

THE TRUE LATTER DAY SAINTS' HERALD.

"HEarken TO THE WORD OF THE LORD, FOR THERE SHALL NOT ANY MAN AMONG YOU HAVE SAID IT BE ONE WIFE; AND CONCUBINES HE SHALL HAVE NONE."—*Book of Mormon.*

"WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN AUTHORITY, THE PEOPLE REJOICE; BUT WHEN THE WICKED BEARETH RULE, THE PEOPLE MOURN."—*Prov. 29: 2.*

Vol. 22.

PLANO, ILL., MAY 1, 1875.

No.

MINUTES OF THE Annual Conference, April, 1875.

The Thirty-seventh Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ, being also the Twenty-third of the Reorganization, convened at Plano, Illinois, at ten A.M., April 6th, 1875. Hymn 938 was sung and prayer was offered by Br. W. W. Blair. On motion, President Joseph Smith was sustained as presiding officer of the Conference, and President W. W. Blair as his assistant. Br. Henry A. Stebbins was chosen as Secretary, and Brn. T. W. Smith and E. L. Kelley as his assistants.

President Smith addressed the Conference as follows:—I have been burdened and tried in my faith during the last year and a half, but I have considered that if my faith in God and his work was only good in times of peace and prosperity, whether that faith was worth anything to me or not; and I have determined that let this work have what it may for me in trial and distress, that I have and will still set my face for the reward, and that I will still strive. Though I may enter upon the duties of this session somewhat depressed, I shall try to point the brethren to the Lamb of God. The work is not for a day or for a year, but for eternity. Our own actions alone will endanger our salvation. I would instill into every Latter Day Saint's heart, no matter what their condition or circumstances, that if they abide in him, in the hope of their integrity, they will be welcomed by Him

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when he shall come. I would think I had not lived in vain if that could be firmly fixed in every heart; but to feel that there are those that would forget their hope, if I should prove recreant to the work, and lose their trust in God, because they had lost faith in me, is not a pleasant thought; for I am not the salvation of Israel, any more than any other man. I may have a work to do, so has every other man, and we are alike in this. I take the position appointed me, and labor in it, with a realizing sense that the Church occupies a position challenging the world everywhere, and that it is being tried and tested, and so are the people professing it. Some have departed from us, and others may be taken in the toils; but if so, this can not break up or destroy the work of God. As a people we may be widely separated in person, yet the same thoughts and feelings and love should dwell in every heart, producing a unity of thought and action, that there may be a unity of power.

President Blair said: The one thought that has always been uppermost with me has been that I must make a sacrifice for Christ of all things demanded. Ties have had to be sundered by all in entering this work, and I also had to step out and become separate. It seemed a great sacrifice then, when we were so few, but the question with me was, is it true? I can say that the work is truly divine, is of God; and its principles are eternal as the heavens, and I know that God will bring the ship safe to harbor. This comforts my heart. God has aided his ministers greatly the past year. Opportunities are greater for good being done,

and there is much to encourage. I look for trials, but I leave all in the hands of God. All efforts to overthrow the cause have only resulted in advantage to it. In 1860, when under great trial, while in Pennsylvania, I made it a subject of prayer, and the Spirit testified that the work, though then small, should never, never cease, until the Lord Jesus should come. We must have patience and trust in God. This Conference should make good effort to approximate to that grand unity of faith and action. I expect to see the day when the nations of the earth will acknowledge the honor and influence of the Church. The time will come when an endowment of glory will be given to the Church.

Brn M. B. Oliver, F. G. Pitt, R. S. Warnock and Wm. Bradbury were appointed Ushers during Conference.

Hymn 350 was sung. The President suggested the appointment of a committee before whom complaints may be preferred; also of setting apart an hour for free discussion, as done at last Annual Conference; also that occasions be set apart during Conference for devotional exercises, prayer and testimony meetings.

Secretary Stebbins read the minutes of the last General Conference, held at Council Bluffs, Iowa. The President called the attention of the brethren to the items of unfinished business left over from said Conference.

On motion of W. H. Kelley and James Caffall an hour of free discussion was set apart for the opening of each afternoon session.

On motion of Brn. O. P. Dunham and M. H. Forscutt the time allotted to each speaker was limited to five minutes.

The President read a letter from Sr. Butterworth, of Denver, Colorado, requesting prayer in behalf of her mother. He also asked for prayers for the sick of the Church generally.

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 P.M., with benediction by the President.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

APRIL 6TH.

Hymn 715 was sung. Prayer by Pres. Smith. The President announced that the hour of free discussion had arrived.

Br. W. H. Kelley said that a suggestion had been made to him in reference to ordination, especially that of Seventies, and inquired whether a District Conference had the right to ordain Seventies.

Br. C. G. Lanphear said that his mind was not clear on the subject, but referred to the revelation of the law, giving the Presidents of Seventies the authority to ordain Seventies till Quorums be filled.

Br. M. H. Forscutt inquired whether Branch officers have the right to take the names of members off the Branch record without a legal trial.

Br. J. R. Lambert remarked that these two questions were alike in substance, there being a law on both subjects. Said that there was a provision regulating the expulsion of members. Concerning ordinations I do not feel like answering the question; think, however, that what is written should govern every case; think that a formal charge should be preferred against them.

Br. J. S. Patterson called for the law regulating the ordination of Seventies.

Br. Robert Davis said he felt interested in the first question. He desired to know if the action of District Conferences in the ordination of Seventies would be valid, if done before the plan of ordaining by General Conference came in force.

Br. John H. Lake spoke on the latter question. Said there was but one way of introducing a person to membership, entitling them to have their names written on the records; that no one could be admitted by requesting to be admitted, without baptism or repentance. Says that the Branch has the same right to admit on that ground as to allow them to take off their names because they may desire it. Read from the law concerning the form of trial, and said that a custom prevails among some to allow names to be taken off at their request. He was submissive to custom, because not willing to stir up strife, but his better judgment did not believe in this method. If the Branch assumes to take the right and allow a person to have their names taken off, it amounts to the same thing as some churches in putting a person on probation.

Br. *G. H. Hilliard* said that where crime is open and known, and a person requested to have his name removed from the Church record, it could be done without a court of Elders; thinks it would be legal for a Branch to erase their names.

Br. *I. L. Rogers* said that if this position was true there would be no need of trying a man who had committed murder, if it was openly done, and the people could try him and execute sentence. If a member has committed wrong he should be tried by a court, according to law.

Br. *Wm. Leeka* said that when persons have done no crime, but who do not believe the doctrine and are unwilling to remain, they should be allowed to go.

Br. *E. Banta* remarked that if a man said before baptism that he believed the doctrine and then afterward denied it, he is an apostate and should be so dealt with.

Br. *Robert Davis* referred to section 42 of B. of C., and spoke upon the subject of transgression; some had other reasons for wishing to withdraw.

Br. *John Chisnall* said he was interested, and saw another phase of the question; admitted the mode of getting into the Church; thinks that persons may come into fellowship with Christ while not yet in fellowship with a Branch. Incompatibility of temper among brethren—should they be dealt with for this, while they might be in fellowship with Christ?

Br. *Whitehouse* spoke on same point.

Br. *S. V. Bailey* said that if the members are jurors or judges in the case, they could decide all cases upon request.

Br. *W. W. Blair* said that the practice, the custom, has universally been for persons, in any form of transgression, to be taken before a court for trial. He said it was the safest way. Apostacy is a crime. The members are not to sit in judgment. The Elders have the authority to try all cases, and not the members. In case of any transgression the law requires the transgressors to be brought before the Elders. It may be easier perhaps to bring before the members, but this exalts the members as a court, which

right they have not. In all cases they should be tried before Elders.

Br. *Joseph Smith* suggested a case. A member removes from a Branch—removes sixty miles from any Branch, sees something he does not like, writes to the Branch and desires his name taken off, no charge is preferred against him. If labor was to be duly made, or he was visited by the Priest or Teacher, said officers would be turned out of doors, or told that it was none of their business. What should be done?

Here the hour expired, and the Conference resumed its regular session.

On resuming regular business a resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of a committee on complaints, during this session.

Resolved, That the appointment of all committees, and the regulation of all meetings, not otherwise provided for, be left to the Presidency.

Pres. Smith appointed Brn. P. Cadwell, G. H. Hilliard and S. V. Bailey, committee on complaints.

The Secretary read the following

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

Zenas H. Gurley, of the Utah Mission:

To the Presidency, officers and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in General Conference assembled, greeting:—In my last report I noticed my visit to Logan City and Providence, in Cache Valley, where I attended the Malad Sub-District Conference, visiting Ogden on my return to Salt Lake City. After my return I remained in the city until the arrival of Br. Briggs, which occurred in the latter part of November; since that period I have visited south as far as Nephi, a distance of about one hundred miles, preaching in the following towns: Union Fort, Granite, Willow Creek, American Fork, Pleasant Grove, Provo, Pond Town and Nephi; I also visited Lehi, Spanish Fork and other towns on this trip. Some of these places have been visited two or three different times, and the prospect in the majority is quite encouraging, as there is a demand for more preaching, which said cry is quite agreeable to our ears. North of the city I have spoken in Centerville, Kaysville and Ogden, and on Union Pacific railroad east, in company with Br. Warnock, (who with me visited some of the towns mentioned), Uintah, Morgan, Richville, and Henniferville; in all of which places we were kindly received with few exceptions. In the last named place there is a Branch which has passed through

severe trials, and some divisions; but through the labors of Br. Warnock the Lord restored order and good feeling, and I believe they will now succeed, as they all manifest a disposition to labor for Zion.

Since coming to this Mission there have been twenty-eight added to the Church, up to the 20th of March, twenty-two of whom were baptized by Br. Warnock and myself. There are twelve or fifteen others who have given their names for baptism, and I presume will be baptized at no remote period. I believe there are hundreds who are seriously considering their situation, and in due season, with proper care and culture, will come out of error and crime. There are now plenty of opportunities for preaching, and no energetic Elder need be idle; but with good weather and proper management, can speak most every night; whether this condition will extend through midsummer I am unable to say, but would suppose not, as farmers are usually too tired for much night meetings then; however there is plenty of employment to a thorough going missionary beside the pulpit work, and just as important. One thing I have regretted in my labors, and that is, that circumstances prevented my staying longer in each town.

The first three months of my labors were confined chiefly to Salt Lake City, believing as I did, and do, that at least one missionary should be established there. The brethren in various parts of the territory have written us frequently to "come and see" them, to a majority of which we have been enabled to respond in person, but not all. We should have been glad to have visited all, but where we have not, we trust the brethren will make due allowance; it is that same desire to visit all that has prevented our remaining longer in each town. The Branches of the mission, so far as we have ascertained, are in a fair condition. The Saints of Utah have many difficulties to labor under, considering which I feel to make due allowance under the circumstances; but all, or nearly all, whom we have met seemed determined to contend earnestly for the faith. Their treatment to me has been of the kindest; many are poor in this world's goods, but rich in "good will to man." No Elder coming here need have any fears but that he will find plenty to eat and a place to lie down; of course "no Elder" is expected to be an epicure, but like his Master, content with a "few fish and a barley loaf," or a "broiled fish and an honey comb," if needs be. The outlook for the Reorganized Church is growing brighter in Utah, and will continue to do so if a prosecution of the work is kept up, until the honest in heart will all be gathered out and brought back to Zion to "praise the Lamb." I trust the situation of Utah will

not be over nor underrated. It has required years to fasten upon this people the errors and crimes into which they have been led, until their consciences have become "seared over," and their sense of virtue and shame sadly blunted. You must know that the doctrine taught and practiced among this people that permits, nay enjoins upon a man the right and duty of slaying his fellow man in order to "save him," is devilish in the extreme; also the "abomination" of polygamy, which, if individuals enter, they are licensed to kill, provided they don't shed "innocent blood," and to commit "all manner of sin and all manner of blasphemies," yet are promised a "part in the first resurrection," simply because they have entered the celestial order of marriage, and propose to be "perfected through the flesh." The Adam-god-theory is also endorsed by many, which doctrines of the devil are an index to the stifled, blighted, warped and darkened minds of those who were once called Saints. Now all these "damnable heresies" have not been fastened on this people by force of reason, but by wicked and corrupt sophistry, united with a continued appeal to the baser passions, and also with repeated threats of "hell across lots" and eternal destruction hereafter. To "reason down" such wickedness is very difficult, as it was never "reasoned up;" consequently while the corruptionists of Utah may be overcome speedily and their power broken, it is a work of time to reclaim the erring masses from the pits and "deadfalls" into which they have gone; and out of the many I look for a minority to be gathered to Zion. Orchards that are permitted to grow up without pruning or proper care, soon bear stunted fruit, and presently none; and when the Lord of the vineyard sends out his servants to prune these neglected trees, and a few are reached and pruned with much labor: it must not be expected that the tree will bring forth abundantly at once, but time must be given it to overcome its former blight. The blindness and stupidity of this people causes us at times to feel exasperated, yet 'mid all I have frequently been reminded to "see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

I submit to your honorable body the necessity of a continued and vigorous prosecution of the Utah Mission; not for months alone, but for years to come, at least until the problem is solved. In support of that position I offer the two following reasons: 1st. To break down the power of tyrants and to indemnify the world in believing and knowing that Mormonism is not Brighamism, (Diabolism), that the "way of truth" may be rescued from the reproach and ignominy brought upon it by the wicked practices of this people; that all those in the world who will, may receive the same, and that the kingdom of God with its righteous-

ness, as established in 1830, may continue to roll forth in love and truth until it shall fill the whole earth. 2d. That the honest souls of Utah who have made many and great sacrifices for what they supposed was the truth, may be delivered and find rest to their souls.

Owing to health and circumstances I propose returning home this spring. I therefore respectfully ask your honored body to release me from this mission, and if permitted, I would insist that another be sent in my stead immediately. The Brighamites refuse to let us preach in their churches, and in most instances their school-houses, in return for which I hope and trust that our people will make special effort to afford their Elders a house to speak in, should they be passing through the land, and a place to rest themselves, with food to eat; go and hear them preach, and debate, or offer to do so, every point of doctrine that separates us—our Elders need have no hesitancy in the matter whatever. In many instances our administrations to the sick have been marked with success. In preaching I have enjoyed the blessings of the Master, and in my association with the Saints have enjoyed His peace and with them have felt and testified that naught but the "truth shall make us free." Ever praying for the welfare of Zion and establishment thereof, and also that you may be blessed with the spirit of wisdom and rejoicing during your present session. I am your co-laborer for Christ,

Z. H. GURLEY.

Salt Lake City, March 29, 1875.

Robert Warnock, of the Utah Mission:

To the President, Officers and Members of the Church of J. C. of L. D. S. in Conference assembled:—Brethren, the following is a brief report of my labors since last General Conference. Have traveled almost incessantly, preached about sixty-seven times, attended several prayer meetings, visited a great deal, and exposed error and taught the truth privately, baptized nine adults, opened several places for preaching, where prejudice is removed to a great extent. Several have given their names for baptism, who will be obedient soon.

In this place we have large congregations, while the Mormons can only draw out a few. We expect to baptize several next Sunday. Many say they are convinced.

I am very much encouraged with the prospect in this land, and am willing to continue my labors in this mission, should your honorable body so decide. My health is good.

Praying God to direct you in all your deliberations, I am your brother in Christ,

R. WARNOCK.

Wanship, Utah, April 1st, 1875.

Thomas Taylor, of the English Mission:

Beloved President and Brethren in Conference Assembled:—Having been appointed by your honorable body, at the Annual Conference of April, 1874, to the charge of the English Mission, I feel it my duty to offer you a report of my labors here. Although it is not what I could wish, still I feel thankful to say that the labor in this mission has not been in vain; and I have every reason to believe that a continual, steady effort will effect much good in time.

The English Mission is a peculiar one, and requires much patience, as those brethren who have been here have experienced. I have done the best I could under the circumstances in which I am placed, but of course I can not go about and do as much as though I had nothing else but mission business to attend to.

The work, though comparatively unob-served, is growing, and we gain a few converts here and there. The prejudice which has existed is fast giving way, and those who attend our meetings once generally come again, and they do not gainsay what they hear.

I have not heard much from the Saints in Switzerland and Geneva since brethren Avondet and Bear returned home. I think it would be a good thing if one of their own language could be sent to labor among them again; but that, of course, must be left to your better judgment.

In all parts of this Mission, with few exceptions, the local Elders are doing all they can for the spread of the work. It is thought by some that more good might be done if there was an Elder here who had no other business to attend to. But that, of course, time only could prove. I certainly feel my inability to discharge the duties of such a responsible position, and should wisdom direct you to favor us with some one more capable, I shall do my best to render him all the assistance possible.

In regard to Wales, that is well supplied in the persons of Brn. J. T. Davies and B. Evans. I believe them to be capable and worthy men, and may God bless them and all who sacrifice the comforts of home to carry the good news of the gospel of Christ. I frequently hear from Scotland, and the brethren there are trying to do what good they can by distributing the printed word. There are some who think that good might be done if an Elder could be sent to labor there.

I think I have given you all necessary items, and will now close, praying God to endow you with wisdom through all your deliberations, and with brotherly love I remain yours in the cause of Christ.

THOMAS TAYLOR.

BIRMINGHAM, England, March 12, 1875.

