

and some other elders. Prayer by W. W. Phelps. Several topics were discussed when it was unanimously voted, that it be recommended to the proprietors of the Corporation of Far West, to petition the Trustees of said Corporation to alter the streets or lessen them so as to make each block contain four acres of ground, and each block to be divided into four lots; also voted unanimously that it is the opinion of this council, that there is sufficient room in this country, for the churches to continue gathering from abroad; also that the building of the House of the Lord be postponed, till the Lord shall reveal it to be his will to be commenced. Adjourned until early candle light, and met accordingly, when remarks were made by many of the authorities present, upon the previous disposition of the town plot, the purchase of land, &c. &c.; and all difficulties were satisfactorily settled, except a matter between Oliver Cowdery, Thomas B. Marsh, and myself which was referred to us, with the agreement that our settlement of the affair should be sufficient for the council.

W. W. PHELPS, President,
O. COWDERY, Clerk.

The High Council and Bishop of Kirtland met in the Lord's House, on Tuesday evening November 7th to discuss the question, "Who presides when the Presidents are absent?" But upon discussion were not able to come to any conclusion. Thomas Burdick was appointed High Counselor, in the place and absence of Phineas Richards; & Harlow Redfield Clerk for the time being. President Joseph Smith, senior proposed that brother Phineas Richards be ordained under the hands of President John Smith and Bishop Whitney, and he was accordingly blessed for his mission.

PHINEAS RICHARDS, Clerk.

Minutes of a Conference at "Far West" Missouri November 7th, 1837. At a general assembly of the Church of Latter Day Saints, assembled at Far West, to take into consideration and transact the business of said church, elder Thomas B. Marsh was chosen as Moderator, and Oliver Cowdery Clerk. After singing, the Moderator addressed the throne of grace in prayer, after which President Sidney Rigdon explained the object of the meeting, giving a relation of the recent re-organization of the church in Kirtland; the Minutes of said meeting were read by the Moderator who also nominated Joseph Smith, junior, the first President of the whole church to preside over the same, all were requested (male and female) to vote; and he was unanimously chosen. He then made a few remarks, accepting the appointment, requesting the prayers of the church in his behalf. President Smith then nominated President Sidney Rigdon to be one of his Counselors. who was unanimously chosen.

He then nominated Frederick G. Williams to be his next Counselor, who was objected to by elder Lyman Wight in a few remarks referring to a certain letter written to this place by the said F. G. Williams, also elder Marsh objected to President Williams, elder James Emmet also objected to Pres. Williams. Bishop E. Partridge said he seconded Pres. Williams nomination and should vote for him; and as to said letter he had heard it and saw nothing so criminal in it. President David Whitmer also made a few remarks in President Williams favor, elder Marsh, made further remarks: elder Thomas Grover also objected to President Williams. President S. Rigdon then nominated President Hyrum Smith to take President Williams' place. He then called for a vote in favor of President Williams who was rejected. He then called for a vote in favor of President Hyrum Smith, which was carried unanimously. Some few remarks were made by President David Whitmer and Sidney Rigdon.

David Whitmer was nominated as the President of this branch of the church, and was objected to by elder Marsh. Bishop E. Partridge said he should vote for President Whitmer. Elder Wm. E. McLellan, made a few remarks. Elder George M. Hinkle made a few remarks in favor of Pres. Whitmer; also elder King Follet. Elder Caleb Baldwin spoke against Pres. Whitmer; also elder Seymour Brunson. Elder Elisha H. Groves, spoke in favor of President Whitmer. Further remarks from elder McLellan by request of President Whitmer, who made satisfaction for him. Remarks from President Joseph Smith junior, who called for an expression which was carried by almost a unanimous vote in favor of President Whitmer. President Joseph Smith junior then nominated John Whitmer for an assistant President, who was objected to, and elder Marsh spoke in opposition to him, and read a list of charges from a written document against him and President Phelps. President John Whitmer then spoke a few words by way of confession, and was followed by elder Isaac Morley. The vote was called and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned for one hour. Meeting convened according to adjournment, a hymn was sung, and a prayer offered up by the Moderator.

W. W. Phelps was nominated for an assistant President for this church, by President Joseph Smith junior. He rose and made certain remarks, on the subject of the charges referred to above, by way of confession also, when the vote was put by President Rigdon and passed unanimously. Elders John Murdock, Solomon Hancock, Elias Higbee, Calvin Beebe, John M. Hinkle, Thomas Grover, and Simeon Carter were unanimously chosen high Counselors. Lyman Wight was nominated and objected to by John Anderson, who went aside to converse; Newel Knight was unanimously chosen. George M. Hinkle was nominated, and objected to by elder James Emmet because he was too noisy, by King Follet because of his military office, and by James Durfee because he was a Merchant. Elder Hinkle made a few remarks, the vote was called and was unanimous. Levi Jackman, and Elisha H. Groves were unanimously chosen. John Anderson then took the stand and made his objections to Lyman Wight; after which, elder Wight also spoke; the vote was called, and he was unanimously chosen. The Twelve were then called, namely, Thomas B. Marsh, David W. Patten, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, William E. McLellan, Parley P. Pratt, William Smith, Luke Johnson, Orson Pratt, John F. Boynton, and Lyman E. Johnson, and were unanimously chosen.

