smith and G. S. Yerrington. Amendment put to vote and lost. Motion to adopt prevailed. Clauses 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43, were adopted on separate motions. Clause 22 reconsidered and deferred.

It was ordered by vote that the assembly meet for prayer on Sabbath morning at eight o'clock, and that the Sacrament be administered at nine. Closed by singing "Guide us, O, thou Great Jehovah." Benediction by President W. W. Blair.

Preaching in the evening by Elders Wm. B. Smith and E. Robinson.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH.

The morning prayer meeting was in charge of Brn. F. G. Pitt and W. M. Rumel.

Preaching in the forenoon by Elder J. H. Lake, assisted by Elder C. Scott.

Afternoon session. Business was resumed at half-past one. Opened by singing, "Come, thou fount of every blessing." Prayer offered by Pres. W. W. Blair. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Committee on petition from Chicago reported:

We your committee to whom was referred the petition purporting to be sent from members of the First Chicago Branch, hereby report that after hearing the evidence, the petitioners withdrew their case, and made admissions which clearly exonerate the missionaries.

A. Patterson, F. M. Sheehy, H. Robinson, C. A. Beebe, and J. Gilbert.

Moved by G. H. Hilliard and J. T. Kin-

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naman, That the report be adopted, and the committee discharged, which motion prevailed.

Recommendation by the High Priests' Quorum for the ordination of Bro. Elijah Banta as a High Priest was presented, and it was moved by Brn. J. S. Patterson and C. A. Beebe, That the recommendation be adopted, and that he be so ordained.

Spoken to by E. C. Brand, W. H. Kelley, Josiah Ells, M. T. Short, G. H. Hilliard, J. S. Patterson, and being put to vote was lost.

The following places were named for the holding the April conference for 1884: Stewartsville, Kirtland, Independence, Philadelphia, Galland's Grove, Plano, London, Ont San Francisco, San Antonia, Mobile, Boston, Coldwater, St. Louis, and Chicago; when the assembly made choice of Stewartsville, Missouri, the highest number of votes being cast for that place.

An additional report from the Quorum of Twelve was presented:

1. James Caffall: present field.
 2. Columbus Scott: to labor under direction of W. H. Kelley.
 3. Joseph Luff: sustained in present field, subject to understanding with the Bishopric.
 4. J. F. Mintun: to labor in Nebraska, if he and the Bishopric can arrange for his sustenance.
 5. J. S. Patterson: to be released from present field, and appointed to labor in Wisconsin.
 6. R. M. Elvin: present field.
 7. J. F. McDowell: Ohio and Pennsylvania, under those in charge.
 8. H. C. Brunson: present field, with Eastern Iowa.
 9. Gordon E. Deuel: Canada.
 10. E. H. Gurley: Canada.
 11. George S. Yerrington: referred to local authorities.
 12. J. T. Kinnaman: to labor under direction of A. H. Smith.
 13. J. H. Merriam: to labor under direction of A. H. Smith.
 14. Harbert Scott: present field.
 15. George S. Hyde: Nebraska.
 16. M. H. Bond: under Z. H. Gurley, in Eastern field.
 17. Moses R. Scott: Southern Indiana; to enter the field at once, if he can come to understanding with the Bishopric.
 18. Joshua Armstrong: Nebraska.
 19. J. M. Carpenter: referred to District Conference, with recommendation for appointment.
 20. Rudolph Etzenhouser: present field. Recommended to this body for ordination to the Eldership.
- Resolution passed in Quorum of Twelve which the notice of Conference is called.
- Resolved, That the Quorum of the Twelve be requested to meet at least ten days prior to the sitting of the next Spring Conference, at the place appointed for its meeting; and further, that the appointees of the conference be requested to report to the secretary of the Quorum of Twelve in time to allow action in their several cases.
- T. W. SMITH, Sec. of Quorum.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4, were upon separate motions adopted. Clause 5 was read, and it was moved to adopt, which was spoken to by J. S. Patterson, A. H. Smith, E. C. Brand, C. Derry, and E. C. Briggs. Brn. C. Derry and E. C. Brand moved to substitute, That Bro. J. S. Patterson be privileged to labor in Northern Illinois. Put to vote and lost. Motion to adopt put to vote and prevailed. Clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, were read, and on separate motions, adopted. Clause 19 was read, and it was moved to adopt. This was, after several motions to substitute and amend carried, with the amendment that he be ordained to the office of Elder. Clause 20 read, and on motion adopted. On motion, Bro. Joseph P. Knox was appointed a mission in Pennsylvania. Clause 6 was read and adopted. On motion Bro. R. J. Anthony was sustained in his present field.