John T. Davies, of the Welsh Mission:

To the Annual Conference of the Church of

Jesus Christ, assembled at Plano, Ill., April 6th, 1875.—Beloved Brethren: I beg leave to report my work for the Church since my appointment at the April Conference, one year ago. I labored some in going through the State of Pennsylvania, on my way here; and thence coming to Wales, I took charge of this Mission, according to appointment. I have been doing my duty to the best of my ability for the advancement of the cause of Christ. Seeing the necessity for the help of the printed word, and, thinking a good series of *tracts* would be better under the circumstances, than a *periodical*, I have published, in the Welsh language, the following: 2000 Faith, 8 page. 2000 Repentance, 4 page. 2000 Baptism, 16 page. 2000 Laying on of Hands, 8 page. 400 posters to announce preaching from time to time; which will make a total of tracts 8000 and 400 posters, at a cost of £12 2s 6d. I have gone as far and fast in this direction as means would permit, and if you think proper to sustain me longer in this field, I am willing to do my best, and to follow the same course until the latter end of August or the beginning of September, 1875, when I think that my temporal affairs will call me to return home. This will make it to me about a year and a half from home, and I want you *positively* to grant me liberty to be home by next fall Conference at furthest. Until then, I am willing to continue in Wales, provided my family is supported. Br. Robert Evans labors in connection with me, according to appointment, and I find him a very energetic man in the field.

Your brother in charge of the Welsh Mission.
JOHN T. DAVIES.

Aberaman, Wales.

John Avondet, formerly of the Swiss Mission:

To the President and brethren in Conference assembled.—Concerning the mission assigned to me by your honorable body, I feel that I am clear to say that I have worked with the endeavor to beware of leaving a bad name behind me, and I would not be ashamed to go into the same field again. I think I would be more friendly received now, for I made at last many good friends. I do not say I want to go back there, not in the least; but only I could go wherever I have been without being ashamed.

On July 27th, 1873, I baptized in Piedmont, Italy, Judith Marie Gardiol and Jeanne Clarisse Gardiol, and in August, 1874, I baptized Samuel Gaberthuel, in Geneva, Switzerland, and also Louis Eugene Ursenbach. In September, 1874, I went to Zurich with Br. Bear, where we baptized two men and two women, blessed four children, and ordained one Elder, and organized a Branch of sixteen members.

Br. Bear said to me in Affoltern, where

he had labored most of the time, that after I came with him he was better treated by his brother and more respected by his friends than before. He has the true love of God and the cause of Christ in his heart. I will try to give you hereafter a report in detail; this is not to give too much trouble to the Conference.

JOHN AVONDET.

Omaha, Neb., March 3, 1875.

Charles W. Wandell, of the Australasian Mission:

Dear Brother Joseph.—Yours of December 14th came duly to hand per last steamer, also three numbers of *Heralds* and *Hopes*. The news from you is encouraging and interesting. I hope that the Utah Mission will never be given up so long as polygamy is maintained by an organization. This, you may say, should not be very long; but you must remember that besides the many influences that bind polygamists together, there is an entire generation, in Utah, born and brought up under the influence of the many-wife system. Polygamists may move away; but, as a rule, they will not give up their social system.

I send you Br. Rodger's last note to me, you see by that how he is getting along. The Mission at Sydney is at a stand-still. I should be able to bear off this mission to a successful termination, but ill health prevents. I have had a relapse which threatens to close up my labors for this world. My chest and lungs are in a very bad condition, my muscular power is gone, and now my feet and legs are so swollen that locomotion is almost impossible. My cough is dreadful at times, and is worse when I am exercising the lungs in public speaking. I could not finish my sermon on Sunday evening in consequence of paroxysms of coughing, and unless I feel better than I do now I shall not undertake to preach again in Sydney. This being the situation, of course I have to give up all idea of the Tahitian Mission. In fact there is no apparent way of getting to Tahiti except by way of Auckland, New Zealand, and it would be more certain in point of time, and as economical, to go by way of San Francisco. It is for you to say whether I am to remain longer upon this Mission or not. I feel desirous of doing my duty, and dislike to ask to be released; but you see the circumstances, and should I live to breathe the equable climate of California once more, it might add a space to my life. I have now arrived at a point, at which something must be done in my case. Hitherto I have been able to fill the regular preaching appointments and to visit the Saints more or less; but I have a painful realization that I can not do so any more unless a great improvement in my physical condition takes place.

There are lights however around this

dark picture; I have sought with all my heart to fulfill every duty upon this Mission, with an eye single to the glory of God and of the Church. I have taught the true doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and have not been slow to expose deceit and imposture. For myself I have no fears of the future, because I know that the great Judge of all the earth will do right; and should I be called upon to rest from my labors, I have conclusive assurances that such rest will be sweet and undisturbed by malice and persecution, or by other disturbing causes. I realize that I should have written a great deal more in this letter, but feel unable to add more. Your brother in Christ,

C. W. WANDELL.

Forest Lodge, Sydney, N. S. W.,
Feb. 11, 1875.

Glaud Rodger, of the Australasian Mission, to C. W. Wandell:

I arrived home from a visit to Wallsend last night, and found your letter. I am sorry to hear of the state of your health, and I fear that your labors in this life are but short. Your weakness is seemingly increasing. You can have but little comfort, only in the hope of the gospel. I believe you have done your utmost to fill your mission, and the Lord, who rules all things well, will be your helper in the end. We can but pray and hope for the best. This world seems to give but little comfort at the best. I am heart-sick at the conduct of some I have to call brethren here. Surely the evil-one works hard to overthrow what we have labored hard to build up. You may think I am discouraged, but I feel what I write. Though my determination is still to battle the foe, yet I feel it when the cause is disgraced by those whose age and experience ought to teach them better things. We meet this afternoon at Br. David Lambton's, and in the evening at Wallsend, where I try again, at the Odd Fellows' Hall. I have found some that wish to hear, but the weather is unfavorable, as we have had a great rain. I wish you to send me in all eight or nine numbers of the *Herald*, if you can spare them. I have more subscribers. I hope this will find you better than when you wrote last. We wish you every comfort, and may the Lord bless you and the brethren and sisters with you, is our constant desire and prayer. Kind love to Br. and Sr. Ellis and all. Write again when you can, for we are all anxious to hear from you and about you. Your brother in Christ,

G. RODGER.

Waratah, Feb. 7th.

E. C. Brand, in Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas:

President Joseph Smith and Brethren in Conference assembled, greeting:—During the

past six months I have endeavored to labor for the Master in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. Have preached as follows: In Iowa a total of twenty times; in Nebraska once; in Kansas four times; in Missouri forty-three times, making in all sixty-four discourses. I attended and took part in a debate. Have baptized one and blessed one child. I feel that I have been greatly blessed in my labors. I visited Br. David Whitmer, at Richmond, who received me very kindly. He bore his testimony to the divinity of the Book of Mormon, and showed me the original manuscript. I also visited Br. John Whitmer's family, and he also testified to the divinity of the work. He showed me the characters transcribed from the plates, in the hand writing of the Martyr, and I had the privilege of presenting the claims and position of the Church to him. His family seemed deeply impressed. I will here say that *all* the Whitmers still living are firm in the faith of the Book of Mormon, and I am satisfied that the younger branches will in time unite with the Church. I feel that I would give much to be with you, for you are going to have an important time; but I will be with you in spirit.

Praying that you may be abundantly blessed in your deliberations, and asking an interest in your prayers, I subscribe myself
Yours in bonds,
E. C. BRAND.

April 1st, 1875.

John H. Hansen, of the Southeastern Mission:

To the Church in Conference assembled:—Dear brethren: I am still trying to build up the kingdom of God in the Southern States. Since my last report I have devoted my time to the ministry in this State and Tennessee. There has been an effectual door opened in Henry and Hickman Counties, Tennessee. There has also been some labor done in this vicinity, still my labors have been hindered some by the inclemency of the weather. I have preached sixty-eight discourses, blessed two children, and baptized eleven persons since last report. Five others have applied for baptism. Many others are believing "our report," and I think a goodly number will be added during the year. This part of the Mission is assuming a permanent shape. Concerning the Southern part of the Mission I can say but little. I had hoped to be able to visit that part before this, but circumstances have prevented my doing so. I am informed by letter that there is but little preaching being done there and times are reported very hard.

This mission needs at least one more Elder, and I hope you will provide for the return of Br. Clapp as soon as possible; and, as I learn that he expects to be back sometime during the present year, I will not ask you to appoint any one else.

I learned by the minutes of last fall Conference that an Elder Blodgett had been appointed to this Mission, but so far I have not heard a word from him. Now in consideration of his failing to comply with the direction of the Conference in this appointment, I herewith ask your honorable body to appoint a committee to inquire into the reasons why Elder Blodgett did not proceed to the Mission assigned him, or if that was impracticable why did he not communicate to me his reasons for not doing so, so that I could have made my arrangements accordingly.

I remain at the disposal of the Conference and am anxious to do all I can for the salvation of souls. May the God of Israel be with you all and bless you, that your every act may be in harmony with his will. Your brother and fellow laborer in gospel bonds,
J. H. HANSEN.

P.S.—My reason for asking you to inquire into the cause of Br. Blodgett's non-fulfillment of his Mission is, that it may be an example for others, so that when Elders assume a duty they may be more punctual in fulfilling it, or giving notice of their inability to do so, so that others may know what to depend on.
J. H. H.

Farmington, Graves Co., Ky.,
March 30th, 1875.

John C. Foss, of the Maine and Nova Scotia Mission :

To the Brethren and Saints assembled at the General Conference:—Dear Brethren in Christ, I hereby make a report of my labors in the gospel, thus far in my mission, in the North-Eastern and Nova Scotia District. I have been trying to do about all I can to help roll on the good work of my Master. There are, as far as I can learn, about three hundred members in this Mission. This is a very extensive field to labor in. Many are believing, yet I can not refrain from telling them that not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. I am laboring the most of the time in the cause of my Lord and Master. I really should liked to have been at the Conference, but it is a long ways to travel and would cost me about eighty dollars, and as times are so very hard I have no means to travel with at present; but brethren, if I cannot be with you in Conference, I will be with you in spirit, and my prayers shall ascend to the throne of our Great King, that he may order the Conference according to the council of his own will. Your brother in the one faith.

J. C. Foss.

Brooksville, Maine, March 15, 1875.

Frederick C. Warnky, of Colorado :

Dear President and brethren in Conference assembled, greeting:—After I was appointed to labor in Colorado by the last fall Confer-

ence, I remained a few days at Omaha, and three weeks at Pappillion, Nebraska. From there via Cheyenne, to Colorado, my field of labor. I will now report my labors to you. I was the pioneer to this country, all was not sunshine; but through patience, perseverance, and the help of God, I have gained the victory over the enemy thus far. My labor have been as follows: I have preached sixty times, baptized nine, confirmed six, blessed eleven children, administered to a number of sick, organized one Branch, and ordained one Elder, one Priest, and one Teacher.

I am willing to continue my labors here or any where else as you may desire. May the sanctifying influence of God's Holy Spirit aid you in your deliberations, is my prayer. I remain your fellow laborer for the redemption of Zion. F. C. WARNKY.
Denver, Col., March 20, 1875.

Charles Derry, of Nebraska :

Worthy President and Brethren assembled in Conference:—I respectfully submit the following report to your honorable body. I have labored to the best of my ability since the last General Conference, in the counties of Dacotah, Madison, Antelope, Platte, Dodge and Washington, in this State. I have made no enemies to the cause, but I have found plenty, and also have found some friends. In some of the above counties there is a prospect of doing good. None openly opposed, many professed to admire, and I believe some will seek the kingdom of God. I have now returned from my winter campaign. Wherever I have found six Saints, conveniently situated, I have organized them into Branches. Where I have found a lesser number I have urged the necessity of prayer meetings, at which the Scriptures and *Herald* should be read, and thus to keep themselves alive in the faith and in love with each other. Wherever this advice has been adopted, it has worked well, and thus so many centres have been prepared around which the honest in heart can gather and partake of the spirit of the work.

So far as I know, the four Branches of this District (Central Nebraska) are alive, increasing in faith and renewing their hopes in the kingdom of God. For my part I have nothing to boast, only in the gospel of Christ. I am determined, by God's help, not to be found wanting in my duty. I rejoice in the truth, and set my seal that God is true. I know that God has blessed my labors to some extent. I know he has clothed me with power to preach his gospel. I know that my own wisdom and ability have not closed the mouths of gainsayers or made glad the seeker after truth, but I know that the Spirit of God has done it, and to God I give the praise.

I regret that my circumstances prevent my assembling with you; but I pray that

the Spirit of the Holy and All-wise God, may direct your deliberations and give you abundant wisdom for all things. Will brothers and sisters please accept a brother's love. I remain in gospel bonds yours forever.

CHARLES DERRY.

Dear Creek, Neb., March 22, 1875.

Charles N. Brown, of New York and S. E. New England Mission:

Br. Joseph:—Feeling my duty as one having a trust committed to me in this great work of the last days, I will endeavor to give you a glimpse of the field in the New York and Southern New England Mission, agreeably with latest reports. The Brooklyn Branch is in an unsettled state in some respects, but some serious obstacles to a final adjustment have been removed; and I am looking for a day when the power of God will assist in accomplishing his will in their midst, and hope this summer will not pass without labor being done in two or three new fields opened to us in different parts of that State.

Elder E. G. Wheeler, of Ackron, Erie Co., N. Y., has suffered the loss by fire of all of his personal effects, except the apparel in which he escaped.

The Fall River Branch, Elder John Gilbert, presiding, at last advices appears to be moving quietly onward in the path of duty; many of the members, however, being operatives in the cotton mills, suffer disadvantages from the fluctuations of mill interests in that city of mills.

The Boston Branch, under care of Bro. George C. Smith, Presiding Elder, has been highly favored with the continued assistance of the Spirit, and the fruits of their labors manifest by the accession of a number of intelligent, staunch members.

Dennisport, Elder T. F. Eldredge presiding, has also been favored by the workings of the good Spirit, and within a few months eleven have been added to their number.

The Brewster Branch has also received an addition of four by baptism, George Linnell, presiding Priest at the time.

The Yarmouth Branch, in charge of Elder Louis Chase, is in a very active condition, with new converts apparently ready for baptism.

The Douglas Branch, in care of Elder Erastus Vickers, until a few weeks past, has endured an unusual siege of the enemy. Elder Wm. Pond, by invitation, has dispensed the word to them often, for some months past. They abide in faith, looking for the fruits of their labors.

The Providence Branch, under the presidency of G. S. Yerrington, was favored with a continual growth and additions by baptism; and of late Elder S. H. Morse being called to the same trust, has been made

happy by others coming to the waters of baptism. Br. Yerrington being called to missionary work in adjacent towns, resigned the care of the Providence Branch, and has continued faithfully laboring in Simonsville and Scituate, R. I., with occasional visits to other localities to scatter the word of life. Br. C. E. Brown is in the field of his Mission upon the Cape, and good fruits already reward his labors.

Elder J. W. Nichols, of New Bedford, although eighty-four years of age, it appears that his "eyes are not dim, nor his natural force abated," and he is rendering timely and effectual assistance both in missionary and home labors, under the direction of the District President. Two of the Elders in this District have finished their labors and await their blest inheritance. Some have been deeply afflicted in their families, and several, because of home duties, can not as yet move in the ripened fields as we desire.

Br. Coombs, of the Providence Branch, has opened a field for labor in Wrentham, Massachusetts, where I have been assisted by several brethren, and from which place Br. Wm. Bradbury has baptized one staunch member, and I have still regular appointments there and a deep interest is manifest.

Br. Wm. Grant, of the Douglas Branch, has opened a work at Brookline, Connecticut, to which Br. Vickers is called, and I am hoping to follow at an early date. New fields are opening upon every side, and calls beyond our ability to fill constantly await us. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers."

The general feeling and interest in the work are excellent, but the power of the enemy is great, and furious attacks are experienced at different points; but we know this, if we walk by faith in strict obedience to every divine law and revelation; though our weapons be few and our stature small, as David's were, yet no Goliath of Babylon can stand if there be hurled against him even the weight of a small pebble, cleft from the rolling "stone cut out of the mountain without hands." May Israel's God hasten the glory of Zion and give wisdom and strength to all her armies for certain victory, is the prayer of yours in the great conflict.

C. N. BROWN.

Providence, R. I., March 12, 1875.

Heman C. Smith, of Western Iowa:

To the Brethren in Conference assembled:—As I am at liberty to spend most or all my time in the ministry, I thought it best to report, and place myself at the disposal of Conference. I have labored during the last fall and winter, with and under the direction of Br. Joseph R. Lambert. On the 19th of Oct., 1874, we started on a tour to Sac, Calhoun, Carroll and Greene counties, Iowa. We found some good openings for preaching. Nov. 28th, we started for Kansas, *viz.*

Council Bluffs, where we attended Conference. Dec. 4th found us at Atchison Kansas, where we parted, Br. Lambert to remain in Atchison, while I went to Good Intent. I there labored for some time, and, then in company with Br. C. F. Stiles, went to Jackson county, Mo. Here found some good, faithful Saints struggling against the evil influence produced by the different factions. Interest was manifested on the part of some, and opposition by others, which only seemed to increase the desire to hear. I staid with Br. Stiles about three weeks, then returning to North Eastern Kansas, preaching at Good Intent, Atchison, Fanning and White Cloud. Here is an excellent field for labor, for I had more calls than I could possibly fill. I also assisted Br. J. W. Brackenbury in holding a series of meetings in what is known as the Chuning neighborhood, in Holt Co., Missouri, where considerable interest was manifested. Feb. 25th, found me again at Council Bluffs, where I remained until after Conference, (the 27th and 28th), returning thence home to Galland's Grove, where I have preached a few times. I am perfectly satisfied with my present situation, but am willing to go anywhere that in the opinion of the Conference my limited experience will qualify me for. H. C. SMITH.

