

# THE RELIEF SOCIETY.

Organization of the L. D. S. Relief Society and Instructions  
Given by President Joseph Smith

By invitation of the President of the Church, a number of sisters convened in the Masonic Lodge room on the 17th of March, 1842. President Joseph Smith, Elders John Taylor and Willard Richards were present.

President Smith stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of making more complete the organizations of the Church by organizing the women in the order of the Priesthood.

John Taylor was called to the chair and Willard Richards acted as secretary. After singing and prayer, a vote was taken to know if all were satisfied with each sister present and willing to acknowledge them in the good fellowship and admit them to all the privileges of the institution about to be organized. All being satisfied the names of those present were taken as follows.

Emma Smith, Martha Knight, Elvira A. Coles, Sarah H. Cleveland, Phebe Ann Hawkes, Margaret A. Cook, Desmonda Fuller, Elizabeth Ann Whitney, Sarah H. Kimball, Elizabeth Jones, Leonora Taylor, Eliza R. Snow, Sophia Packard, Bathsheba F. Smith, Sophia Robinson, Philinda Herrick, Phebe H. Wheeler, Sophia R. Marks

President Smith then explained some of the duties that would devolve on the members of the Society, said they would prove the brethren to good work, look after the needs of the poor, and perform charitable acts. Women must assist in correcting the morals and strengthening the virtues of the community. Said it is now in order for the sisters to elect a President to preside over the Society and let her choose two counselors to assist in the duties of her office, he would ordain them and let them preside just as the Presidency over the Church, and if they needed his instruction, they would ask and they would be pleased to give it from time to time. Let the Presidency stand as a constitution and their decisions become precedent for you to act upon. If officers are wanted to carry out the designs of the institution, let them be appointed and set apart as teachers, deacons, etc., are among us.

Elizabeth A. Whitney moved and Sophia Packard seconded the motion, that Emma Smith be elected President of the Society. The vote was put and pronounced unanimous. The President elect made choice of Sarah M. Cleveland and Elizabeth Ann Whitney as her counselors, Eliza R. Snow was appointed secretary and Elvira Coles treasurer.

President Smith read the revelation to Emma Smith from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants and stated that she was ordained at the time the revelation was given to expound the scriptures; to teach, etc.

He then read scriptures to show that an elect lady is one elected to preside. By request of President Joseph Smith, Apostle Taylor ordained Sarah M. Cleveland and Elizabeth Whitney to be counselors to and assist President Emma Smith in the duties of her office and share in the blessings pertaining thereto. He then confirmed on Emma Smith her former ordination and blessed her to be a mother in Israel, a pattern of virtue and to possess all the qualifications necessary to enable her to preside with dignity and give such instructions as may be requisite in her calling as an elect lady.

Elder Taylor vacated the chair and President Emma Smith and Counselors took the stand.

A lengthy discussion on the question followed "What shall this Society be called?" Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Whitney advocated the appropriateness of the name Relief Society. John Taylor and President Smith spoke in favor of Benevolent, Emma Smith and E. R. Snow argued in favor of Mrs. Cleveland's choice. The gentlemen withdrew their objections and a motion to adopt the name of Relief Society was unanimously carried. President Smith then said, "I now declare this Society organized with President and Counselors. All who hereafter shall be admitted must be free from censure and admitted by vote. President Joseph Smith laid down a \$5 gold piece to commence a Relief Society fund, and said, 'What I do hereafter for charity, I shall do through this Society?'

Sarah M. Cleveland gave ... \$12 50  
Sarah H. Kimball ..... 1 00  
Emma Smith ..... 1 00  
Elizabeth A. Whitney .. ... 50

Willard Richards ..... 1 00  
John Taylor ..... 2 00  
President Smith said, "I will give a city lot on which the Society can build—will make the deed to the treasurer."

At the third meeting of the Society, March 30th, President Joseph Smith said the members of the Society must act in concert or nothing can be accomplished. To move according to the ancient Priesthood this must be a select Society, separate from the evils of the world.

