

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Of the Y. M. M. I. A. of Weber County.

SUNDAY, July 10, 10 A. M.

The meeting was called to order by Counselor Lester A. Herrick. "Sweet is the work, my God, my King," was sung by the choir. Elder Charles Wright offered up prayer, and the choir sang the hymn, "Let Zion in her Beauty rise."

Counselor L. A. Herrick first addressed the congregation, announcing that a special programme had been arranged for, comprising various exercises by the different organizations in the Stake.

The first exercise was "Lecture on Faith," by the Fourth Ward of Ogden, through Elder Wm. Jackson. A short lecture on "Repentance" was delivered by Elder Jas. England, of Plain City. He took as his text the 6th chapter of Hebrews, the commencement of which ("leaving the first principles of the gospel,") as Apostle Woodruff stated, has been incorrectly rendered by King James' translators, while the Prophet Joseph, in his inspired translation, puts it correctly and consistently, "having received, etc."

The choir rendered the anthem, "Lift up your heads, eternal Gates, unfold to entertain the King of Glory!"

Elder John Anderson, of Huntsville, delivered a brief address on "Baptism," handling the subject well.

Elder Noah L. Shurtliff, of Harrisville, spoke on the "Gifts of the Holy Ghost," in an impressive manner.

Elder Frank Greenwell, of the Third Ward, gave an interesting short sketch of the ancient history of Rome. The young man delivered himself of his difficult task in a highly creditable manner.

Counselor L. J. Herrick expressed his high delight with the exercises of the forenoon, and gave it as his conviction that the young Elders who had spoken had done splendidly, and the spirit of the Lord had manifested itself through their utterances. The speaker rejoiced before God that there were such young men growing up among the Latter-day Saints who were not afraid to stand up before the world and testify to their knowledge of the truth of the Gospel.

The forenoon meeting was adjourned with the anthem, "Glory be to the Lord," by the Tabernacle Choir, and benediction by Elder Gilbert R. Belnap.

2 P. M.

The afternoon exercises were opened by the North Ogden choir which rendered the hymn, "Ye sons of men, a feeble race," in a praiseworthy style. Counselor C. F. Middleton offered up the prayer, and the hymn, "Ye children of our God," was sung by the North Ogden choir.

While the Sacrament was being administered, Elder Chas. Wright, of Huntsville, read a few essays from the manuscript papers of the various Y. M. M. I. associations in Weber County. They were creditable productions and received with great interest by the large congregation: "A brave Battle," (poetry), from the North Ogden Review; "A Dream," from the same paper; Editorial of the Third Ward Advocate, June 22nd, (Frank Greenwell, editor).

Elder G. R. Belnap next arose to give a brief lecture on the rise and progress of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Elder E. H. Anderson delineated the origin and development of the Y. M. M. I. A. in the Weber Stake of Zion. The first organization in Ogden was started on Sunday, Apr. 20th, 1873, under the auspices of Apostle F. D. Richards. This organization continued to contribute materially to the elevation of the moral and intellectual tone of the young. On June 15th, 1877, after the reorganization of Weber Stake of Zion, the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations of Weber Stake were also more fully organized, with Elder Joseph A. West, President.

The County is, to-day, divided into seven circuits, of two and three societies each, making a total of 21 societies, with a number of over 800. These circuits have a conference quarterly, at which time the Central Board meets with them, giving useful instruction concerning the topic of mutual improvement. The meetings are held in the wards alternately, so that each ward has the privilege of having a quarterly conference in its turn. An intermissionary labor is also kept up between the wards of the circuit, which has a tendency to exercise the young in public speaking. Quarterly Stake Conferences are also held in Ogden where all the societies are represented and make their reports. There are eight libraries in the county and eight manuscript papers are published. During the last year 66,128 chapters were read, 783 lectures given, and 635 testimonies borne.

After the delivery of an anthem by the North Ogden choir.