Bishop E. Partridge was nominated to still act as Bishop, and was unanimously chosen: who then nominated Isaac Morley, and Titus Billings for his Counselors, who were unanimously chosen. Elder Isaac Morley, was then unanimously appointed Patriarch of this branch of the church.

Elder John Corryll was chosen to be keeper of the Lord's Store House. Elder Isaac Morley was then ordained to the office of Patriarch, under the hands of Presidents Joseph Smith junior, Sidney Rigdon and Hyrum Smith. The congregation, after a few remarks from Sidney

Rigdon, unanimously voted not to support stores and shops, selling spirituous Liquors, Tea, Coffee, or Tobacco. A vote was called on the subject of the Presidents of the Seventies, and those who have recently been appointed to that office, were unanimously received. The congregation then united with President Sidney Rigdon, who, in the closing prayer, called upon their Lord to dedicate this land for the gathering of the saints, and their inheritances.

THOMAS B. MARSH, Moderator.
Attest OLIVER COWDERY, Clerk.

Far West, Missouri, November 10th 1837. At a general Meeting of the ordained members of the church in this place. Elder Thomas B. Marsh, opened the meeting by prayer, and President S. Rigdon, read the memorial of the Bishop of Kirtland and his counselors of September 18th 1837, to the churches abroad. He then laid before the meeting the subject of laying off cities, of consecrating for public purposes, & for remunerating those who lay them off, &c., when it was unanimously voted that all city plats hereafter laid off, after remunerating those for their labors who may be engaged in appointing and laying off the same, shall be consecrated for the public benefit of the church, for building Houses for public worship, or such other purposes as the church shall say.

President Rigdon then read the prospectus of the "Elders Journal" which was unanimously received. It was then unanimously voted that the persons present, use their exertions to support said paper. It was then voted that the town of Far West, be enlarged so that it contain four Sections, that is two miles square. Voted that Bishop Partridge and his counselors be appointed a Committee to appraise the land, adjacent to the present town plat, and see that it is enlarged according to the above vote, provided the present holders of those lands, will take such a price for the same, as the above appraisers shall think worth and that the same be then disposed of as is voted above. A call was then made for those whose circumstances were such as to permit, to go out to preach, to present themselves. There were twenty three who arose. Sylvester H. Earl, Henry Jackman, Harrison Sagers, and John W. Clark, were ordained Elders, and William J. Levans was ordained a Priest. President Rigdon then closed the meeting by prayer.

T. B. MARSH, Moderator,
Attest OLIVER COWDERY, Clerk.

About this time I left Far West, on my return to Kirtland.

Kirtland, November 20th, the High Council met in the Lord's House, John Smith Presiding. Reuben Hedlock preferred the following charge against Zenos H. Brewster, Jane Brewster, Collin Brewster, D. H. Dustin and wife, Moses R. Norris and wife, Eliza Norris, Samuel Barnett, Jenima Butler, O. Duel Butler and Roxanna Repsher, for giving heed to Revelations said to be translated from the Book of Moroni by Collins Brewster, and for entering into a written covenant different from the articles and covenants of the Church of Latter Day Saints, and following a vain and delusive spirit. Two were appointed to speak on each side. The writings and Revelations kept and received by the accused were presented, and read by the Clerk of the council.

The accused plead not guilty. Brother Folslow was called forward by the plaintiff, who stated that he had visited the accused and labored with them according to the law of the church; that the accused justified themselves, seeing the church had not lived according to the former revelations, and they considered the High Council and others were in transgression: and that most of the accused appeared to be determined to pursue their own way whether right or wrong. Brother Allen said the accused appeared to manifest a hard spirit against the Presidents of the church and the High Council; brother Dunn concurred. Brother Sawyer stated that he heard brother Norris say, that those in authority were against him, and if he could not establish an order of things here to his mind, he would go out among the gentiles and do it. Brother Knights confirmed the foregoing testimony.

The accused called brother Freeman, who stated that he had attended a number of the meetings of the accused, and saw nothing out of the way; brother E. Strong confirmed brother Freeman's statement, but did not know when he attended the meetings that they received Revelations for themselves. Brother J. Foster agreed with the last two witnesses. Brother Preston was called by the accuser, who testified that the accused refused to admit him into their meeting, and that others were rejected. Several witnesses testified that they attended their meetings and saw nothing wrong. Others testified they had heard them speak against the heads of the church, and that brother Joseph had many things to repeat of, and one of them said he thought some put too much stress on the Priesthood, and that he was informed that brother Norris laid his hands on Collins and ordained him a Prophet; and that one of the accused said he was determined to pursue his own course, whether it suited the High Council or not.