Robert Fuller, of Amanda, Butler Co., Ohio:

To the President of the Church and Elders in Conference assembled:—I herewith submit the following report of my labors for the year ending April 6th, 1875. I have preached in all ten times, five times while I held the office of a Priest, and five times after my ordination to the Elder's office. I have no family to burden or hamper my movements, and I desire the direction of the Holy Spirit through the Conference as to where I shall labor during the coming year, or until such time as a District Conference may be organized in this part of Ohio. I am willing to labor to the best of my ability, as God shall aid me by his Spirit, wherever the Conference shall appoint.

ROBERT FULLER.

Amanda, Butler Co., Ohio,
March 29, 1875.

B. F. Boydston, of Rockwall, Rockwall Co., Texas:

Br. Joseph Smith:—This morning before the departure of the mail I write you a little, hoping that it may reach you in time to be considered at the April Conference. You will please say to that body that Br. J. W. Bryan, of Bandera County, and Br. B. G. Watson and myself of this County, met together in consultation and appointed a meeting to be held at Rockwall, commencing Friday, 16th of July next, and continue also as to include the next or third Sunday in the month, and longer if wisdom and the

Spirit of God should dictate. Brn. Watson and Bryan are both Elders of short experience. What we want is, that Conference will send us one or two Elders, able defenders of the gospel of Christ and who have the cause of God at heart. Let them be assigned to a Mission in Texas, for at least one year, that they may have nothing to do but devote their time to the ministry of the word of God.

The Saints in this country are few and far between, four in this County, twenty in Bandera, three in Navarro, one in Denton, and two in Bosque County. The two last are Brighamites, but I think, with a little proper teaching, they will come out all right. Bandera County is three hundred miles southwest from here, these being the extreme points where Saints reside. The intermediate localities are so that Elders can visit them when passing from one extreme to the other, thus forming something like a circuit. There are a few other Saints in Texas, but I am not able to give their place of residence.

Br. Joseph, will you please attend to this business, and if you think this communication worthy, please publish in the *Herald*, it will answer as a guide somewhat for the traveler. At the same time we may be informed of the action taken, and be looking and preparing for the reception of the Elders when they come, and thus be ready to put them into the field of labor. I hope that the missionaries when appointed will also write to me at Rockwall as to when they will probably arrive. Rockwall is twenty-five miles northeast from Dallas.

Now, Br. Joseph, I will say to you and to whom it may concern, that after a pilgrimage and experience of forty years in the Latter Day Work, I am still strong in the faith, but being in my sixty-fifth year, I can never expect to do any more service myself, farther than to encourage others to labor for the upbuilding of Zion, and to distribute tracts and other gospel tidings, which I am determined to do to the best of my ability, God being my helper. I remain unshaken in the faith of the new and everlasting covenant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. B. F. BOYDSTUN.

Rockwall, Rockwall Co., Texas,
March 30, 1875.

A. C. Inman, of Knox, Stark Co., Indiana:

Dear President and Brethren in the Lord:—I having been a year since I had a voice in Conference, although I have tried to avail myself of such an opportunity, and can not now attend, I will report to your honorable body, ever praying God's richest blessings to attend his holy cause and his love to be with you during your deliberations. I have labored in Pulaski county, Indiana, and Crawford county, Illinois, and baptized one.

One child was healed under my administration who had been given up by two doctors, and there were two other cases of healing. My niece (whose child was healed) was the one baptized. I left some believing. I have done but little this winter, but I hope again to raise my voice in the Master's cause outside of our little Branch

A. C. INMAN.

Knox, Ind., April 3rd, 1875.

T. W. Smith, of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio Mission :

Left Plano for Southern Ohio shortly after last Conference. Preached about a month at Amanda, Butler Co., Ohio. Baptized ten and organized a Branch, with Br. M. B. Williams, Presiding Elder; Thos. R. Wren, Priest; Richard J. Williams, Teacher, and R. Bruce Jones, Deacon. I ordained also Br. Robt. M. Fuller a Priest. I proceeded from there to Pittsburg, thence to South Bethlehem, Penn., and from there to Philadelphia, Penn. From Philadelphia, in October, I went to Virginia—in the Shenandoah Valley; where I baptized seven and organized the Valley Branch—Brn. O. E. Cleveland, Presiding Elder; Benj. Bowman, Teacher; S. C. Andes, Deacon. From thence I went (Dec. 24th) to Syracuse, Ohio, where I found a small Branch of twenty-three members; but in a disorganized and very unhealthy condition. By the grace of God I soon got them into an united and consequently prosperous state. I baptized twenty-nine there and ordained three as Elders, who had held the Priesthood in former days, also one Priest and two Teachers. Br. David Hopkins, Presiding Elder; Brs. John Harris and Edmund Thomas, Priests; Brs. Thomas Matthews and Wm. T. Jones Teachers, and David Matthews (Elder) acting as Deacon. There is now a Branch of fifty-two members there; having a fine, large hall to meet in, and are a noble body of Saints among whom it is a pleasure to labor. I had considerable opposition there, having my life threatened several times, and cursed and vilified publicly by enemies of the cross of Christ. I left there on March 25th, and went to Butler Co., Ohio. I found the little Branch in an excellent condition, united and peaceful. There is a noble little flock there, and faithful officers, and efficient ones too. I baptized one there the night before I left. With two baptized at Plano, last April, during Conference, I have baptized 49 since last Conference, organized 2 Branches and reorganized another, ordained 5 Elders, 4 Priests, 4 Teachers and 2 Deacons. Have enjoyed, as a general thing, the aid of the Holy Spirit in preaching, in administering to the sick and in confirmation. Realizing that all that has been done has been by the power and favor of God, to Him be the praise, and honor and glory, through his Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Joseph R. Lambert, of Western Iowa :

To the Saints assembled in Conference; dear brethren:—I herewith submit an epitomized report of my work in the ministry, performed within the last six months. Through the grace of God I have labored to the extent of my ability, having spent about three-fourths of my time in the advocacy of the Latter Day Work.

Our worthy brother, H. C. Smith has been laboring under my directions, but as he will report for himself, I will only say he was with me four or five weeks in Western Iowa, during which he baptized one, assisted in preaching the word, and in the organization of a Branch at Camp Creek, Calhoun Co., Iowa. I have preached, more or less, in seven Counties in Western Iowa, two in Kansas, once in St. Joseph, Missouri; also assisted in conducting a two week's series of meetings at Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Allen County, Kansas, is a new field. While there I baptized one, and left a good impression upon the people.

Since the last Semi-Annual Conference I have preached seventy times, baptized one, held one public debate at Magnolia, Iowa, besides other work unnecessary to report.

Yours in gospel bonds,

JOSEPH R. LAMBERT.

Plano, Ill., April 6, 1875.

The President suggested that three quarters of an hour for prayer be spent in the morning before business.

Br. B. V. Springer, of Southern Indiana, reported as follows :

To the Saints in Conference assembled; dear brethren:—I herewith send a report of my labors in my mission in Southern Indiana, and although I have accomplished but little, I have done the best I could under the circumstances. I have traveled and preached to the best of my ability in nine Counties in Indiana, and two Counties in Kentucky, and at one point in Ohio; have baptized eighteen persons, ordained three Elders, two Priests, and one Deacon; blessed twelve children and organized one Branch.

My heart is in the work, and gladly would I spend the remainder of my days in preaching the gospel, but circumstances over which I have no control compels me to ask the Conference to release me from the Southern Indiana Mission. It is due the Conference, however, also to my many friends in Southern Indiana, as well as the Saints everywhere, that my reasons for abandoning the Mission should be given; I will hereafter, if permitted, give them through the *Herald*, which I have no doubt will give entire satisfaction to all concerned, meantime I pray that God will abundantly bless you, together with all his Saints, that your deliberations may result in great

good for the cause of truth. Yours in hope
of eternal life, B. V. SPRINGER.

Wirt, Ind., April 1, 1875.

Elder W. H. Kelley made remarks
relating to the latter report.

The President read a request from
Sr. M. E. Forney, of Woodbine, Iowa,
for prayers in behalf of her daughter,
Mrs. Herrington.

Br. Caffall was appointed to preach
in the evening, assisted by Elder M. H.
Forscutt, and Br. Robert Davies to take
charge of prayer meeting to-morrow
morning. Sr. Irena Stranahan, of Can-
non Falls, Minnesota, requested prayers
for her health; also Br. J. McKnight,
of Omaha, Nebraska, for himself. Sang
Doxology. Benediction by President
Blair.

TUESDAY EVENING.

APRIL 6TH.

Sung hymn 474. Prayer by Br. M.
H. Forscutt, who also read third chapter
of Collosians. Hymn 177. Preaching
by Br. James Caffall. Text Col. 3 : 4.
A large congregation of Saints and of
the world listened attentively to the dis-
course. Sung hymn 188. Benediction
by Br. W. H. Hazzledine. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY MORNING,

APRIL 7TH.

Prayer meeting at nine o'clock in
charge of Br. Robert Davis.

BUSINESS SESSION.

Sung hymn 615. Prayer by Br. A.
M. Wilsey. Minutes of yesterday's ses-
sion read by the Secretary. Reading of
Elder's reports continued.

James Caffall—Kansas, Nebraska,
Missouri and Iowa:

*To the President and brethren in General
Conference assembled:*— Since the Semi-
Annual Conference of 1874, my labors have
been chiefly confined to Districts and
Branches in Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas,
and Iowa. In every place I have found
lovers of the Latter Day cause, and feel
much pleasure in stating to your honorable
body that during the last six months, some
changes for the better have taken place
among the Saints, but the effects of con-
tentions in some localities are still visible.
I do not wish to be a fault finder, but I
must say in some of the above places there
has been too great a laxity in administering
the law. The enemy has therefore availed

himself of the opportunity of making some
havoc among the Saints, and it will require
a continued and persistent effort to drive
him from his strong holds. In several lo-
calities there are good opportunities for
preaching, with but very few, and in some
places no Elders to send. You will discover
by the statistical report of the Pottawatt-
mie District, that in that District there are
forty-seven Elders, and out of that number
there are few who make it a point to be
out preaching even on Sunday. I found
quite an indifference relative to financial ar-
rangements. I believe, and have so taught,
that it is as much the duty of the officials
to co-operate in financial arrangements as
in spiritual matters; not only the ministry,
but the feeble, the aged or needy should
be cared for; for so we are taught. I
think many reasons exist why an assembly
of the general authorities should be held.
With all our present struggles, the future,
(if we abide in Christ), is bright, and will
bring to us spiritual strength. Yours in
gospel bonds,
James Caffall.
Piano, Ill., April 7, 1875.

C. G. Lanphear, New York and Penn-
sylvania.

I left Illinois for the East, May 13th, 1874.
Stayed with the Saints the first Sabbath, at
Knox, Stark Co., Indiana, and attended
their meetings. Found the brethren there
earnest for the cause. I was with the breth-
ren at Green Centre, Noble Co., Indiana,
two Sabbaths. Preached three times while
with them. Called at Church Hill, Ohio, and
attended Conference there early in June,
and took part in the services. I preached
four times at Springfield, Ohio, about twenty
miles from Church Hill. Returned and
staid at Church Hill two weeks, preaching
at their Branch meetings and attending
their Sabbath School. I also preached a
funeral discourse of a child of one of the
Saints. I was at Brookfield, Ohio, and met
with a few of the Saints there on Sabbath.
I was also in Crawford Co., Pennsylvania,
and near Conneautville the latter part of
July, and preached twice while there. Sub-
sequently came into Steuben county, New
York, the 7th of August, and held meetings
most of the Sabbaths while there, till about
the middle of October, when I went up to
Savannah, New York; holding meetings
there every Sabbath save one, till the 6th of
January. I visited a family of the Saints
in Herkimer county, and preached there on
the Sabbath. I baptized two at Savannah.
January 6th, I went into Jefferson county,
and preached there on all the Sabbaths but
one, till the 10th of March. An invitation
to preach was sent me from the Trustee of
one of the school-houses in Theresa village.
I responded on the last Sabbath I was there.
Had good attention, and a desire was ex-

pressed for more preaching. Also distributed a number of tracts and Epitomes of Faith and Doctrine. They took all I had and still wanted more.

I left there on March 10th, and called again at Savannah, Wayne county, and also at Steuben county. Left there March 25th, and the following Sabbath was at Church Hill, Ohio, among the Saints. The Saints there are having some trials, but are in a fair way of having an increase of numbers. On the 30th, came to Green Centre, Indiana. I preached there, Sabbath, April 4th, and baptized one at their request. I have been blessed in my labors, and feel a stronger desire than ever before to labor for Christ and his cause.

There are but few Saints in New York, but several places where they will make the Elders welcome, and there is no lack of openings for preaching the word, or at least I found it so where I was. There is much prejudice with a portion of the people, and also the warrings of the opposing sects to encounter, but wherever I have labored I felt that a good impression was made upon the people in favor of the cause. The few Saints are desirous that Elders should labor in their vicinities. They want help in Indiana also, and are desirous for a two-days' meeting at Green Centre.

My prayer to God is that he will continue to strengthen and bless his Saints, and that Zion's cause will continue to increase, till the knowledge of the Lord and his righteousness is established in the earth.

C. G. LANPHEAR.

C. W. Prettyman, of Knox, Stark Co., Indiana, said:

The work is in good condition in our section, and we are laboring for the cause as our pecuniary circumstances permit.

Wm. H. Kelley—Minnesota and Indiana:

To the President and brethren in Conference assembled:—At the Semi-Annual Conference held at Council Bluffs, in 1873, I was assigned to Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana, as my field of labor. For the first two months I remained in Western Iowa, visiting and preaching the word as circumstances demanded. To this country of my boyhood, after an absence of six years I returned and found relatives, friends and good brethren, with whom I spent much pleasant and, to me, instructive time. Among other pleasant things that I enjoyed was the association for a short time with our beloved President, who was then visiting the Churches in the West. Association with him tends to draw out and keep alive those nobler qualities that develop into true manhood, unto the utter despising of the low and unmanly actions of by far too many. In December I went to

Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Six miles north of that place, I preached about a week to attentive audiences, mostly Adventists. An aged brother and sister Harris live here, and this would be a good place for an Elder to labor in, although he would doubtless meet with a strong opposition in a public way, as other ways. From here I went to Minnesota, where I labored until the fall of 1874, in several counties in that State, most of the time in new places, indeed the most of my preaching for the last eighteen months has been among those not conversant with our faith; and in all the places visited, more or less interest is manifest, inasmuch that they still wish to hear. Some have given their names in for baptism, and now await the return of an Elder to induct them into the kingdom. There is a large field in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin, with Northern Iowa, that should not be left without a laborer. Some good Saints reside there, but are very much scattered.

Last fall I returned to Southern Indiana, where, during the winter, I preached in Ripley, Jefferson, and Switzerland Counties. Much prejudice existed here, even a fierce opposition in places; but after a proper investigation of our principles the intelligent class became more favorable. A good work can be done in Southern Indiana, and the way is opening up wider than laborers can be found to look after those openings. The brethren there are doing what they can to move on the cause, and are trying to live their religion. At Whitestown, Indiana, there is an excellent opportunity for preaching the word. Br. D. O. Trout resides here, and is much interested in having a good Elder sent there. I held three meetings there with very excellent effect, as I learned afterwards while on my way here.

In all my efforts to sustain the cause I have found it a delightful thing in standing for the truth, and the Lord has been with me in such a real presence that to try to doubt the work would be to sin against an absolute consciousness of light. All of my interests are centered in the success and glory of the Latter Day Cause, and I shall try to honor it wherever I may be.

WM. H. KELLEY.

Plano, Ill., April 7, 1875.

President Joseph Smith reported as follows:

After last fall Conference, I labored in Western Iowa for some time. Returning home, I visited and preached in various places in the Kewanee and Northern Illinois Districts, besides doing local labor. Bro. A. H. Smith has lately gone to his field of labor in California, and is now there. I have received inquiries from many different places for ministers, besides the many different places where good efforts are already

being made. I think it a good plan for the Elders to hold themselves ready to do all the local labor possible.

Bishop I. L. Rogers reported :

On my return from last fall Conference, I determined to do more in the work than heretofore. I have no ability for preaching, but like to take the Elders with me to various places where business or the interests of the Church call me. Br. Banta has been with me near De Kalb this winter, and he made a good impression. Intended having gone into Northern Iowa, but the severe weather prevented. The business of the Church is becoming greater, and this requires me to be at home more. I have no less determination to work for the cause than I have had heretofore, and I ask the prayers of the Saints that I may do my portion of it.

Br. J. H. Lake, of Southern Iowa reported.

Since last fall Conference I have devoted most of my labor to preaching among the Branches in the String Prairie District, Iowa, and I hear very favorable reports of the reception of the truth, and I have invitations to return to some places. Have done considerable outside of the Branches, and expect to continue, the Lord helping me. I desire to always lift my voice for the truth.

Br. E. Banta, of Sandwich, Illinois :

My work is mostly confined to the Branch in my charge. Went once this winter with Br. Rogers to a place north, and preached a few times.

Br. S. V. Bailey, of Michigan, said :

I have always had a desire to do something for the work, but my way has been hedged up. Last fall, found myself loosened and have been preaching considerable. I think the field in Michigan better than it ever has been before.

Br. Alfred White, of Des Moines District, Iowa :

I have had no mission given me, but have been at work in my District, which is large, with few working Elders. Br. I. N. White being the only one free to labor, I made temporal arrangements with him so that he might labor continually, and he has done a good work. In connection with W. C. Nirk has baptized fourteen.