APOSTLE WILFORD WOODRUFF

gave utterance to the great pleasure he had derived from the exercises of the day. He also paid a tribute to the efficiency of the services of Elder Jos. A. West, whose absence at this meeting he regretted. Referring to the testimonies borne by the young Elders and their counsel on religious topics, he compared them favorably with the learned rhetorical sermons which a Henry W. Beecher and other worldly divines might deliver, but without

interesting or edifying the Saints of God.

The Mutual Improvement Associations are powerful contributors to the welfare of the people of Israel and the promotion of the interests of the Kingdom.

Apostle Woodruff then declared that there is no people on earth that can less afford to waste time in reading novels, stories, and other trashy, valueless literature than the Latter-day Saints. Their sole occupation should be the pursuit of truth and the acquisition of knowledge. If a Saint gets tired reading the Bible and Book of Mormon, let him obtain historical works, such as Rollins' Ancient History, where they can learn of the ways in which the Lord dealt with the various nations of the earth in the days of old. Many useful lessons can be learned from the history of old Babylon, Nineveh, Tyre, Sidon, Thebes, Memphis, and other great and powerful cities and peoples of ancient days. Study of history is beneficial because instructing, while reading of fiction is detrimental, because demoralizing.

The work of improvement in these associations is greatly needed to assist in building up the last Kingdom of God in the dispensation of times. Somebody has got to bear it off amidst all these tremendous events hovering on the threshold of the future. It is our young men that have got to do it, and therefore the speaker takes a great interest in their work. Joseph Smith had all this in his mind and he often spoke about the Kingdom of God to be established in the Rocky Mountains. How great and astounding the contrast between 1847 and nowadays! And as it grew and increased, developed and progressed in the past, it will develop and expand in the future, and all the powers of earth and hell cannot hinder it. These young Elders have to help bring about, therefore they have no time to waste in foolishness and idleness. They are heirs of the priesthood and the instruments in the hands of the Almighty to accomplish His great purposes.

He felt to say to the young men and women, "God bless you!" They would be clothed with the power and glory of God and would have a great work to do amid all the wars, bloodshed, pestilence, earthquakes, tempests, and devastations about to come. The speaker closed with a prayer that the Lord may continue to bless and prosper the associations of the young.

APOSTLE F. D. RICHARDS

had been very forcibly reminded by the morning's exercises of his own experience in Quincy, 41 years ago, when he was for the first time called upon to address the Saints in public. He counseled the young Elders how rightly to divide the word of truth to dispense words of comfort to the afflicted, of instruction to the ignorant, and sometimes even words of rebuke to the haughty. This kingdom is opening on a sphere of grand action and labor. There are among the little children now being blessed some who will never die, and when the priesthood administer the ordinances they realize the nearness of the great events about to be consummated. The redemption of Zion, gathering of the remnant of Israel, and building of the new Jerusalem are works near at hand. Hence we should not allow our minds to be polluted by the unclean spirits of the world and the unrighteousness of Mammon. The speaker gave a graphic description of the terrible judgments promised soon to be poured out upon the world. This is the time for the parents to be most careful in bringing their children up in the fear of God and the love of the Gospel. They should read the early history of the Church and learn of the deep, earnest, and fervent spirit in which the Saints were then laboring, surrounded by evil-designing enemies. Apostle Richards also admonished the young Elders to make efforts in saving those of their comrades who are liable to go astray on the paths of iniquity, transgression, and sin. He also remembered Prest. Jos. A. West, who was absent and unable to meet with the Saints, much though his heart desired it, and closed by praying that the blessings of the Lord may be upon all Israel, that the people may continually have the good spirit within them.

The programme for the next Quarterly Conference of the Y. M. M. I. A. (in October) was presented, and the present occupants of the various offices of the Central Board were confirmed. Elder L. A. Herrick made a few closing remarks, the North Ogden choir rendered the beautiful anthem, "How Beautiful upon the Mountains," and Apostle Wilford Woodruff pronounced the benediction, with which one of the most interesting and pleasing conferences of the kind was brought to a close.