## SIXTH MEETING, APRIL 28.

President Joseph Smith said he was present to speak upon the Priesthood. As his instructions were intended only for the members of the Society, he wished those not members to withdraw, after which he called attention to the 12th chapter of Corinthians "Now concerning spiritual gifts, etc.," said the passage which reads "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" should be translated, "No man can know," etc., and continued the reading of the chapter, and gave instructions respecting the different offices, and the necessity of the individual acting in the place allotted to him or her, and filling the offices to which they were appointed. Spoke of the disposition of some to consider the lower offices in the Church dishonorable and to look with jealous eyes on the position of others. Said it was the nonsense of the human heart to aspire to positions not appointed of God. It was better for individuals to magnify their respective callings, and wait patiently until God say to them "Come up higher." Said it was talked by members of the Society that some were not doing right in laying hands on the sick. If they had common sympathy they would rejoice that the sick would be healed. The time had not been before when these things could be in their proper order. The Church is not now organized in its proper order and cannot be until the temple is completed. He referred to the commission given to the Ancient Apostles, "Go ye into the world," etc. No matter who believes these signs, such as healing the sick, casting out devils, shall follow all that believe, whether male or female. If the sisters have faith to heal the sick, let them do so, and let the good work roll on. It is no sin for anybody to administer to the sick, that has faith, or if the sick have faith to be healed by the administration. Reprove those who are disposed to find fault. Spoke at some length on the difficulties he had had to surmount ever since the organization of the Church on account of aspiring men. Said the same aspiring disposition will be in this Society, and must be guarded against. As he had the opportunity he would instruct the Society how to act according to the will of God. He did not know that he should have any opportunities of teaching them. They were going to be left to themselves. They would not long have him to instruct them. The Church would not have his instructions long, and the world would not be troubled with him a great while. According to his prayer God has appointed him elsewhere. The congregation were melted to tears. He exhorted the sisters to sustain with their confidence, their faith and their prayers those whom God had appointed to lead. Said the keys are about to be given to you that you may be able to detect anything false as readily as the Elders. If members of the Society become corrupt you must deal with them. The sympathies of the Church have induced them to bear with those that were corrupt in consequence of which all become contaminated. You must put down iniquity, and by your good example provoke the Elders to good works. If you do right there is no danger of going too fast. Resist evil and there is no danger. Neither God, man, angels nor devils can condemn those that resist everything that is evil. As well might the devil seek to dethrone Jehovah as that soul that resists everything that is evil. You are now placed in a situation where you can act according to those sympathies that God has planted in your bosoms. If you live in accord with your privileges angels cannot be restrained from being your associates. Women, if they are pure and innocent can come into the presence of God. If we would come into the presence of God we must be pure.

(Concluded next week.)

New Orleans has put in a bid for metropolit in fame by having a street car strike

The Grant family with its 3000 members, has outgrown the "400" and set a pace of its own

The old time joint debate between gubernatorial candidates still goes in the Old Dominion.

Most of the news from Miss Stone, the captive missionary, has a sort of a grapevine hue about it.

What the denno has the Georgia legislature got to do with the private acts of President Roosevelt?

The principal trouble with the Fall River manufacturers is that there are not enough Borden's among them.

The more fuss a man makes about being compelled to give up an office the smaller he grows in public esteem

Spain wouldn't get much sympathy elsewhere if "Butcher" Weyler carried out his threat and became dictator.

In Poland the wolf soon't stop at the door. Official reports show that 23 persons were recently eaten by wolves in that country.

At least one wireless telegraph company seems to be run to receive the money of the credulous rather than wireless messages.

The cynical may say that it is meaningless, but there is no denying that a little presidential jolly-making makes most men feel good.

Women are making their mark in every direction. One has been fined \$1,030 by the U. S. court in South Dakota, for a pension fraud.

Even the doctors have taken to writing for press syndicates, but what a mighty howl there would be if newspaper men wrote prescriptions.

It can be depended upon not to allow the Pan-American congress, now in session in Mexico City, to get monotonously dull.

Russia has been gobbling up a few more American and Canadian vessels for poaching. Poaching, like other crooked business, is only profitable when not found out.

A Canadian murderer was so disgusted because his victim had only 50 cents in his pocket that he gave himself up to the authorities. But that didn't bring the dead to life.

Texas seems disposed to work up a little notoriety in the blood-and-line. The center of the industry, which has just turned out its sixth victim, is in the vicinity of San Augustine.

It may be true that the present Chinese government is in danger of being overthrown, but it jars upon the fitness of things for Christian missionaries to be predicting its downfall.

A South Carolina court has recently decided that the marriage of a white man to a negro woman in 1867 was invalid and that their children do not inherit the estate left by the man.

If all the cases in which the owners of a majority of stock in companies voted themselves extravagant salaries were carried into court, as has been in South Bend, Ind., the courts would be snowed under.

Rear Admiral Schley's popularity is attracting the attention of the professional politicians, and if it continues they will be likely to try to utilize it. Schley will need all his wits as much in the near future as he did when despoiling the Spaniards.

Crowninshield's friends say he is to be promoted, and his enemies that he is to be humiliated by being relieved as chief of the bureau of navigation, of the navy department, and placed in command of the European squadron.