Br. M. H. Forscutt reported :

From the time I entered the missionary field in August last, I have travelled and labored almost incessantly, having visited my home outside of my ministerial field only once since that time, staying home near three weeks, but only one Sunday, spending the other Sunday and a portion of the week nights adjacent to my home in

preaching the word. During the time since I left my home in August, I have labored to the best of my ability mainly in the State of Illinois, to which I was appointed; but also to some extent in Iowa, and in Nebraska a little; having travelled 8,554 miles, attended 269 meetings, speaking publicly 230 times. In some places I gave a course of lectures, in others a series of discourses, in others preaching as circumstances seemed to demand, and in all places trying to follow as the Spirit should lead.

Some thirty-two were baptized in the places where I labored, seventeen of whom I baptized; the remainder were baptized by local brethren. The conversion of some of these baptized is attributable to the labors of others before me.

In my travels I have ministered in Omaha, Nebraska; Council Bluffs, Magnolia, Harlan, Lake City and vicinity, Newton, Farmington, Vincennes, Lamoni, Pleasanton, Mount Ayr, Keokuk, Montrose and Burlington, in Iowa; Rock Creek, Belleville, Alma, Alton, Jeffersonville, Springerton, Cisne, Hard Scrabble, Brown, Caudle, Chapman, Dry Fork, Lewiston, Canton, St. Davids, Bryant, Peoria, Kewanee and Plano, in Illinois.

During my labors I have felt the good Spirit to be with me to aid and comfort me. I assisted in blessing children and confirming members. Have also administered to the sick, sometimes with immediate benefit, at other times without any apparent help to the sufferers. I have solemnized three marriages, and with the assistance of Bro. Hyrum C. Bronson, President of the District, have organized a Branch at Peoria, where I delivered a course of lectures with considerable liberty.

I am still subject to the will of the Lord, whatever he may appoint for me.
Plano, Ill., April 7, 1875.

Br. G. H. Hilliard, of South-Eastern Illinois, reported :

To the President and Brethren in Conference assembled:—I beg leave to submit the following report: The calls for preaching are more than can be filled by the few Elders in the District. There has never been so good an opportunity as now for preaching the word in the District. We have been visited by Brn. Blair and Forscutt during the past year. We have been blessed and instructed by their labors. There are but few active Elders in our District, and we would be glad to have an efficient Elder sent among us to labor this summer. I think a good work could be done. The spiritual condition of the Saints is not as good as it might be, but we hope to make an improvement. God has truly blessed our labors in the past. The brethren at our last Conference expressed a willingness and desire to

labor in the Master's cause, and we hope it may be successfully carried out. Br. Kelley's relatives in Johnson county think he could do a good work there, and they are anxious that he should come and preach among them. We hope to grow spiritually, and see many more added to our numbers, and finally be made perfect through Christ. As ever, I shall work and pray for this end.

G. H. HILLIARD.

Plano, Ill., April 7th, 1875.

Br. W. H. Hazzledine, of St. Louis District, said:

I am happy to represent such a noble people as the Latter Day Saints. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out in a great degree at our last District Conference, and the priesthood are endeavoring to obey the teachings of the Spirit of the Lord. Get these active and the people will follow. My heart is as earnest in the work as ever. We expect still better times, still greater blessings.

Br. J. S. Patterson:

I received no Mission from last fall Conference. I have attended Two Day Meetings and Conferences in the Kewanee District and have done some local labor. Have received much assistance of the Holy Spirit. One young girl, long confined by sickness, was baptized and healed, so that the next morning she was well. Have done all that my circumstances would allow. I am at the disposal of the Conference.

Br. Robert Davis, of Canada:

Two years ago I was assigned a field and have been continually in it. Saints have not enjoyed the Spirit as they should, but I see an improvement since the incoming of 1875. There are openings in all parts. Baptized a colored Methodist preacher and seven of his followers. Baptized thirteen since last October. Have also preached in Michigan. Expect to return to Canada. Believe that great good can be done there, but some trouble exists. Have traveled about fourteen hundred miles in the work since last report, and preached about fifty times. Administered to the sick with good results. I am willing to go where the Church sends me.

President J. Smith said that the chief cause of difficulty in Canada was from a prejudice, and an opposition against church association, and of fellowship with the colored race. The subject will come up when that Mission is reached, and I hope it will be thoroughly investigated. It is, in my opinion, high time that the Church rose to the broad plane of human rights vouchsafed in the gospel.

Hymn 225 was sung. Benediction by Br. Wm. H. Kelley.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

APRIL 7TH.

President Joseph Smith in the chair. Sung hymn 720. Prayer by Elder J. R. Lambert.

The hour of free discussion was opened by Br. James Hunter reading Isa. 14 : 32 ; 42 : 6 ; 4 : 5 ; Mich. 3 : 5 ; Matt. 20 : 22.

Br. J. H. Lake spoke upon the subject considered yesterday,—that of members withdrawing from the Church, and alluded to the case supposed by the President. He said that if this case would warrant permission to withdraw quietly, then it would be similar to setting aside the ordinance of baptism in former days. It looks like bending the law to suit the creature. I cannot get my mind to consent to granting this privilege. I consider it a matter of too much importance, and that it would be throwing the doors wide open to allow members to withdraw without due investigation or trial.

Br. J. R. Lambert desired to learn something concerning ordinations, and referred to the revelations of God, reading, "whosoever would reap, let him thrust in his sickle and reap." I understand that though the brother has such desire, yet that it is to be revealed what work God has for him to do. I believe that men should be called by revelation or prophecy.

Br. M. H. Forscutt presented the following motion:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting no member should be expelled from the Church, nor their names dropped from the Church Record, without such member having been first tried before a legally constituted court of the Church, or properly notified to appear, by an officer of the Church.

Br. Caffall said:—It is quite possible that a member should remove sixty miles from the Branch and subsequently request erasure of name. This will bring a formal trial, but involves great difficulties on the part of the officers. How is it to be performed? It appears to me that by such request a member forfeits his right and should be released. There

is a difference between such cases and those where offences have been committed.

Br. *Wm. H. Kelley* said that this is a matter of practical importance. The fact of a member being far off or near by does not affect the case of a person requesting to have their name taken off. If a member can have a name taken off to-day—he could to-morrow ask to have his name replaced—without going through the ordinary form. No individual who is in full fellowship could desire to have his or her name erased—if so, it is an evidence of apostasy.

Br. *Blair* read the 22d and 23d paragraphs of section 42, Book of Covenants. In it is found the principle to regulate all these matters. To my mind here is the law and the only one regulating expulsion; but in no sense are the members to act as judge or jury in the case, nor to arrogate to themselves power not belonging to them. The officers are to watch over the flock. I do not understand that the Priest or Teacher is under obligation to visit members at a distance.

Br. *Hilliard* said it would be the duty of the President of the Branch to call a Court of Elders.

Br. *E. L. Kelley* said that he felt that as a church we did not give as much attention to members who thought of withdrawing as we should. Believes that to obtain a retraction of the wish to have the name erased, would be worth all the trouble taken in accomplishing it. Believes we should do all in our power to retain members.

Br. *Lake* inquired whether it would be lawful in a case of appeal from a District Conference to carry it before another Conference of the same District, or from one court to another of similar power.

The hour expired; business resumed.

After the close of the hour's free discussion, Br. *Banta* introduced a resolution on the Gathering, requesting it to be made the special order of business Friday afternoon. No objection being made it was so ruled by the chair.

Br. *George Shaw*, of Canada, reported:

I am sorry to have to say to this Conference that I have not filled the Mission to Nova Scotia assigned me by the April Conference of 1874, but have labored in the Kent and Elgin District as the way opened. Assisted Br. *Robert Davis* in confirming twelve members, blessed several children. I am willing to fill the Nova Scotia Mission, if this Conference see proper to send me there.

GEORGE W. SHAW.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

Northwest Missouri District:

Five Branches, total 147 members, including 1 High Priest, 19 Elders, 4 Priests, 3 Teachers, 5 Deacons, 6 baptized since last report. *James Kemp*, president; *James Wood*, clerk.

Br. *Albert Bishop* reported as delegate:

Concerning the Northwest Missouri District, I am glad to say that prospects are somewhat brightening. At our last Quarterly Conference held in March, 1875, a good time was had,—more peaceful and orderly than many Conferences,—and much of the good Spirit was manifest. The *De Kalb Branch*, the largest Branch in the District, is now enjoying peace, and most of its members are feeling well, and are doing all they can to encourage each other—nor are they unmindful that help financially is wanted, and in this way they are willing to do their best, and are beginning to create a fund for the benefit of the traveling ministry, and to help the needy. The Saints are well aware of what has happened in the past, and there appears a desire amongst the majority of the Saints comprising the Northwest Missouri to profit from the past, and strive to do better in the future. There has been recently three added by baptism in the *De Kalb Branch*. Since the subdivision of the old Northwest Missouri District, our District, which still retains the name of the Northwest Missouri District, is comparatively small, yet we have plenty of territory, and we hope by God's blessing to make a good record of ourselves. Priests and Elders, with few exceptions, have engaged to labor all they can to preach the gospel.

ALBERT BISHOP.

Central Missouri District, no report.

Decatur, (Iowa), District, no report:

Br. *Blair* spoke of the favorable condition of the work in that District, in which is located the *Lamoni Branch*.

Little Sioux District, Iowa:

Six Branches—*Magnolia, Little Sioux, Unionburg, Soldier Valley, Spring Valley and Six Mile Grove*. Total 287 members, including 1 Apostle, 3 High Priests, 5 Sev-enties, 38 Elders, 11 Priests, 6 Teachers, 5

Deacons. Since last report, 19 baptized, 8 received by letter and vote, 4 expelled, 2 died. Net increase 21. Donald Maule, Clerk.

Br. P. Cadwell said of the District, that some little difficulty prevailed, but the Saints are generally feeling well. Br. Lambert has held a discussion with a Mr. Savage with good results.

Pottawattamie District, Iowa:

Six Branches—Council Bluffs, Crescent City, North Pigeon, Boomer, Wheeler's Grove and North Star, making a total, with scattered members, of 386, including 1 Apostle, 1 High Priest, 5 Seventies, 47 Elders, 10 Priests, 8 Teachers, 7 Deacons. Since last report 9 baptized, 5 received by letter, 1 died. Net gain 13. James Caffall, President; Frederick Hanson, Clerk.

Br. Caffall said that the condition of the District was not at all flattering—not one Elder out of the forty-seven, whose entire time is spent in the ministry, and not more than three who make it a point to go out and preach every Sunday. A splendid field of labor however in that region, and I will do all I can in those parts.

Br. Joseph Smith explained why there were so many Elders there—said it caught the drift of the Reorganization both ways.

Kewanee District, Illinois:

Hyrum C. Bronson, President, reported about 450 members. Spiritual condition as good as formerly—in some parts better. Through labors of Br. Forscutt a Branch was organized at Peoria. More promised to be baptized this week. Knew of but one Branch where there was any local difficulty. Had no report from Br. J. F. Adams, of Iowa Sub-District, yet learns that they are prospering. Spoke of a resolution looking to a setting apart of the Iowa Sub-District, and Buffalo Prairie Branch, Illinois, as a separate District. In the District Conference it was laid over for six months.

Br. J. L. Adams reported his labors in the Kewanee Sub-District:

Ways and opportunities are open in various directions for preaching. Have baptized ten persons, and in company with Br. Edward Larkey have assisted in baptizing four. Br. Jerome Ruby has also been preaching some.

Northern Nebraska District, no report.

Central Nebraska District:

Three Branches—Columbus, Shell Creek and Deer Creek. Total 61 members, 2 High Priests, 9 Elders, 4 Priests, 1 Teacher, 1

Deacon. Charles Derry, president; George W. Galley, clerk.

Eastern Nebraska District:

Four Branches, Platte Valley and three others. Total 124 members. Gain since last report 23, loss 6. Hans Nielson, clerk.

Br. Caffall said that this District is slowly recovering from the effects of internal broils. Some excellent Saints are laboring to the utmost of their ability for the furtherance of the cause. There are plenty of fields of labor, but laborers are few. Hopes ere long to report a more favorable condition.

North Kansas District, no report

Des Moines, (Iowa), District:

Four Branches—Newton, Independence, Pleasant Grove and Des Moines. Total 140 members, including 17 Elders, 5 Priests, 5 Teachers and 2 Deacons. 1 baptized, 2 expelled.

Br. Alfred White, (President), said this District was flourishing, and no difficulties existing. Needed help in filling openings presenting. Letter from Br. N. Stamm reported having baptized two.

St. Louis District:

Eight Branches. (no names) 499 members, including 3 High Priests, 1 Seventy, 40 Elders, 15 Priests, 15 Teachers and 10 Deacons. Four baptized; 1 received, 2 died. Name of Greenwood Branch changed to Alton, and Dry Hill to Cheltenham. Five Branches have Sunday Schools in good working order. Thos. R. Allen, Clerk.

South-Eastern Illinois District:

Six Branches—Dry Fork, Brush Creek, Elm River, Little Wabash, Deer Creek and Springerton. Total 195 members, including 1 High Priest, 11 Elders, 5 Priests, 5 Teachers, 3 Deacons. Since last report, 50 baptized, 14 received, 9 removed, 3 died. I. A. Morris, Clerk.

G. H. Hilliard, President, said that the spiritual condition of this District was not as good as it should be, but no serious trouble prevails. With Br. Isaac Morris, I have labored in Johnson county, and we baptized ten there. In Indiana, was challenged to discuss, but my opponent would not accept the propositions. We are building a house of worship at Springerton, Have been blessed with success, but not without opposition.

Southern Indiana District:

Five Branches—Eden, Union, Low Gap,

Pleasant Ridge and New Trenton. Total 127 members, including 1 Seventy, 9 Elders, 5 Priests, 3 Teachers and 2 Deacons. Ten baptized since last report, 1 received. No losses. We believe the work to be on a very fair footing, with fair prospects ahead. A resolution of our last Conference requests the General Conference to return Br. W. H. Kelley to our country. Harbert Scott, Pres., J. S. Constance, Clerk.

Br. *Kelley* spoke of the labors of Brn. B. V. Springer, Columbus Scott and I. P. Baggerly in this District, and of the good seed sown by them. Hoped some good man would go into that field to reap. He had found an excellent field in Southern Indiana, and there should be an effort made to keep up the interest. Br. Bell also testified of the work there.

Br. *J. Smith*, in reply to a question respecting having pictures hanging on the walls, said that he was not a picture worshiper, yet he was a lover of pictures of absent friends and familiar scenes. When troubled or bowed down he could look up at his array of faces and gain comfort and relief, and yet not be a worshiper of them; for I bow my knee to none but my God. I do not practice nor believe in dancing, because it leads from proper and more spiritual exercises.

Hymn 222 was sung and the benediction pronounced.

EVENING SESSION.

APRIL 7TH.

Sung hymn 357, prayer by Br. J. S. Patterson, who also read part of the fourth chapter of Matthew. Preaching by Br. J. R. Lambert. A short but very pleasing discourse. Sung hymn 87. Benediction by Br. John Chisnall.

THURSDAY MORNING.

APRIL 8TH.

Prayer meeting at nine o'clock in charge of Br. James Hunter.

Conference at ten o'clock. Prayer by Br. A. M. Wilsey.

Reading of District reports continued.

Fremont (Iowa) District:

Eleven Branches—Mill Creek, Fremont, Plum Creek, Elm Creek, Palmyra, Platte River, Nebraska City, Liberty, Nephi, Glenwood and Farm Creek. Total 410 members, including 4 High Priests, 2 of the Seventy,

38 Elders, 12 Priests, 13 Teachers and 8 Deacons. The District is in a fair condition, and a good prospect of improvement for the future. Scattered members are not reported in the above. Wm. Redfield, president; Wm. Leeka, clerk.

Br. *Leeka* said that the condition of this District was very favorable.

Br. *Caffall* said that this District is very large, and there is a great deal of room for preaching, but very little being done. Some difficulties heretofore existing have been settled.

Br. *Jos. Smith* spoke of some old time Saints removing from Western Iowa to Minnesota, who deserve to have an Elder visit them.

Br. *Kelley* spoke on the same subject.

Br. *Carl Gross*, of Nevada, spoke of the condition of affairs there, and very feelingly of his experiences and desires in and for the work.

The Secretary having yesterday's minutes now prepared, read them, and upon some slight corrections they stood approved.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

North-Eastern Wisconsin District:

One Branch. Total members in the District 72, including 2 of the Seventy, 10 Elders, 2 Priests, 1 Teacher; 1 baptized, 2 removed, 2 died. We have had four Branches, but through joining the present existing Branch, and for other reasons, we have now but one. Some are not living faithfully and are cold, but most of the Elders are trying to labor as their circumstances permit. Not near the work is being done that ought to be, and our prayer is that God will unloose the hands of his Elders to proclaim the gospel to the honest in heart. W. S. Montgomery, president; Peter Harris, clerk.

Br. *J. M. Wait* said that the Saints in his District are getting out of the troubles they have been in. The Elders have a desire to labor in the vineyard, but none are at full liberty to devote their time to it. Spoke of Br. D. B. Rasey's labors there. The Saints of this Branch (Wolf River) are erecting a house of worship at Binghamton.

Br. *M. Lampert* said he had spoken some in this District, and had met encouragement for the work. Had preached in Horicon. Brethren at Oshkosh wish some able Elder to come into that country.

Br. *S. V. Bailey*, of Michigan, said that State was an excellent field for preaching, and a great change had taken place in the minds of the people in favor of the work. In two neighborhoods a good influence has been created by reading the Book of Mormon. Br. *H. C. Smith* has done what he could considering his feeble health. We need some steady and efficient laborer. I will do all that I can.

Pittsfield (Illinois) District:

Three Branches—Pittsfield, New Canton, and Alma. Total 55 members; 16 scattered; 1 Seventy, 5 Elders and 3 Priests. *C. Mills*, president.