It was then moved that the recommendations of the Quorum of Twelve be adopted as a whole. Motion put to vote and prevailed.

Bishop George A Blakeslee nominated Bro. Elijah Banta as a member of the Board of Publication, to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Bro. W. H. Curwen.

Moved by Z. H. Gurley and J. H. Lake, That the nomination of Bro. Elijah Banta as a member of the Board of Publication be confirmed. Spoken to by E. Banta, E. L. Kelley, J. S. Patterson and G. A. Blakeslee, when it was put to vote and prevailed.

On separate motions the following members of the Board of Publication were sustained: Geo. A. Blakeslee, Joseph Smith, P. Cadwell, W. W. Blair.

Moved by J. T. Kinnaman and P. Cadwell, That this body request the members desiring the Tune Book to send their names to the President of the Church. Spoken to by J. T. Kinnaman, Z. H. Gurley, G. S. Yerrington and E. C. Brand. Brn. Z. H. Gurley and J. Gilbert moved as a substitute, That the committee on Tune Book report to the next General Conference the style, size, and probable cost of the book, together with names of hymns proposed to be inserted, for approval or disapproval of the body. Spoken to by Z. H. Gurley, J. T. Kinnaman and Charles Derry. Substitute put upon it passage and lost. Bro. Z. H. Gurley asked for the yeas and nays.

YEAS.—DISTRICTS.

Independence 16 Philadelphia 8

EX OFFICIO.

E. C. Briggs W. H. Kelley A. H. Smith
Z. H. Gurley Jas. Brighthouse J. A. Stewart
L. W. Torrance.—Total yeas 31

NAYS.—DISTRICTS.

Northern Illinois 44	Pittsburg 19
California 25	Little Sioux 38
Southeastern Illinois 17	Michigan and N. Indiana 37
Kawaneec 25	Massachusetts 34
Florida 29	St. Louis
London, Ontario 21	Northern Nebraska 19
Kent and Elgin	Des Moines 18
Fremont 25	Pottawottamie 21
Far West 29	Southern Nebraska 23
Nevada 9	Montana 5
Texas Central 8	Decatur 53
Eastern Iowa 19	Utah 27
Southeastern Ohio & West Virginia 9	Malad 4
Gallands Grove 39	Nauvoo and String Prairie 21
	Chicago Branch 5

EX OFFICIO

Joseph Smith	W. W. Blair	J. H. Lake
T. W. Smith	J. R. Lambert	E. C. Brand
J. F. McDowell	M. T. Short	C. Scott
G. T. Griffiths	W. T. Bozarth	J. S. Patterson
H. C. Smith	C. Derry	G. A. Blakeslee
D. S. Mills	E. Robinson	W. B. Smith
P. Cadwell	J. Parsons	F. G. Pitt
C. A. Beebe	G. E. Deuel	Geo. Hicklin
F. P. Scardif	G. S. Yerrington	Geo. H. Hilliard
M. H. Bond	R. M. Elvin	H. Kemp
H. C. Brunson	J. T. Kinnaman	John Gilbert
F. M. Sheehy	B. F. Durfee	J. J. Hawley
H. Robinson	B. Corless	J. P. Knox
E. Banta	J. Chisnall	L. R. Devore
W. Turner	W. M. Rumel	Wm. Lewis
T. Mathews	R. J. Benjamin	M. S. Sutton
T. J. Beatty	Joel Allen.—Total nays 673	

Moved as an amendment, That the Board of Publication be instructed to publish the Tune Book this year. Amendment was put to vote and lost. Motion put upon its passage and prevailed. Moved by T. W. Smith and E. C. Briggs:

Resolved, That we request the Board of Publication to issue in tract form, as soon as practicable, the reply of the Editor of *Herald* to the pamphlet of Rev. R. Patterson of Pittsburg, Pa., on the origin of the Book of Mormon.