After the pleas of his Counselors the accused spoke in justification of their course generally, when the Council decided that the charge had been fully sustained and withdrew fellowship from those who persisted in their course of conduct as before mentioned.

HARLOW REDFIELD, Clerk.

At a Conference of Elders, consisting of all the authorities of the church in Kirtland, November 27th. Elder Reuben Hedlock was chosen President of the Elders quorum in place of elder Beman deceased. November 30th, Daniel S. Miles presented a complaint against Roger Orton "for abusing elder Brigham Young, and for a general course of unchristian like conduct." The accused having been notified to appear and answer for his conduct, and having refused, the High Council decided that he be cut off, for showing contempt to the authorities of the church.

Far West December 6th. The High Council and Bishop and council appointed Elias Higbee, Simeon Carter, and Elisha H. Groves a Committee to consider the propriety of proposing to the church to pay the council for their time while engaged in counsel. Bishop Partridge, John Corryll, and Isaac Morley were appointed a Committee to report upon the subject of raising a revenue to defray the expenses of the church. David Whitmer was appointed to sign Elders' licenses as Chairman, and W. W. Phelps as Clerk, and Frederick G. Williams to sign licenses as Chairman pro tempore, in the absence of President Whitmer, and John Whitmer as Clerk pro tempore; and Oliver Cowdery Recording Clerk, standing Clerk of the council, and Recorder of Patriarchal blessings at Far West. The Committee on pay for the council reported "it is our united opinion that the Presidency, High Council, Bishop and Council, Clerk of the council, Patriarch, and Agent of the

church; (also any others who may be employed in church business,) receive per day, each one dollar and fifty cents." Elias Higbee, Simeon Carter, Elisha H. Groves. Bishop Partridge reported to the council that he had paid six hundred dollars to the Lawyers to carry on suits, against the Jackson mob, and three hundred dollars costs in carrying on said suits, for which he had involved himself, and was paying ten per cent interest on the same, and petitioned the council for leave to liquidate the debt out of properties consecrated for the benefit of the church, and charge the church for the same; the council granted the petition. Voted that the Recorder of Licenses and Patriarchal blessings receive for each 100 words 10 cents. Council adjourned to December 7th.

Council assembled on the 7th according to adjournment, and heard the report of their Committee on raising a revenue to pay the officers of the church for their services, and after much discussion and adjournment from time to time, dismissed the subject as being anti-scriptural.

During my absence Warren Parrish, John F. Boynton, Luke Johnson, Joseph Coe, and some others united together for the overthrow of the church. I returned to Kirtland on or about the 10th of December, soon after which this dissenting band, openly and publicly renounced the church of Christ of Latter Day Saints, and claimed themselves to be the old standard, calling themselves the church of Christ, excluding that of Saints, and set me at naught, and the whole church, denouncing us as heretics, not considering that the Saints shall possess the kingdom according to the prophet Daniel.

The "Elders Journal" No. 2, for November, was the last paper printed at Kirtland. Our Printing establishment was attached to satisfy an unjust judgment of the County Court, and soon after the whole printing apparatus was burned to the ground.

The work began to spread in England with great rapidity. On the 12th of September elder Goodson left Bedford for Preston, and about the first of October sailed for America, in company with brother Snider taking with him 200 Books of Mormon which the Elders in vain tried to persuade him to leave. Branches were established in Eccleston, Warrington, Heskin, Fuxton Bath, Daubers Lane, Ohorley, Whittle, Leyland Moss, Ribchester, Thornley, Clithero, Waddington, Downham and other places, round about Preston, where the brethren hired the "Cock Pit," a large and convenient building for preaching, but being disturbed by some Methodist Priests were obliged to have the house licensed by the Civil Courts, according to the statute of the realm, which with the aid of two Constables who voluntarily preferred their services, restored peace and order; and on Christmas Day December 25th, elders Kimball and Hyde, and Joseph Fielding (who had previously been ordained an Elder) assembled in the Cock Pit with about 300 saints, several of whom were ordained to the lesser Priesthood, 14 were confirmed, and about 100 children were blessed by the Elders, this was the first public Conference of the church in England, and at this Conference the word of wisdom was first publicly taught in that country.

While the work was thus rapidly progressing in Lancashire, it continued gradually to progress at Bedford, also a branch was established at Bassyburn and another at Peters Green by elder Richards. On the morning of the 22nd of December 1837, brother Brigham Young, left Kirtland in consequence of the fury of the mob, the spirit that prevailed in the apostates who had threatened to destroy him, because he would proclaim publicly and privately that he knew by the power of the Holy Ghost that I was a Prophet of the most high God, that I had not transgressed and fallen as the apostates declared. Apostacy, persecution, confusion, and mobocracy strove hard to bear rule at Kirtland and thus closed the year 1837.