Br. *Mills* reported this District by letter:

To the Brethren and Saints assembled at the Annual Conference. Dear brethren in Christ:—I hereby make a report of my labors in the gospel in my District. It is not so good as I wish, but as it is I have done all I could under my present circumstances. I have held meetings every Sunday since last report. In April last I baptized two, in August one, in November five, making eight in all; organized one Branch, called the Alma Branch; ordained one Priest, and blessed three children. I have oft times administered to the sick, and in many cases very successfully. I have tried to do all I could in spreading the truth and to open up new places, and have made one new opening which I think will result in much good to the cause, for I think there will be a good Branch raised up there. Many are investigating, and some have said that as soon as it was convenient they would obey, for they were satisfied that we had the truth. I have also distributed tracts for them to read. Some have asked if we preach free, how we can afford it, and how we make our living. I answered that God did not let his servants go hungry or in want while in His service. The District is now beginning to look in a better condition than for some time. We would like if it was so you could send some one to help us in this District, for there are more calls than I can possibly fill. With this I send the District Report, and ever remain your servant in Christ, *C. MILLS.*

Pittsfield, Ill., April 4, 1874.

Spring River (Kansas) District: No report.

Northern Illinois District:

Fourteen Branches. Total 539 members, including 3 of First Presidency, 2 Apostles, 1 Bishop, 8 High Priests, 5 of the Seventy, 38 Elders, 12 Priests, 10 Teachers, 7 Deacons. Since last report 23 have been baptized, 20 received by letter and vote, 21

removed, 5 have been expelled and 13 died. *H. A. Stebbins*, president; *Valentine White*, clerk.

Br. *H. A. Stebbins* reported: A nearly general state of harmony prevails among the Saints. Among the world there are many calls for preaching, with some excellent openings for presenting the gospel, and good promise exists of considerable addition to the Church. As President, I have labored almost continually, though of late other duties have kept me from the field. Brn. *Joseph Smith*, *W. W. Blair*, *E. Banta* and *Charles Williams* have done some work outside of local labor, Brn. *Blair* and *Williams* especially. Branch officers and other Elders are doing fair amount of local labor generally. We intend still to prosecute the work, the Spirit of God being our guide and instructor in the ways of peace and truth.

Nova Scotia District, no report.

CANADA MISSION.

Br. *Geo. Shaw* said that Br. *E. C. Briggs* had lately visited Canada, and Br. *Briggs* claims that he has succeeded in settling the difficulties heretofore existing between the white and colored members. He had visited and labored some in connection with Br. *Davis*. Found quite a spirit of inquiry in *Dover*, and thinks that a good work can be done there. Spoke of an effort made there last Sunday to organize a Branch. Several colored Saints at that time gave a very excellent experience. These may do much good yet among their brethren.

Br. *R. Davis* corroborated the testimony of Br. *Shaw*; said that there are some able men in Canada; but he is the only Elder who can spend all or most of the time in the ministry.

Br. *J. Smith* said he hoped the brethren would prepare themselves to investigate the subject of the work in Canada. We are good-natured now, and I think we can discuss the question in good feeling. I have strong feelings on the subject, yet hold my views in perfect good feelings toward those who may differ from me.

Br. *Elisha Culver*, of Vermont, thought that if an Elder would visit there, good would result and many be made glad.

Northwest Indiana District, no report.

Br. C. W. *Prettyman* said that he had been laboring some, but his circumstances did not permit his doing much. Prejudices formerly existing have been removed, and people are willing to hear.

Nawoo and String Prairie District:

Twelve Branches, Farmington, Keokuk, Montrose, String Prairie, Vincennes, Croton, Pilot Grove, Northfield, Rock Creek, Elvaston, Burlington (American), and Burlington (German.) 331 members, 1 Apostle, 3 High Priests, 1 Seventy, 14 Elders, 7 Priests, 10 Teachers, 5 Deacons. 45 have been baptized, 6 have been received by letter and vote, 13 have removed, 4 expelled, 3 died. J. H. Lake president; Samuel Ferris, clerk.

Br. J. H. Lake said that in this District are many tried and true Saints. At Rock Creek they are building a place of worship. At Keokuk they have sold their house and are trying to build another. Contrasted the former condition in the feelings of the people of Farmington with the present favorable state of affairs, when many are willing to help them build a house of worship there. District generally in fair condition. Some trouble in Burlington Branch, but expect soon to see it settled.

Br. Wm. *Anderson* said that circumstances had prevented his going to California, as appointed; but still has it in his mind to go West, if nothing prevents. His inclinations lead that way.

Philadelphia District:

Three Branches, Philadelphia, South Bethlehem and Hyde Park—total 78 members. Condition of the District is fair, with a good prospect of increase of membership. Elders are awakening to their duties. J. Stone, president; R. Cameron, clerk.

This District also presented a request for the addition of the Brooklyn, N. Y., Branch to it.

Welsh Mission:

Nine Branches, and a total of 155 members, including 2 of the Seventy, 45 Elders, 12 Priests, 1 Teacher, 3 Deacons. 16 baptized, 7 expelled, 3 died. John T. Davies, president.

(For account of labor done, see Br. Davies' report.)—Sec'y.

Colorado Mission:

One Branch, Denver City, 12 members, including four Elders. Fred. C. Warnky, president; George O. Kennedy, clerk.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Yellow River, Indiana:

Eighteen members, 4 Elders, 1 Priest, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon. In good condition.

Amanda Branch, Ohio:

Organized the past year. 14 members, 2 Elders, 2 Priests, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon. M. B. Williams, president.

Syracuse, Ohio:

Fifty-two members, 6 Elders, 1 Priest, 2 Teachers. 30 baptized since last report and 1 died. David Hopkins, president; Thomas Matthews, clerk.

President *Smith* called attention to items of business which would be called up, naming them in order.

Brn. Forscutt and Wait moved that no new business be allowed to be introduced after to-morrow noon.

Br. Blair spoke in opposition to the motion, arguing that it would be impolitic to pass such an order, and reasoned in behalf of some who were expected to come in the latter part of the week.

Br. Patterson offered an amendment looking to the permission of such who may come in later in the week—no second.

The previous question being called, the vote was taken, and President *Smith* decided that the ayes have it. Adjourned till half-past one P.M. Sung, "This God is the God we adore."

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

APRIL 5th.

Sung hymn 30. Prayer by Bishop I. L. Rogers. Sung hymn 614. Pres. W. W. Blair in the chair. He requested the brethren to be prompt, kind and courteous during the hour of free discussion.

Question presented was: "Is not the word *branch* an improper term to apply in designating organized churches of the Church of Christ?"

Br. Lake said that he did not remember of reading any place where the Lord called his Church a "Branch." Read from B. of C.

Br. Hilliard preferred to call the minor organizations of the Church "branches."

Br. Anderson quoted several places in B. of C. where the word "churches" occurs.

Br. Stebbins quoted sec. 104:17, 33, on the word "branches."

Br. Bronson quoted sec 17 : 16.

Br. Patterson quoted sec. 72 : 4.

Br. Chisnall argued in favor of the word "branch."

Br. Kelley thought that the idea conveyed was the main thing, and that both terms are admissible.

Br. White read sec. 17 : 25, 26.

Br. Wait thought the terms synonymous, and that all controversy on the subject was futile.

Br. Forscutt read sec. 72 : 4, and inquired whether the Elders recognized this law as binding on them or not.

Br. Hilliard presented and spoke in favor of the following resolution: That the words "doubtful" and "bad standing" should not be used in Branch reports.

Br. Caffall was willing to let the words "Branches" and "Churches" stand as they are. Thought something definite should be said on the point of erasing names from Church records. Considered also that the question of rendering accounts to the Bishop to be of importance, and should receive attention.

Br. Davis fully endorsed this view. Said that there was a better disposition to support the ministry, and thinks that accounts should be strictly kept and rendered.

Br. Bailey spoke of the necessity of financial and spiritual order. Considered that the financial interest of the Church should receive more of our attention.

Br. Lanphear said that he had generally rendered an account to the Bishop.

Br. Cooper thought the paragraph involved several important questions which should be considered.

Br. Forscutt read sec. 72 : 1, and argued that the Lord gave a law regulating the office of Bishop, and also a law regulating the Elders dealing with the Bishop.

Regular business session resumed. Secretary read the report of President Blair's labors as follows:

From close of Conference of April, 1874, to May 7th, following, was engaged with committee on tracts. Took a short Mission to Mission Branch. From 13th to 16th of May read manuscripts and proof-sheets for tracts, at Plano. On the 16th and 17th of May, preached at Batavia. From 18th to

23d, writing for tracts and for *Herald*. 24th and 25th at Batavia, preaching. From 25th of May to June 9th, was engaged on tract committee, and in preaching at Sandwich and Greenfield school-house. On the 9th, started for Nauvoo and St. Louis. In St. Louis and vicinity I labored till July 8th, preaching in the city, West Belleville, Gravois, and Dry Hill. On the 8th of July went to Alma Mines, where I staid till the 11th July, held council meeting, and preached twice. From Alma went to Wayne County, Illinois. In this County, and in White County, I labored in connection with Brs. Green, Hilliard, and others, till July 22d, with fair success. My next point was Floyd and Clark Counties, Indiana. I labored in these Counties, as also in Crawford and Perry Counties, with good result, till the 18th of August. From this field I went to Jefferson County, Indiana, where I had preached some in 1870. My labors were confined, chiefly, to one point, Union school-house, yet I preached once in the city of Madison, in the Methodist Church. I left this field September 1st, for Amanda, Ohio. At Amanda and vicinity I preached and held meetings five times. On the 7th of September started for my home, reaching there on the 8th. Remained laboring about home till September 17th, when I went to the Council Bluffs Conference. Returning home from Conference September 25th, I labored at Sandwich, Amboy, Mission, and Plano, till November 4th. November 5th Br. Stebbins and myself went to Marengo, and thence to Pecatonica, where we remained till the 13th, laboring with fair results. Our next point was Janesville, Wisconsin. I remained here with Br. Stebbins till the 19th, preaching at Porter, and in the United Brethren Chapel, near Br. O. N. Dutton's.

Leaving Br. Stebbins to continue our work, I went on to Burlington, Wisconsin, at which place and vicinity I remained, laboring, up to the 30th, when I returned home. From this time up to January 20th, labored at Sandwich, Plano, Mission, and Kewanee.

On the 24th of January I began a series of meetings in Pecatonica and the Grove two and a half miles south. I continued my efforts here till February 22d, and was blessed in them. From that time till this I have labored in Sandwich, Plano, Marengo and Mission Branches. Not a little of my time for the last year has been devoted to revising and writing tracts, in connection with the committee, as also in writing for the *Herald*, and in duties pertaining to my calling as a Counselor, and as a member of the Board of Publication.

My efforts in preaching have generally, if not always, been blessed of God. A goodly number have been baptized, though few, if any, by my hands.

Br. J. V. Roberts, one of the music committee, sent the following report:

To the Brethren attending the Annual Conference, greeting:—I, as a member of the Music Committee, submit the following report.

In selecting tunes for the different hymns in the Saints' Harp, I have adopted the following plan: 1st, I take the number of measures; 2nd, the number of hymns of each measure, including peculiar or accidental; and 3rd, select as great a variety of tunes as possible for each measure. For the 223 C. M. hymns, I can select 24; for the 222 L. M. hymns 20; for the 80 S. M. hymns, 10 good tunes. In like manner I have more or less tunes selected for the great variety of measures in the Saints' Harp. There are some few hymns in the Harp so peculiar that I have not, as yet, been able to find tunes for them in any author. I am selecting principally from A. D. Fillmore's Works. I can, if necessary, send up a list of all the tunes I have selected, but many may be new to you, and unless you had the music you could not tell of their quality. If you intend to have a music book published, it may be proper to get the consent of the different authors we select from, so as not to infringe upon the rights of any one. I am willing to do all that I can to make the enterprise a success. If we get up a tune book, I want it to contain the best selection of tunes extant. Let the Saints one and all assist. If any can offer a good tune, send it up, and we will all learn to sing it.

Yours,
Plum Hollow, Iowa, March 18, 1875.

JAMES V. ROBERTS.

On motion of Brn. Forscutt and Caffall, the Secretary was instructed to send this report to Br. Norman W. Smith, chairman of committee.

Br. I. L. Rogers, Bishop of the Church, reported as follows:

Report of Bishop I. L. Rogers to the Annual Conference held April, 1875, at Plano, Illinois. Beloved brethren of the Church in Conference assembled:—I make the following Annual Report of the temporal condition of the Church, as shown by the receipts and expenditures so far as they are known to me, herewith presenting a statement of not only my own transactions for the Church, but also those of my agents, as reported by them:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Audited balance of tithing in Ap., 1874, | \$70 11 |
| Received during the year..... | 3,793 95 |
| Expended for Church during year..... | 3,619 29 |
| Balance of tithing April 1st, 1875..... | \$244 77 |
| Audited balance of Utah Chapel Fund April, 1874, and yet on hand..... | \$77 45 |

I request the Conference to say what shall be done with this Chapel Fund.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Danish Mission Fund received during the year and yet on hand..... | 75 30 |
|---|-------|

Account of Bishop's Agents since their appointment to March, 1875:

| Name of District | Name of Agent. | Received | Paid out |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Canada..... | John Traxler.... | \$89 39 | \$85 65 |
| Nauvoo & String Prairie..... | J. W. Newberry. | 173 77 | 128 50 |
| S. W. Mo. and S. E. Kansas..... | Richard Bird.... | 369 22 | 333 38 |
| California..... | John Roberts.... | 332 43 | 292 75 |
| Fremont, Iowa..... | Wm. Leeka..... | 30 10 | 36 00 |
| Galland's Grove, Iowa..... | John Pett..... | 16 00 | 10 00 |
| Pottawattamie, Ia..... | Andrew Hall.... | 111 50 | 109 50 |
| Nevada..... | T. R. Hawkins.. | 93 65 | 82 65 |
| San Bernardino, Cal..... | Richard Allen.. | 185 50 | 191 87 |
| Decatur, Iowa..... | Wilson Hudson | 151 85 | 36 25 |
| Central Missouri..... | A. J. Seeley..... | 12 15 | 9 30 |
| Colorado..... | John Ellis..... | 43 00 | 43 00 |
| | | \$1608 56 | \$1358 85 |
| Leaving a net balance in the Agents hands of..... | | | \$249 71 |
| | | | \$1,608 56 \$1,608 56 |

Nearly all disbursements of the Agents have been made in their respective Districts, and I look with much satisfaction upon this method of each District endeavoring to care for its own ministry and poor, believing that timely efforts in giving, and wisdom as God may give, in relieving wants, will be a great advantage to the Church, and also lessen the care and anxiety of the presiding Bishop. I would here express my thanks to the Agents for their prompt reports. Brethren Hans Nielson, of the Eastern Nebraska, and J. C. McIntyre, of the North Kansas Districts, report that they have had no receipts or expenditures. The only Agent not reporting since his appointment is Br. A. J. Odom, of the Florida and Alabama District.

The account of the Church with the Herald Office stands as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Church Dr. to Herald Office, as per report to General Conference of Sept. 1874..... | \$22 90 |
| Bills allowed by said Conference..... | 276 39 |
| By balance on accounts..... | \$67 39 |
| By receipts at Herald Office..... | 363 11 |
| Balance due the Church..... | 131 21 |
| | \$430 50 \$430 50 |

Requesting that a committee be appointed to examine my books and report, I remain respectfully yours,

ISRAEL L. ROGERS, Bishop.

H. A. STEBBINS, Sec'y.

On motion, the report was referred to a committee.

Br. H. A. Stebbins, Church Recorder, reported:

Brethren in Conference:—I have only to report that I have done some work upon the General Church Record during the past winter; and also that I have instituted quite a correspondence with District and Branch officers on the subject. I have, in consequence, quite a collection of reports not yet entered, and other corrections are constant-

ly being made and sent in in answer to my letters of inquiry. It was with some reluctance that I took hold of the task, but, for the short time I have worked, I am encouraged at the prospect of having in time a complete record, and of being able to make a satisfactory statistical report of the Church. I found that quite an effort had been made to this end prior to my taking the work and good was the result generally, while I also found peculiarities that have made more labor for me.

I cannot at present make anything of a statistical report, and as it has at one time been considered not the Recorder's duty, but that of another officer, I have not tried. The books and papers pertaining to the office of Church Secretary have remained idle for about three years, and so little has been done on the Record for a year past, that I trust that time will be given to whoever is to do this part of the work. In viewing the work I think that the office of Church Secretary and Recorder are so nearly related in the duties required, that they might profitably be combined, as no one is as well situated to know the statistics of the Church as the Church Recorder. Should I be sustained I shall continue to work, and if the ideas promulgated through the *Herald* are acceptable, it is probable that in another year we may have quite a full report of Districts and Branches at the Annual Conference.

I also present a request that payment be allowed to me for twenty-four days' labor in this office, and also three dollars paid for ink stand, stamps, envelopes, &c. I would also like to know if I shall hereafter present my bills to the Bishop of the Church as provided in the case of the former Recorder. I remain respectfully yours,

HENRY A. STEBBINS,

Church Recorder.

Plano, Ill., April 6, 1875.

Report was referred to the same committee, who may be appointed to audit the Bishop's books, and report. Brn. Hazzledine, Anderson and Wait were appointed said committee.

Br. Joseph Smith, as chairman of Committee on Church History reported "No progress."

On motion of Brn. Forscutt and Caffall, resolved that the report be accepted, and the committee be requested to present a formal report at the next General Conference.