Motion put to vote and prevailed.

Motion adopted that the letter of Secretary of State be published for the use of the Elders.

On motion, the First Presidency was sustained.

On separate motions the Quorum of the Twelve were sustained in the following order: Alex. H. Smith, E. C. Briggs, Z. H. Gurley, T. W. Smith, J. R. Lambert, Josiah Ells, J. H. Lake, J. W. Briggs, Wm. H. Kelley.

On motion the Bishopric: Brn. George A. Blakeslee, E. L. Kelley and Elijah Banta were sustained.

On separate motions the Quorum of Seventies, High Priests, Elders and unenrolled eldership, First Quorum of Priests, the Teachers, and Deacons, were severally sustained.

On motion the Church Secretary and Recorder was sustained.

On motion the Church Librarian, Bro. John Scott, was sustained.

On motion a vote was extended to the Commissary committee, which was amended, that the vote be extended after the committee had settled with the Bishopric;

and it was ordered that the names of committee Brn. W. H. Kelley and Z. H. Gurley appear in said vote of thanks.

On motion a vote of thanks was tendered to the citizens of Kirtland and vicinity for their kindness to the brethren during the sitting of the conference.

On motion the committee on repairs on the Temple were continued.

Closed by singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Benediction by President Joseph Smith.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH.

At eight o'clock the Saints came together for prayer service, in charge of Brn. P. Cadwell and C. A. Beebe. At nine o'clock the Sacrament was administered by Bishop G. A. Blakeslee, assisted by E. L. Krley and E. Banta; Priests R. Etzenhouser, A. W. Glover and C. D. Seeley, passed the emblems to the congregation.

A child was blessed by J. H. Lake and Alex. H. Smith.

Bro. Rudolph Etzenhouser was ordained to the office of an Elder, under the hands of Elders Joseph R. Lambert and Zenas H. Gurley.

Preaching service was opened by singing, "The morning breaks, the shadows flee." Prayer was offered by Elder G. H. Hilliard. Choir sung, "We come with joy the truth to teach you." Preaching by Elder W. H. Kelley. Text: Acts 16:30, 31. The house was filled, and the sermon was an able defense of the faith. Closed by singing, "Let Zion in her beauty rise." Benediction by Elder G. H. Hilliard.

The afternoon service was opened by singing, "Once more we come before our God." Prayer was offered by Elder Wm. B. Smith. Preaching by Pres. Joseph Smith, upon spiritual things, to a house packed full. Closed by singing, "There is a land immortal." Benediction by the President.

The evening meeting was opened by singing, "Praise ye the Lord! 'tis good to raise." Prayer was offered by Elder Josiah Ells. Choir sung, "A calm and gentle quiet reigns to-night." Elder Z. H. Gurley preached from the text, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The house was nearly full, notwithstanding "April showers" were refreshing the earth.

Brn. R. Etzenhouser, John Morgan and A. W. Glover, were appointed by Pres. Joseph Smith to assist Brn. S. Brown and Wm. Rumel, as ushers, and were faithful to their duties, their names do not appear

elsewhere through omission which was unintentional.

Resolved, That conference do now adjourn, to meet at the place appointed, April 6th, 1884, at half-past ten o'clock.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the ushers. Closed by singing, "Home! home shineth before us." Benediction by Elder Z. H. Gurley.

One person arose for baptism.

JOSEPH SMITH, } Presidents.
W. W. BLAIR. }

E. L. KELLEY, } Secretaries.
ROBT. M. ELVIN, }
H. C. SMITH, }

Conference Minutes.

No Credit for moneys received on subscription will appear on the Colored Address Label of the Herald and Hope for this issue, as no changes have been made, except in case of persons desiring a change in P.O. address.

POTTAWATTAMIE DISTRICT.

Conference was held at Council Bluffs, Iowa, February 24th and 25th, 1883. John H. Hansen president, K. H. Hansen clerk *pro tem*.

Statistical Reports of Branches.—Council Bluffs 137 members; Crescent City 74 members; since last report 1 baptized, 2 received by letter, 2 received by vote. North Star 61 members; since last report 1 received by letter, 2 removed, 1 died. Weston (Scandinavian) 21 members.