Br. John Scott, Church Librarian, reported:

To the President and Members in General Conference assembled:—I would hereby report that since September 17, 1874, 27 volumes have been added to the Church Libra-

ry, 22 by donation and 5 by purchase, making a total of 195 volumes in the Library. Very respectfully submitted by your brother,

JOHN SCOTT, *Librarian.*

Plano, Illinois, April 5th, 1875.

The report was accepted.

Br. Forscutt asked the source of the funds for purchase of books for library.

President Smith read the resolution of April, 1874, authorizing the Board of Publication to purchase books not to exceed seventy-five dollars yearly out of the funds of the Church.

On motion of Brn. Forscutt and Lake, Resolved that the acceptance of the report be so amended as to include the thanks of the Conference to the donors.

On motion of Brn. Caffall and Forscutt, a vote of thanks was tendered the Librarian for his labors and care.

A motion entered for the purchase of a new library case was, upon statement of Br. Scott that it was not necessary, withdrawn, by consent of the body.

A petition signed by several members of the Brooklyn Branch, (N. Y.), to have their Branch transferred from the Massachusetts District to the Philadelphia District, was referred back to these members to be brought before the Branch for its action, with instructions then to refer the same to the former District.

A petition was read from the Branch at Kirtland, Ohio, requesting several counties in the northern part of the State to be set apart as the Northern Ohio District.

Br. W. H. Kelley objected to granting the petition on account of the small number of Saints in that section. Others spoke upon the subject, and, on motion, the petition was refused to be granted.

Petition of the Allenville Branch, Worth Co., Missouri, requesting to be detached from the Nodaway District and attached to the Decatur District, was read.

Moved by Brn. Forscutt and Lambert, that the petition be granted.

Brn. Chisnall and Caffall spoke on the subject.

Br. Patterson urged an amendment looking to the consent of the Districts concerned.

Br. J. Smith read a case in point of

transfer of a Branch from one District to another, and argued the propriety of inquiring into the reasons which may actuate Branches in making such requests.

Br. Lake spoke upon consulting the Districts concerned.

Upon amendment of resolution the petition was granted, providing the Branch has the approval of both of the Districts named.

Secretary read a petition from the Central Missouri District, asking for the Counties of Caldwell and Livingston to be attached to their territory.

Brn. Lanphear and Wilsey moved that the petition be granted.

Br. J. Smith read from minutes of last General Conference the organization of the Central Missouri and Northwest Missouri Districts, giving their geographical boundaries. He also explained the manner of the former division of the District. Much discussion followed ending thus:

On motion of Brn. J. Smith and Jas. Caffall, Resolved that this question be referred to a committee of three.

Brn. M. H. Forscutt, Alfred White, and H. C. Bronson were appointed as said committee.

President J. Smith appointed a prayer meeting for evening, and Br. J. M. Wait to have charge; also Br. O. P. Dunham to have charge of meeting to-morrow morning. Sung hymn 180, benediction by Elder Davis.

THURSDAY EVENING,

APRIL 8TH.

Notwithstanding the rain the Saints assembled in goodly number and enjoyed a season of refreshing prayer and testimony, being blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Elder Wait in charge.

Notice was given that a funeral discourse would be preached to-morrow noon by Elder Forscutt.

To be continued.

“He who has a desire to bring souls to Christ and thrusts in his sickle is called.” He may not be an official member, but by improving his talent to convert sinners, to encourage souls in the ways of righteousness, by converse or any way, he is thrusting in his sickle.

NOTICE.

When changing your place of residence, or desiring your paper sent to a different post-office, be particular in giving, in full, the name of the post-office, county, and state where you had been last receiving it, and distinctly state the name of the post-office, county and state to which you wish your paper sent in the future.

If your paper has been going in a package, state whose.

When mailing a letter, whether in a railroad car, on a steamboat, or while visiting at a friend's, in every instance give your own address where you are taking your paper.

If your paper has been discontinued, state where you have last been taking it, and the time it was stopped.

When taking subscriptions for HERALD and HOPE be particular in giving the correct address of the “new subscriber.”

The Herald.

JOSEPH SMITH, - - - EDITOR.

M. B. OLIVER, ASSISTANT EDITOR.

Plano, Ill., May 1, 1875.

“How shall deeds, bequests and legacies be made to the Church? Please answer.”

Any one wishing to make bills of sale, notes, due bills or receipts, or other conveyances of personal property; deeds, mortgages trust deeds, wills, bequests, releases or other conveyance of real estate to the use of the Church, should, in all cases make such instrument of writing to the “Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.”

This is in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and the laws of Illinois, in which State the incorporation was perfected.

For deeds, the usual form in use in every State is sufficiently plain to be understood by almost every one wishing to make such a devise to the Church. Wills and bequests may be made in accordance with the general forms in use in all States, being sure to make the gift or bequest to the “Reorganized Church,” as above stated.

THE 14th day of the first month has come—and passed. The midnight hour in which Mr. Thurman and his followers fondly waited for the coming of Jesus—has waxed and waned. The dread expectancy of many earnest, warm, honest hearts is over, and

Jesus Messiah, we protest against this setting of time, for it makes the very doctrine itself a hiss and a by-word among the unconverted, and causes men to scoff at the idea of Christ coming, and we add to our protest the more weighty and definite one of Christ himself, "Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." "Take ye heed, watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is."

T. W. SMITH.

MINUTES

OF THE

Annual Conference, April, 1875.

[Concluded from page 280.]

FRIDAY MORNING,

APRIL 9TH.

Prayer-meeting at nine o'clock, conducted by Br. O. P. Dunham. Regular session opened with prayer by Br. John Beard. Hymn 1 was sung. President Joseph Smith in the chair. He stated that in accordance with a resolution passed yesterday, no new business would be allowed to be introduced after noon to-day—not interfering of course with the ordinary routine of business. The Secretary then read yesterday's minutes.

Committee on petition from Far West Branch, Missouri, reported as follows:

To the President and Brethren in General Conference assembled:—We your committee on appeal from J. D. Craven and W. T. Bozarth for the granting of the territory of Caldwell and Livingston counties, respectfully submit as follows:

1st. We find from reports of the Northwest Missouri and Central Missouri Districts, as rendered at last Semi-Annual Conference, and published in *Herald* No. 20, Vol. 21, that Livingston county already belongs to the Central Missouri District, and can not therefore be granted, being already possessed.

2nd. That taking out the County of Caldwell from the Northwest Missouri District would not only violate the agreement between the two Districts at the time of the division of the former District into the two Districts now existing; but would also take a county clear out of the natural division lines of counties, and that, therefore, the petition, in the judgment of your committee, ought not to be granted.

We further recommend the reconsideration and rescinding of the resolution of last fall Conference granting the privilege of annexation of the Far West Branch with the Central Missouri District, as such grant was in violation of the unanimous vote of the Conference deciding Caldwell county, in which Far West is situated, to belong to the Northwest Missouri District. Respectfully,

MARK H. FORSCUTT, }
H. C. BRONSON, } *Committee.*
A. WHITE, }

On motion of Brn. Hilliard and Dunham, the report was adopted and made the order of the Conference, and the committee was discharged.

The following letters having been received since yesterday's session, were read—Josiah Ells:

To the Presidency and Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of L. D. S. in Conference assembled, greeting:—Not being privileged, as I had desired, to assemble with you, I herewith present the report of my present condition and future purpose. Regarding my work in the ministerial field, I hope that I realize the responsibility of the trust committed to my charge, and desire to fulfill it to the best of my ability. But while I am favored with general good health, I find that time as it passes in a measure enfeebles me. I am no longer capable of the exertion of former days, as I am now in the seventieth year of my age. At times I feel my strength renewed as the eagle, and am for the time vigorous, but the feeling is transient, not enduring; therefore of extended efforts I am no longer capable. For thirty-seven years I have been favored and authorized to proclaim peace and offer salvation and life to the sons of men; and upon a review of that time, I see many things to regret respecting myself, but much to be thankful for, having received many mercies, with the watchcare and blessings from the hand of a kind and indulgent Father. Therefore I desire not only to continue in his love, but to spend my remaining days (be they numbered as they may) in his cause; for the glad tidings of the progress and extension of his kingdom is my chief joy.

I bear testimony to the truthfulness and integrity of the Latter Day Kingdom, as having been ordained by the Eternal God, and, brethren, if we are not in all respects as the angels, yet like them we should be found faithful in every good word and work. I can not realize that any men ever lived under better conditions for the successful working out of their salvation, than does the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, because if every man does not sit literally, as yet, under his own vine and fig tree, with none to make him afraid, yet

every true Saint is protected by the hand of Almighty power, having the assurance that in trouble he will be with them and in every temptation make a way for their escape.

Brethren, can not a people thus favored bring again Zion? To us the Lord in his goodness has revealed the fact of his intention for its re-establishment, and further declared that the set time to favor her has come. But two things are necessary in the case, *viz.*, righteousness on the part of the Saints, and the sanctioning hand of the great I Am, for it is written Zion's converts shall be redeemed by righteousness. That is our part of the work, our qualification to the blessing. This being effected, will the Lord withhold on his part? Now the challenge on his part is fairly given. "Try me and prove me herewith, and see if I will not pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to contain it."

Therefore, beloved, let us arise in the strength of the Lord, shake ourselves from the dust as the captive sons and daughters of Zion. This is a practical work; let there be bread in the store house of God, a stretching out of the hand unto those who are willing, nay, anxious to go, and who have gone forth to gather sheaves for the garner of God. To this work every man and woman can put their hand, can show forth their faith by their deeds. Upon this hinges our success as a people, the triumphant establishment of the kingdom no more to be thrown down. This is the race set before us, and in the successful effort, the heavens and men are earnest and anxious spectators. Shall we do that for which we pray, namely, that the kingdom we have received may go forth, that the will of the Father may be done upon earth, as in heaven? Such a people constitute Zion.

Praying that peace and harmony may increasingly prevail in your counsels, and that light and wisdom from the throne of Him who governeth all things according to the counsel of his own will, be pre-eminently manifest in your assembly, I remain your brother in the faith and assurance of the gospel revealed by Jesus Christ.

JOSIAH ELLS.

Allghany City, Pa., April 6, 1875.

John Landers:

Br. I. L. Rogers:—Some time has passed since we have been favored with the enjoyment of each other's society, and I often think how happily we have enjoyed ourselves. I trust that the time is not far distant when I shall be called from this field of labor to a greater sphere of usefulness. I am now well advanced in my eighty-first year, yet I am by no means tired of laboring here. I would like well to live yet a hundred years, to have no other care but to preach the gospel. The older I grow the

better I enjoy myself in the work. I pray daily for more love to God and man, and for stronger faith in God, so that I can ask and receive; and I know that my prayer is heard. There is a Branch of the Church here numbering twenty-one. They are praying Saints, and of course have power with God. The country is filled with inhabitants, and calls for preaching come from every direction, a great deal more than I can fill in the time I have to fill them. O that I had a brother laborer to assist me in this extensive field, where the grain is ripe and ready to harvest. I hoped to have been at the General Conference, but the Lord has ordered it otherwise. I received a message from the brethren who live here, saying that my help was greatly needed. I asked counsel of the Lord, and he bade me go, and said I should be blest. I have been here two Sabbaths and have spoken seven times. The congregations increase in numbers, and we trust in the Lord that a good work will be wrought here in bringing souls to the knowledge of the truth. As ever your brother in the Lord, JOHN LANDERS.

Detroit, Kansas, March 29, 1875.

President Smith spoke in commendation of Brn. John Landers and Jesse R. Nichols, the former eighty, the latter eighty-four years old, who are enrolled as active members of the ministry.

Nodaway, Missouri, District:

Three Branches, 95 members, including 18 Elders, 3 Priests, 4 Teachers, 1 Deacon, 7 baptized since last report. Frequent calls for preaching are received, but few of the Elders can respond. We invite traveling Elders to call upon us and preach. James Thomas, president.

President Smith spoke in reference to the Bishop appointing a Counselor in place of Br. Banta who was released last fall.

Bishop Rogers said:—I have thought much on this subject as being of importance, and my mind was easily drawn to consider the propriety of appointing the one whom I now nominate, our beloved brother, Henry A. Stebbins:

Brn. Banta and Dunham moved that the selection be approved. Br. Stebbins expressed his feelings, after which the motion was unanimously adopted.

President Smith appointed Sabbath morning for the time of ordination.

He presented the idea of choosing a Church Secretary, and

Brn. T. W. Smith and J. R. Lambert moved that the resolution pending from

April Conference, 1874, appointing the Church Recorder to act as Secretary *ex-officio*, be adopted.

Brn. Forscutt and E. L. Kelley moved as a substitute, that the Church Recorder be Church Secretary also.

Brn. W. H. Kelley and Banta viewed the office as unnecessary, and the latter asked to know the duties of said office.

President Smith read minutes of the April Conference of 1870 the reasons for appointment, and the duties of said office when Br. Forscutt was appointed.

President Blair explained that in the development of the work important correspondence will arise, requiring an efficient Church Secretary, and also other duties require such an office. He also heartily endorsed the appointment of Br. Stebbins.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Br. Stebbins thanked the Conference for their kindness and esteem.

The report of the Seventy's Quorum was read as follows:

Report of the Quorum of Seventies. Quorum met on call, C. G. Lanphear in the chair. The President gave the following report of the present situation of the members as far as he could ascertain:

C. G. Lanphear, President; laboring in his calling all of the time.

Duncan Campbell, one of the Seven Presidents; laboring in Indiana, Michigan and Canada.

Wm. H. Hartshorn; not preaching. His care and time taken in providing for his family. Is a worthy brother.

Thomas Revel; in good standing, and doing what he can in the cause.

Frank Reynolds, Secretary; is earnest in his calling, and doing what he can.

J. M. Wait laboring as circumstances will permit.

J. L. Adams has been preaching in Illinois and Iowa the past winter, and had good success.

E. M. Wildermuth; preaching in the Branch where he resides, and vicinity.

J. W. Gillen; laboring in Montana Territory with good success.

C. H. Jones; preaching at Lamoni, Iowa, and the region round about.

Nathan Lindsay; work in the ministry not known.

Jeremiah Jeremiah, President of the Canton Branch, Illinois; is doing what he can.

S. J. Stone; preaching occasionally in the Amboy Branch, Illinois.

Thomas Jenkins; doing all he can. Resides in Wales. Is in poor health.

J. T. Phillips is preaching and having good success.

B. V. Springer; laboring successfully in Southern Indiana. Care of his family prevents his giving his whole time to the ministry.

G. W. Shaw; active as his circumstances will permit. Has labored with good effect in Canada.

Wm. H. White; not known. Correspondence solicited.

Daniel Bowen; reported on the Secretary's books as advanced in years. Is a good and worthy brother.

Otis Shumway; age about eighty-two. Always had a good standing in the Church. Preaching in the Branch and vicinity.

J. W. Roberts; extent of his labors not known. Correspondence solicited.

Benjamin Leland; correspondence as [to his labors solicited.

J. B. Lytle; supposed to be engaged in the work to some extent.

James C. Crabb; is presiding over a District in Iowa.

Andrew Hollisway; not known. Correspondence solicited from any of the brethren who can give information of his residence or address.

David Jones; is thought to have moved to the British possessions, and subsequently to have returned to Iowa. If any of the brethren know of his whereabouts, please inform me.

George Hatt; has been preaching in Nebraska. Some difficulties between him and the District authorities are pending.

Samuel Ackerly; reported by the brethren in good standing. No report of preaching.

C. F. Stiles; Preaching in the vicinity of his home in Missouri and regions about. Nearly in readiness to give all his time to his calling.

Jonathan Delap; is reported as not being in fellowship in the Branch where he resides.

Jans Johnson; residence not known. I would solicit information from any of the brethren who can give me his address and standing.

A. B. Alderman; was presiding over a Branch when last heard from. He desired to labor in his calling.

D. L. F. Bronson; no report of labor in the ministry. I would request correspondence with him as to his purpose and desires.

Isaac Bogue; was appointed on a Mission to Eastern Michigan at the last Annual Conference; but I have received no report, and would request correspondence.

Stephen Bull; is reported as not in fellowship with the Branch where he resides. Correspondence solicited.

David Jones; supposed residence in the

State of Missouri. Is reported on the Secretary's book in the field and ready to do what he can.

George Rouch; no report. Residence unknown. Any information about him will be thankfully received.

Samuel Gurley; earnestly working in the cause; presiding over a District in Iowa.

Robert Davis; time nearly all taken in his calling. Has had good success.

Joseph C. Clapp; engaged wholly in the ministry. Has had good success in all places where he has labored.

James McKiernan; laboring with an earnest desire to do all he can.

Glaud Rodger; on a Mission to Australasia. Has been blessed in his ministry.

J. H. Hanson; preaching in Kentucky and the Southern States. Has had good success.

J. C. Foss; laboring in Maine. Has had good success in his ministry.

C. G. McIntosh; desires to do all he can in his region, and expresses an earnest desire for the cause.

C. W. Wandell; on a Mission to Australasia, in company with Glaud Rodger. Has had great success in the cause. He was in poor health when last heard from.

Joseph Lakeman; laboring with success in Maine.

Andrew Hall; is acting as Bishop's Agent in Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

John Thomas; no report of labors. Correspondence solicited.

J. T. Davies; on a Mission to Wales. Is having good success in his Mission.

J. S. Patterson; has been giving all the time he could to the ministry with good success. Is ready to devote his whole time, if his family can be cared for.

The present number of members is fifty-two, as recorded on the Secretary's book. If there are any others knowing themselves to have been ordained to the office of Seventy, they are requested to inform the President and Secretary of the Quorum of the same.