Spiritual condition of branches was reported by Elders C. A. Beebe the Council Bluffs, John F. Drabis the Weston, E. C. Briggs the Wheeler's Grove, K. H. Hansen the North Star.

Elders Henry Palmer, Lewis Davis, E. C. Briggs, John F. Drabis, Wm. Gess, and Priest P. Anderson, reported.

District Treasurer, L. Davis reported that he had \$17.15 on hand. Bro. Davis was released as Treasurer.

Bro. Andrew Hall, Bishop's Agent, reported that he had on hand from last report \$5.38, received in tithing and offerings \$25; paid to Sister James Caffall \$31, paid to John Thomas \$4; Church Dr. to Agent \$4.62.

Bro. C. A. Beebe was appointed delegate to the Spring Conference, and the \$17.15 that the District Treasurer reported in hand was voted to go towards defraying the expenses of sending him, and a collection was taken up, amounting to \$7.45, for the same purpose; the branches in the district were requested to take up collections for the same purpose, and report to Andrew Hall.

Bro. Thomas Chatburn, who was requested by last conference to visit Reno, in Cass county, reported that he had not yet been there, desired to be continued so as to give a "satisfactory report;" he was therefore continued.

Whereas, at the conference of this district held last May, a resolution was adopted asking Bro. Joseph Smith to resign the Editorship of the *Herald*, that he might devote more of his time to preaching.

And whereas, our delegates to the Fall Conference were instructed not to present the same in consequence of the *Herald* having refused to publish the notice of the resolution at the request of the district.

And whereas, it has since been brought to the

notice of the Church in various ways; therefore, be it

Resolved, That our delegate to General Conference be and is hereby instructed to present to the conference the resolution passed last May, asking the Editor of the *Herald* to resign, and if possible obtain a favorable vote thereon. And he is especially instructed to oppose its being referred to the Board of Publication, as that is the body which has hired him.

Resolved, that the General Conference be requested to provide an efficient minister to labor at Council Bluffs.

Bro. P. Anderson was continued in his mission. Bro. Frederick Hansen was sustained as clerk. Bro. Andrew Hall was sustained as Bishop's Agent. Bro. C. A. Beebe was elected president for the next three months.

Conference adjourned to meet at Crescent City, Iowa, on the last Saturday of May, 1883, at half-past ten o'clock.

WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT.

A conference was held at North Freedom, Sauk county, Wisconsin, January 20th, and 21st, 1883. A. L. Whiteaker president, W. A. McDowell clerk.

Minutes of last conference read: The errors in the report of the English German Freedom Branch were corrected, and report accepted.

Branch Reports.—English German Freedom Branch consists of 38 members; including 3 Elders, 2 Priests, 2 Teachers, and 1 Deacon; 2 removed, and 2 received by letter, 1 married. J. L. Pride and Cora Wildermuth virtually belong to the branch, but their names do not appear on the record, which if they did, would make the branch number 40, and Elders 4. Excelsior, 11 members; including 1 Elder, 1 Priest, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon; 2 removed by letter. Wheatville 14 members; including 3 Elders and 1 Teacher; 2 removed and 1 received. Spiritual condition of the branches good.

Elders Reports.—A. L. Whiteaker had preached a number of times; F. M. Cooper, said he had spoke in all twenty-five times since last report;

A. V. Closson, F. Hackett preached a number of times, and had furnished a place for the Saints to hold meetings in to the amount of \$18.00, reported; J. W. Whiteaker, S. H. Whiteaker. Priests W. A. McDowell, and J. Quandt, reported. Teacher J. W. Whiteaker reported.

Bishop's Agent, A. V. Closson, reported: Received September 23d, 1882, \$16; paid out \$9.50; on hand \$6.50.

We your committee in the case of Bro. J. Altizer report as follows: That according to the evidence that we can get in his case, and according to his request, we recommend that his name be dropped from the church record. Report received, and committee discharged.

Resolved, That this conference consider the necessity and practicability of sending a delegate to attend General Conference. On being put to vote it was lost.

Resolved, That we sustain A. L. Whiteaker as president and traveling Elder of the district, with our means and prayers, also W. A. McDowell as clerk of the district.

Resolved, That W. A. McDowell be ordained to the office of an Elder at this conference, being called by the Spirit of prophesy and revelation to that office. This prevailed and he was ordained