There is in the Quorum from twenty to twenty-five in active labor. Of the remainder, about fifteen or twenty laboring to some extent, and a few no report of labors. Signed C. G. Lanphear, president; Frank Reynolds, Secretary.

It was resolved that the above report and the following resolutions be presented to the Conference, and for publication in the *Herald*.

Resolved, That the Quorum consider the acts of the Buffalo Prairie, Illinois, and Leon, Iowa, Branches, in disfellowshipping members of the Quorum, as being premature and illegal; as the charges and evidences sustaining them should first have been presented to this Quorum. And we hereby request that the officials of said Branches present the charges and evidence

to substantiate the same, to this Quorum for our consideration. And we also further request that all other Branches or Districts in future having grievances against members of this Quorum requiring trial, shall refer said cases to us for adjudication. Carried.

WHEREAS, Much misunderstanding exists regarding the legality of the ordinations of some of the Quorum, by reason of their having been ordained at District Conferences; therefore,

Resolved, That we request the present Conference to settle the question as to the legality or illegality of such ordinations.

Resolved, That the members of the Quorum are hereby requested to correspond with the President of the Quorum in regard to their work in the ministry, and their condition for acting in their calling, and to do so between this and the 10th of September, 1875.

Address: C. G. Lanphear, Sandwich, Illinois.

Resolved, That we sustain C. G. Lanphear as President, and Frank Reynolds, Secretary, together with all the members of the Quorum in righteousness.

Resolved, That we sustain President Joseph Smith, his Counselors, and all the other Quorums in righteousness.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the President.

C. G. LANPHEAR, *President*.
J. S. PATTERSON, *Sec., pro tem*.

President Smith gave an account of the standing and condition of several of the members of this Quorum, as far as known to him.

By request, the Secretary read the resolutions already handed in for consideration of the Conference.

On motion of Brn. Chisnall and Bronson, the rule of an hour for free discussion was suspended during the remainder of this session.

Adjourned. Sung hymn 233. Benediction by President Smith.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

APRIL 9TH.

Sung hymn 190. Prayer by Pres. Smith.

The following preamble and resolutions, heretofore made the special order for this afternoon were read:

WHEREAS the impression seems to be gaining ground and it is believed that this impression results from the prevalence of the Spirit of the gathering; that the circumstances of the country and the condition of the Church indicate that the time is come that

there should be a gathering of the Saints into a more centralized condition, and that such centralization is demanded by the necessities of the Church and the genius of the Latter Day Work; and

Whereas the spiritual condition is favorable to such gathering; and whereas such a gathering contemplates the centralizing of the chief authorities of the Church at as early a day as practicable, in order to the more effectual work of the ministry, and building up of the Church of Christ and the locating of the "Publishing Department," Press and fixtures within the limits of such gathering place; therefore, be it

Resolved, That there be a committee of five appointed by this Conference, whose duty it shall be to take the matter herein suggested under consideration, and draft such resolutions as such consideration may make apparent to be wise; and report at as early a day as possible. Be it further

Resolved, That Joseph Smith and Wm. W. Blair of the First Presidency, I. L. Rogers and David Dancer, of the Bishopric, and Br. J. W. Briggs, of Quorum of the Twelve, be appointed such committee.

On motion of Brn. Forscutt and Cadwell, it was resolved that each clause be considered separately.

Br. Banta spoke in defense of the first *Whereas*. He believed that the object of this resolution could have been obtained years ago, if the people had lived up to their privileges; believed that the Saints are all favorable to the idea of a gathering, if not in one place, at least in places. Evidence is contained in the Book of Covenants that Christ will not come until the people are gathered and prepared for him. The cry is "Come out of her." Can we keep the commandment of gathering into holy places to receive the revelations to come while we are scattered? There must be a central point where the spiritual and temporal authorities can be assembled. Many are looking to such a movement. Quoted Sec. 48 : 2 and 102 : 7, 8. Did not advocate any one place or locality.

On motion of Brn. Forscutt and Lanphear, resolved that time be limited to five minutes each, subject to extension by voice of Conference.

Br. Chisnall thought the resolution could be adopted, and the matter left to the committee.

Brn. Beard and Hunter hoped the Lord would direct.

Br. Lake favored the concentration of the leading authorities. Said that the present headquarters could not be permanent.

Br. Bronson quoted the revelation of March, 1873. Question for him was, Had the time come?

Br. Blair quoted the revelation, showing that the appointment of stakes was not contemplated. Quoted pages 267 and 269 of Book of Covenants. The gathering into regions around about is a preparatory work, and a necessary step. The impression is gaining ground that the time is come for an attempt, and the condition of the country is favorable to the idea.

Br. Caffall thought the subject of great importance.

Br. Patterson agreed with the proposition. Thought now was a favorable time to purchase land.

Br. Forscutt was decidedly in favor of a gathering, and considered that the condition of the Church demanded thought and legislation by the brethren.

Br. Kelley said that the idea of gathering is established in the mind of every Saint, and he was decidedly in favor of the clause under consideration.

Br. Rogers thought that another good would result from having gathering places—the better chance to provide for the families of the Elders and the poor. Another still—the culture and education of the children.

On motion to adopt, the first clause was put to vote and carried.

The second clause was moved and adopted.

The portion of the document appointing a committee of five was moved and seconded.

Br. Blair offered the following substitute: That a committee of five be appointed to make such location and report at an early day.

Br. Banta objected to it.

Br. Blair said that the Conference having decided that the time has come for action, thought that the steps admitted to be necessary should be now taken. In explanation he said that the selection of a location was contemplated, not the purchase of land.

Br. Kelley said that if the appointment of a stake was contemplated, he was opposed to it.

Br. Forscutt was opposed to the substitute on the ground that the idea of such a place being purchased, might cause speculators to inordinately increase prices.

Br. Bronson said that the localities were already appointed, even the regions round about.

The vote being taken on the substitute, it was lost.

Br. Blair said upon the original that the appointment of a committee, as he argued for, would secure immediate action, which the Conference had already decided to be necessary.

Br. Forscutt moved an amendment, to strike out the words "of five," and to insert after the word "wise" these words, "that they also be empowered to select a location, arrange for purchase of lands, and report six months from this time."

Br. Forscutt explained it.

Br. Cooper approved it.

A vote was taken, division called for, and the vote decided to have been in the affirmative.

Br. Forscutt moved to amend by striking out the words "six months from this time," and the words, "and report at as early a day as possible;" and insert the words, "at the next Semi-Annual Conference."

The amendment was put to vote and prevailed.

Brn. Banta and Bronson moved that the resolution be laid on the table, and the motion prevailed.

Conference adjourned.

During the day meetings were held by the Quorum of Seventy, and by the First and Second Quorums of Elders.

FRIDAY EVENING.

APRIL 9TH.

Prayer by Br. George Shaw. Preaching by Br. George H. Hilliard. An earnest gospel discourse, followed briefly by Br. Shaw. Sung hymn 72. Adjourned.

Bro. Hilliard's effort was a most excellent presentation of the faith of the church in reference to the positive ful-

fillment of the gospel promises in the last days.

SATURDAY MORNING,

APRIL 10TH.

Sung hymn 124. Prayer by Br. J. S. Patterson.

Secretary Stebbins read minutes of yesterday's session.

Report of committee appointed on the Bishop's and Recorder's reports was read:

We, a committee appointed by General Conference of April, 1875, do certify that we have examined the Bishops books, and find them to exactly correspond with his Annual Report, and we believe both books and report are correct, and kept as they should be.

In the matter of Church Recorder referred, we report and recommend that the request made for consideration and payment of bill for labor, be referred to the Bishop to be audited and paid agreeably to resolution of April session of 1873, published minutes, page 29, and that the present Recorder be governed by such regulations until further ordered by you.

WM. H. HAZZLEDINE,

WM. ANDERSON,

J. M. WAIT,

} Com.

Plano, Ill., April 9th, 1875.

On motion of Brn. Fyrand and Dunham, it was resolved that the report be adopted, and the recommendations contained therein become the order of the Conference.

Report of the First Quorum of Elders read:

To the Conference assembled:—As Secretary of the Quorum I would report the following business transacted during this session of Conference. Quorum convened with Elijah Banta presiding, H. A. Stebbins, secretary.

Secretary gave notice of the deaths of Wesley Fletcher, James Horton, and Wm. Arnold, and the ordination of J. S. Patterson as a Seventy, and the expulsion from the Church of Noah Dutton, former members of the Quorum. The Quorum, on motion, erased the name of Noah Dutton from the record. The five vacancies were filled by choosing Elders Milton B. Oliver, Hyrum C. Bronson, John Beard, David Brand, and Samuel V. Bailey in their places.

The cases of Wm. F. Randall, Levi Lightfoot, and John D. Bennett were presented, each discussed separately, letters and documents read, and they were by resolution expelled from the Quorum, and silenced from acting in the ministry. Elders Oliver J. Bailey, John Keir and Wm. A. Moore were

accepted as members of the Quorum in their places.

By resolution, the President was requested to choose both of his Counselors at the next Semi-Annual Conference.

The case of Elder Isaac Beebe was presented, and, by resolution, the matter was referred to the Florida and Alabama District for investigation, with request to report to the Secretary of the Quorum prior to the next Semi-Annual Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY A. STEBBINS, *Sec'y.*

Resolved that the report be adopted and spread upon the record of the Conference.

Report of Second Quorum of Elders read:

Quorum convened and was called to order by President Phineas Cadwell. Br. William Anderson was chosen to act as Secretary *pro tem.*

The case of Br. Jesse Broadbent was brought up, evidence heard, and by a motion, was dropped from the Quorum.

Also the case of Br. B. F. Durfee was called up, Br. J. H. Lake was called upon to give evidence in his case. After due consideration it was motioned and carried that the case of Br. B. F. Durfee be deferred until the fall Conference.

It was resolved that the members of the Second Quorum of Elders shall report by letter to Donald Maule, Secretary, at Magnolia, Iowa, their post-office address, time and place of birth, time and place of baptism and by whom, time of ordination and by whom; their situation, and correspond with the officers of the Quorum.

PHINEAS CADWELL, *President.*

WM. ANDERSON, *Sec'y, pro tem.*

Plano, Ill., April 10, 1875.

On motion, the report was adopted and ordered to be spread upon the record.

Report of the Board of Publication was presented, considered as received, and referred to a committee.

Brn. Hazzledine, Wait and G. A. Blakeslee appointed as said committee.

Bills of *Herald* Office against New Translation and Plano Building committees, were referred to a committee.

On motion, Brn. Banta, Blakeslee and Bronson were appointed said committee.

President Smith reported on book of Parliamentary Usages as follows:

To the Annual Conference in session assembled, greeting:—Brethren—As President of the Church I would respectfully submit:

That soon after the last Annual session, in connection with Br. T. W. Smith, I began

the compilation and preparation of a book on Business and Parliamentary usages and rules, for the use of the Church; which is now nearly completed, and I would request your honorable body to authorize and appoint a committee to whom I may refer this work when ready, upon whose favorable decision I may at once proceed to put the same in print, and offer it for sale to the Elders of the Church.

Further; I will agree to make such work ready for examination within two weeks after adjournment of Conference, providence permitting. Respectfully,

JOSEPH SMITH, *President.*

On motion, the subject was referred to a committee consisting of Brn. Blair, Forscutt, and Patterson.

Brn. Banta and Dunham moved that when this Conference adjourn, it do so to meet at Lamoni, Decatur Co., Iowa, on the 8th of September, 1875.

This was opposed, and on motion the words Council Bluffs, Iowa, were substituted for Lamoni, Iowa, and with this amendment the motion was adopted.

Resolution of yesterday, relating to the ordination of Seventies by a District Conference, was, after some discussion, deferred until the next Semi-Annual Conference for consideration, owing to shortness of time now to discuss so important a subject.

President Smith decided that no one had a right to dispute the claims of those whose standing may be affected by this subject, until it is settled by the general authorities.

Resolutions in reference to missions to Texas, Southern Ohio and Virginia, were withdrawn, being otherwise provided for.

Resolution four was moved and seconded.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this assembly that the gospel is to be offered to all mankind, irrespective of color, nationality, sex or condition in life; and that Elders in Christ are not justified in making, or insisting on being made, any separation in church privileges, worship or sacrament, other than is made in the Church articles and revelations in regard to ministerial ordinations and labor; and that we advise all officers of the Church to be governed by the spirit and tenor of this teaching and this resolution.

The question was argued in its various points by Brn. Joseph Smith, Patterson, Wait, Wilsey, Kelley, Bailey, Lake and Bradbury.

On putting it to vote, it was unanimously adopted.

Resolution five, on the Sacrament was discussed and rejected.

Resolution six was moved by Brn. Bronson and Banta.

WHEREAS, believing that the bread and wine used at the sacrament are simply blessed for the use of those who at the time and with an understanding of its purpose partake of it, in no way relating to its subsequent use, therefore be it.

Resolved, That we rescind a former resolution of General Conference making necessary the passing of the bread until all be taken.

Arguments were made upon each side, a majority favoring the view that the emblems are only blessed in their application. Brn. Kelley, Blair, Lambert, Forscutt, Stebbins and Banta took part. The resolution was put to vote and adopted.

Resolution seven, for the appointment of Br. Fred. P. Peterson to the Danish Mission was deferred till the subject of missions be taken up.

Resolution eight was brought before the house.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference, there ought to be a stipulated amount paid by the Bishop of the Church to the families of every Elder devoting his whole time to the ministry; the amount to be allowed to be in proportion to the number to be supported in each family, and as their circumstances seem to demand.

Br. Blair spoke at length against it, as opposed to the spirit of the gospel.

Br. Lake thought that if the Saints did their duty in putting means in the hands of the Bishop, there would be no difficulty.

The question was put to vote and the resolution was lost.

The name of Br. Hans N. Hanson was presented by recommend of the Crescent City Branch, Iowa, for ordination as an Elder.

Br. Fyrando spoke upon the subject.

Br. Hanson expressed his feelings, saying that he would labor either as a Priest or as an Elder, as the Conference may think best.

Br. Caffall heartily endorsed his ordination as requested, and spoke highly of the brother's qualifications.

The request was granted with a unanimous uplifting of the hands, and the time of his ordination was set for Sabbath morning.

Resolution nine was read, moved and adopted.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the Quorum of the Twelve to take charge of all important missions, especially those to foreign countries.

A series of resolutions were read by Elder Forscutt, which, by vote, were made the special order of the opening hour this afternoon.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON,

APRIL 16TH.

Sung hymn 184. Prayer by Br. J. Smith.

President Blair in the chair.

The resolution on the law of tithing, passed by an informal council at Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 24th, was read by Br. Forscutt as follows:

Resolved, That the law of tithing is binding upon the Church in its scattered condition.

It was, upon motion, adopted as the resolution of this Conference.

The following resolution of the same meeting was also presented:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this body, this Church has no right to subvert the liberties of its members by prohibiting their membership with what is known as "a secret society," unless such society shall first be condemned by either a decision of the General Assembly of the Church, or by the law of the land.

Brn. Forscutt, Hilliard, Bronson and Anderson spoke on the subject.

On motion, it was adopted.

Moved by E. Banta, that the document on the Gathering, laid on the table last evening, be now taken up. Motion prevailed.

President Blair retired from the chair, in order to take part in the discussion, and President Smith took the chair.

Brn. Blair and Patterson moved the following substitute in place of the resolution contained in that document:

Be it Resolved, That a standing committee of five be appointed by this Conference, whose duty it shall be to select and make such location as is contemplated in the fore-

going preamble, and arrange for and effect the purchase of lands, locate a town site, and perform such other acts as are consistent with the making of such locations, and consummating such purchases; and that said committee make report of their labors to a general Conference of the Church at as early a time as they shall deem prudent.

It was adopted without opposition.

Moved by Brn. Banta and H. S. Dille that the resolution of the document appointing the persons named as the committee provided for be adopted.

A substitute, placing the name of Henry A. Stebbins in the place of Jason W. Briggs was adopted. Subsequent motions were made, striking out and transposing words, until the resolution when passed, read as follows:

That Joseph Smith and Wm. W. Blair, of the First Presidency, Israel L. Rogers, David Dancer and Henry A. Stebbins, of the Bishopric, be appointed such committee.

The name of Morgan David, sent by Br. Z. H. Gurley from Utah, for admission on his original baptism was presented, and the matter was referred to officers in Utah having jurisdiction. This was done in consequence of the baptism having taken place later than June 27, 1844.

The names of Susannah Cramer, James Bewsher, Elizabeth Bewsher, Ralph S. Reed, Polly L. Hyde, Sally Richardson and Selinda Blair were presented testified to, and on motion received on their original membership.

President Smith presented the subject of missions, and the following were sustained:

Jason W. Briggs was continued in his mission to Utah.

J. Ellis to Northern and Central Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

E. C. Briggs to Michigan, Northern Indiana and the Canadas.

W. H. Kelley to proceed to Utah as soon as practicable, and until such time to labor in Northern Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

T. W. Smith to Illinois, Iowa, and visit the Cutlerites in Northern Minnesota.

Alex. H. Smith to the Pacific Slope Mission.

James Caffall to his present field of labor.

J. H. Lake in his present field, and to extend his labors into Pike, Brown and Schuyler counties, Illinois.

J. R. Lambert to Southern Illinois, Southern Indiana and Kentucky.

Z. H. Gurley was released from Utah, and appointed to labor in Iowa and Missouri.

C. F. Stiles and E. C. Brand to labor under direction of Elder James Caffall.

J. S. Patterson to Central Iowa, Central Illinois, Central Indiana and Southern Ohio.

John C. Foss to proceed to South-eastern Ohio and West Virginia as soon as practicable.

Robert Davis to Canada, under direction of Elder E. C. Briggs.

George Shaw to the same.

J. H. Hanson continued in his present field.

B. V. Springer to Southwestern Ohio and Southern Indiana.

C. G. Lanphear to his former field. He desired some one to accompany him—Br. Patterson preferred.

J. C. Clapp in his present field.

J. T. Davies and Robert Evans in the Welsh Mission.

M. H. Forscutt continued in his former appointment, and to extend his labors, if deemed advisable, into Iowa and Missouri

L. F. West and J. W. Bryan in Texas.

S. V. Bailey to Michigan and Northern Indiana and Henry C. Smith to labor with him as far as circumstances permit.

Magnus Fyrando and Hans Hanson were continued in their appointment in the Scandinavian Mission.

Prior to it Br. Fyrando stated his views concerning the charge of this Mission being had by some of the Twelve.

President Smith read sec. 104 : 8 concerning the power of the First Presidency and Twelve to send those whom they choose into foreign countries.

Heman C. Smith under direction of J. R. Lambert.

Fred. Ursenbach to Switzerland and Italy.

Joseph S. Snively referred to a District Conference where he lives.

Nicholas Stamm in his present field, and referred to local authorities.

It was moved that F. P. Peterson be appointed to go on the Scandinavian Mission.

Br. Fyrando said that perhaps the brother's appointment had better be left to the fall Conference.

Br. Nielson spoke of the brother's qualification.

He was appointed to labor while in Denmark under direction of Br. Fyrando.

C. W. Wandell and Gland Rodger were sustained in their Mission to Australasia, with permission to Br. Wandell to return home if the state of his health demanded it.

F. C. Warnky was sustained in his Mission to Colorado.

Charles Derry was sustained in his field of labor.

The Bishop and his Counselors were sustained.

Robert Warnock in his Mission to Utah.

Thomas Taylor in European Mission.

C. E. Blodgett was released from his appointment to Kentucky.

J. V. Roberts referred to district where he resides.

Joseph Lakeman to take charge of the Maine and Nova Scotia Mission.

Duncan Campbell sustained in Canada, Michigan and Northern Indiana, under charge of E. C. Briggs.

E. L. Kelley released from his appointment.

Wm. Anderson sustained in Mission to California.

Jesse L. Adams in Iowa, and referred to his District.

R. W. Briggs released from his former appointment.

C. N. Brown in Massachusetts District.

Committee on Report of Board of Publication reported. We give the report and their action:

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PUBLICATION OF THE REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, FROM AUGUST 16TH, 1874, TO FEBRUARY 16TH, 1875.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Cash on hand, August 16th, 1874..... | \$ 165 06 |
| Total cash receipts from Aug. 16th, 1874, to Feb. 16th, 1875..... | 6,089 87 |
| Sum total..... | \$6,254 93 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Paid Employees in Publishing Department..... | \$2,659 25 |
| “ Coal, freight, drayage and weighing..... | 136 43 |
| “ Expressage, freight and drayage..... | 37 18 |
| “ Incidentals, including mailer repairs..... | 6 37 |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| “ For Stamps..... | 186 14 |
| “ W. H. Curwen, in full of his deposit..... | 233 00 |
| “ Jason W. Briggs, missionary fund..... | 20 58 |
| “ Mrs. J. W. Briggs, missionary fund..... | 41 48 |
| “ Mrs. R. Warnock, missionary fund..... | 36 00 |
| “ Mrs. Briggs, on J. W. Briggs' account..... | 25 00 |
| “ Telegraphing..... | 8 49 |
| “ For Books of C. Nicholson..... | 8 50 |
| “ S. M. Howe, in full of his deposit..... | 5 00 |
| “ Oglesby, Barnitz & Co., on running acct | 751 40 |
| “ Fare of Binding Committee to Chicago and return..... | 6 95 |
| “ Coal for Jason W. Briggs..... | 13 72 |
| “ Mrs. Horton, of poor fund..... | 20 00 |
| “ Store Fixtures..... | 2 00 |
| “ For reporting sermon at Council Bluffs..... | 12 00 |
| “ Joseph Parsons, from sisters in Utah..... | 3 00 |
| “ W. G. Jarman, in full on his deposit..... | 27 68 |
| “ S. P. Rounds..... | 14 00 |
| “ Jane Henning, on rent..... | 200 00 |
| “ Bi-monthly mail..... | 13 98 |
| “ D. H. Smith, per Joseph Smith..... | 25 00 |
| “ Register Book and office oil..... | 1 70 |
| “ Lamp chimney and soap..... | 1 66 |
| “ Supt's fare to Chicago and return..... | 4 25 |
| “ W. W. Blair, expenses to Wisconsin..... | 23 00 |
| “ Thomas Lewis, returned money..... | 3 00 |
| “ E. Banta, by order of Mrs. Gilman, Nev..... | 65 00 |
| “ I. Cramer, order of Steward & Henning..... | 10 00 |
| “ L. O. Lathrop, in full..... | 3 55 |
| “ E. Banta, on his deposit, with interest..... | 54 85 |
| “ D. Dancer, as a loan, at 10 per cent. in't..... | 550 00 |
| “ Jansen, McClurg & Co., on account..... | 42 95 |
| “ Marder, Luse & Co., on account..... | 107 36 |
| “ To I. N. W. Cooper..... | 55 59 |
| “ For Chicago Tribune..... | 6 05 |
| “ A. J. Cox & Co., for binding..... | 297 90 |
| Returned to Phineas Cadwell one Draft..... | 36 30 |
| Cash on hand, February 16th, 1875..... | 498 62 |
| | <u>\$6,254 93</u> |

RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Accounts receivable..... | \$3,875 80 |
| Liabilities..... | \$3,802 49 |

(No inventory of stock taken.)

I. N. W. COOPER, SECRETARY.

We, the committee, have examined the above account, and find the same correct.

WM. H. HAZZLEDINE,
G. A. BLAKESLEE,
J. M. WAIT.

Committee on grievances reported:

The committee appointed to examine any matter of grievance that might come before this Conference, beg leave to report:

That there has but one case been reported, which is that of John B. Cox, who was expelled from the San Francisco Branch some time since, and who feels he has been dealt with unjustly. We have examined the case as closely as we can, and consider the action of the San Francisco Branch legal, and recommend, inasmuch as he expresses desires to become connected with the Church again, that he make reconciliation to them, as well as to the Newton Branch, of Iowa.

PHINEAS CADWELL,
G. H. HILLIARD,
SAMUEL V. BAILEY.

The following Quorums were, on motion, sustained:

The First Presidency; The Quorum of Twelve; the High Priest's Quorum; the High Council; The Quorum of Seventy; the First, Second and Third Quor-

ums of Elders; Elders not yet in Quorums; the Priest's Teacher's and Deacon's Quorums.

A vote of thanks was extended to the citizens of Plano for their hospitable kindness, and to the Saints of Plano and Sandwich for the same.

Moved by Brn. Pitt and Fyrando, that we reconsider the resolution appointing the committee on location.

Elder Banta said that he would like to avoid appointing a majority of the committee from any one Quorum.

Motion to reconsider prevailed, and the substitute was offered of putting the name of Jason W. Briggs in place of that of Henry A. Stebbins. This was further amended by inserting in place of Jason W. Briggs the name of J. H. Lake, which was carried, and the original resolution, as amended, passed.

Number of officials present: 2 First Presidency, 5 of the Twelve, 8 High Priests, 7 of the Seventy, 30 Elders, 7 Priests, 2 Teachers, 2 Deacons.

Sung hymn 221. Benediction by President Smith.

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 10TH.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered the Secretary and Clerks of Conference.

On motion, the Board of Publication was sustained.

Sung hymn 206. Prayer by Bro. P. S. Wixom. An excellent discourse was preached by President Joseph Smith.

SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 11TH.

Before services six persons were baptized, Brn. J. Smith and W. H. Kelley officiating.

On convening, hymn 142 was sung. Prayer by Br. P. Cadwell. Sung hymn 953.

Pres. Smith called on Br. T. W. Smith to preach, and appointed Brn. Kelley, Lambert, Caffall and Forscutt to confirm those baptized.

The following preamble and resolution were adopted:

WHEREAS, There has been for some time

a balance of \$77.45 in the hands of the Bishop of the Church, and known as the Utah Chapel Fund, lying idle and unused, and whereas, the Bishop has desired to have this session of Conference decide what shall be done with it; therefore, be it

Resolved, That he be instructed to transfer upon his books the said sum from the Utah Chapel Fund into the general fund of the Church, with the provision, that if necessity hereafter require, that it may be retransferred to the said Chapel Fund again.

The report of the High Priests' Quorum was read:

The High Priest's Quorum report forty-two members, of which number the following are unknown to the members of the Quorum present at this Conference: James M. Adams, Thomas Carrico, Alexander Hunt. Of the foregoing number seven have reported in person, three by letter, two by proxy. From the others no report is received.

CHARLES DERRY, *President*.
MARK H. FORSCUTT, *Sec'y*.

The Secretary read the minutes of yesterday's session.

The President, for the benefit of those not members, spoke of the purposes of ordination and confirmation ordinances. He then engaged in prayer, and the Spirit of peace and solemnity rested on the assembly.

Following this, Br. Henry A. Stebbins was ordained and set apart as Counsellor to Bishop I. L. Rogers, under the hands of Brn. Joseph Smith and J. H. Lake, Pres. Smith being spokesman. Bro. Hans N. Hanson was ordained an Elder by the same brethren, the same one acting as spokesman. Good blessings and promises were pronounced upon the head of each by him.

The brethren appointed, confirmed Samuel M. Howe, Henry Staley, Beatrice Briggs, Ency Ewing and Mary Cazaley.

A short sermon was given by Br. T. W. Smith. Sung hymn 1063. Benediction by Br. P. Cadwell.

SABBATH AFTERNOON, APRIL 11TH.

Sung hymn 41. Prayer by Br. J. Caffall. Presidents Joseph Smith and W. W. Blair in the stand.

Brn. Joseph Smith, and J. S. Patterson confirmed Mary Howe.

Pres. Blair read some extracts from the Book of Covenants applicable to the

subject of the sacrament, and made some remarks upon the duties and privileges of the occasion.

Sung hymn 777. Presidents Smith and Blair blessed the emblems and Priests F. G. Pitt and Wm. Bradbury passed them among the large assembly of Saints. In the fellowship meeting that followed many good testimonies were borne, and, as throughout the previous days, the Spirit of peace and good will prevailed. Sung hymn 154. Benediction.

SABBATH EVENING.

APRIL 11TH.

Sung hymn 592. Prayer by W. H. Hazzledine. A good discourse was delivered by Br. M. H. Forscutt to a crowded house. Sung hymn 582.

Benediction by Br. Hazzledine.

Thus closed a session of peace and harmony, in which the brethren assimilated with each other in their acquaintance and parted with regret, and yet with renewed confidence and esteem for each other, and with increased love to God and with added zeal for his work.

HENRY A. STEBBINS, *Secretary*.

T. W. SMITH, } *Assistants*
E. L. KELLEY, }

Report of Br. Bear:

To the Brethren in Conference assembled, greeting:—Beloved President and Brethren, as I will not have the opportunity to meet with you, I take this method of making my report. I was appointed, as you know, at the General Semi-Annual Conference, held at Council Bluffs in 1872, to Switzerland and Germany, and left my home on January 14, 1873, arriving at the place of destination February 9th, after a cold and rough journey. Immediately after my arrival I commenced work for the Master. In the first few months, I had the privilege of preaching the word in private houses, and had a good many listeners, who seemed much pleased by it; but the mocks and scoffs of the world made many to shrink, fearing men more than God. Public buildings can not be obtained there without money, and as I was not in possession of the glittering metal, I had to do the best I could; preaching the word wherever I could get an opportunity, both in public and private.

A great obstacle in the way there, is that Brighamite Mormonism, which went the length and breadth of the land, and there is not one single corner left where Brighamism is not known or heard of, and all under

the name of Mormonism; consequently people believe it is the same thing, and a considerable work is necessary to remove this prejudice, which in some measure and to some extent, I was able to remove in some localities. The Brighamites have still their missionaries there, but they slip away from the Elders of our Church, striving not to come in contact with them; still I had the opportunity to meet with some of their native Elders, and one from the Salt Land, but they despise the law of God, and believe in the divinity of the Polygamic Revelation, and do not want to discuss the point with us, saying they are counselled not to do so. They warn their members in the strongest terms not to speak to us or read our works; nevertheless, through the mercy of God I have succeeded to snatch several out of their deluded furnace and have buried eleven in the waters of baptism. Some of these I rescued from those false emissaries; some apostatized from them some time ago, and some belonged to other denominations. God blessed me and my labors in his cause. When I consider the circumstances I was placed in, having to work a good deal with my own hands to sustain my temporal wants, a difficult thing to do there. A common laborer can not make any advance there whatever; his time is all occupied in working to sustain himself, and that very poorly. Dear brethren, Europe and America are two different lands, different customs and different people; there is not the hospitality shown as here in America; and a mission to such a people as on the continent of Europe to represent the true Mormon Church to those who never heard any thing about it, except as Polygamic Mormonism, is a hard task. To begin without means; finding no brother, no sister in the gospel to greet you or administer to your wants, till you had, through the help of God, convinced some of the truth. A home mission among the Branches is a pleasure, but a mission to foreign lands, to break fresh ground alone, is a hard task.

There is at present a very good opportunity to preach the gospel there, with a little means at hand. The State Church is tumbling, and the religious party is running to and fro from one sect to another. With thirty dollars a man is able to hire a room there for preaching for one year, that will hold two hundred persons, and in a good sized city too. Printing cheap; with fifty dollars you can get printed the four different tracts, of sixteen pages, one thousand copies each. I have translated into the German the following tracts:—1. Truth Made Manifest; 2. Bible *versus* Polygamy; 3. Is Polygamy an Original Tenet of the Church; 4. Legal Succession; 5. Brighamism, Its Promises and Its Failure; 6. The Plan of Salvation; 7. The Vision; 8. Re-

jection of the Church. I also wrote one myself, which was well adapted to the lower and higher classes of people. This tract makes about forty pages; but none of them are printed. I had not the means to get them printed, which I regret very much.

Bro. Henry Thalman, from Thurgary, Switzerland, who embraced the doctrine through the efforts of Br. Avondet and myself, can speak not only his native tongue, German, but also French, and seemed to be a man of experience and sound judgment; we concluded to unite the members of the Church under his care and the members under my care into one Branch, until the members would increase, and a suitable man raised up to divide the Branch in two; inasmuch as they under Avondet's care were so far away from the others. We ordained therefore Br. Thalman an Elder, and he was chosen by the then present members as President of the Swiss, (Italian), Branch, which Branch was organized on October 11th, 1874, with fifteen members; and if we count Br. Ursenbach with the rest then, sixteen members.

Bro. Avondet and myself, at the last fall Conference, were released from our Mission, and we started for our homes in the beginning of the winter of 1874, *via* England, and spent a little time there with the Saints, and refreshed ourselves both spiritually and temporally. They were very kind to us, assisting us wherever they could, and indeed if we would not have had any assistance from the Saints in England, both of us would have been in different circumstances; God may bless them abundantly for it, and to the Saints in America who did share their mite in our behalf, we also return our sincere thanks, praying that God may bless them, so that they may never want.

The departure from the Saints in Switzerland was very hard, the tears flowed on both sides in abundance. O what a difference between the children of the kingdom and the children of the world. I ask the faith and prayers of the whole Church in behalf of those few sheep in that far off land, surrounded by so many enemies of every kind, that God may protect them and keep them under his guardian care; and I hope sincerely that the Church will not forget that Mission, but make a new and good effort to continue what we commenced; not to let it drop again, but take it up in earnest; then, the whispering of the Spirit, which I felt operating upon me many times as I was there, told me plainly that hundreds and hundreds will yet come into the Church of Christ in those countries; but the printed word is needed, without it, it will be a hard struggle.

I arrived at my home, December 26th, 1874, being very nearly two years on the

Mission. Found my family well, but considerably broken down in temporal things, as they raised very little crops the last two seasons on account of the drouth and grasshoppers.

Since I am home I have received already two letters from the Saints in Switzerland; they are still in the faith, and desire to stand faithful, and send their greeting to the whole Church in America.

I am, as ever, your fellow laborer in Christ, praying that the Spirit of God may be with you during your session, transacting business for the welfare of Christ's Church on the earth, and the spreading of his glorious gospel among the nations of the earth.

J. L. BEAR.

Agency City, Buchanan Co., Mo.,
March 29, 1875.

The Herald.

JOSEPH SMITH, - - - EDITOR.
M. B. OLIVER, ASSISTANT EDITOR.

Plano, Ill., May 15, 1875.

CASE OF HEALING.

Br. David J. Powell, of Clinton County, Mo., writing May 5th, said he had met with a severe accident which he wished to report through the HERALD, and how he was relieved from pain and suffering. He was engaged in boring a well, when some part of the machinery gave away and a rod, or small bar of iron, attached to a chain, flew back with great force and struck him in the face, severely cutting his lips, breaking his jaw-bone, knocking his teeth out, and felling him to the ground in a state of insensibility, and, when discovered, was apparently dead, but was revived to a state of consciousness for about five minutes, when he became delirious for many hours. His case was considered hopeless. His family united in prayer for his return to reason—their request was granted. In the meantime he received the anointing with oil and prayer in his behalf by those holding authority so to minister. A surgeon having been called to set the bone and sew up the wound, the brother revived to consciousness without experiencing any pain. And he feels to give God the glory for so marvelous a manifestation of His power in his behalf. Truly the Lord is good!