

The Latter-Day Saints'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH
UNTO THE CHURCHES.—*Rev. ii. 7.*

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Price One Penny.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN THE
BRITISH ISLES, HELD IN CUMBERLAND STREET CHAPEL, CURTAIN ROAD, AND AT 23
RATCLIFFE TERRACE, GOSWELL ROAD, LONDON, JUNE 26, 27, AND 28, 1854.

(Continued from page 468.)

5 30 P.M.

Council convened in the Saints' meeting room, 23, Radcliffe Terrace, Goswell Road, Islington, and was opened by singing the 237th Hymn — "The spirit of God like a fire is burning," &c.

Prayer by Elder DAN JONES.

President S. W. RICHARDS expressed his satisfaction and joy that some of the Pastors and Presidents of Conferences, who had been, by circumstances, prevented assembling with us this morning, were now in our midst, as there was no place on the earth, but Great Salt Lake City, where so great a power of the Priesthood of God and of the Holy Spirit could be felt as here. As our object was the building up of the Kingdom of God, this was the place that we could be refreshed by the counsels of God, through His servants, and thus be prepared for future usefulness.

Elder THOMAS CAFFALL—I rise, with great pleasure, to represent the South Conference, as it exists, and in as concise a manner as possible. When I arrived at my Conference, I found things much in the manner in which they had been represented to me, but the whole of the story had not been told. After being there some time, I found that monies which had been collected for certain objects, had been applied to other purposes,

therefore we had to get up the means a second time, which was not altogether pleasant. Arrangements had been entered into to liquidate the account of our Book Agency, but had not been carried out. Had those arrangements been carried out, the whole of our book debt would have been paid, but their not having been carried out, has caused us to come short of clearing the debt. We have on hand sixty complete volumes of the *Star*. We have about forty *Stars* accumulating every week, but our stock and our Branch debts are sufficient to meet the demands of the Office at Liverpool.

I have at present four Travelling Elders, and we have occasionally a visit from Elder McAllister.

We have baptized twenty-four persons the last quarter, and we hope to baptize more the next, as the opinion which was prevailing, that there had been sufficient preaching, appears to be vanishing away.

A few months ago, things were in a very depressed state—owing to what had transpired, the Saints had lost confidence in those who had to administer to them, and they looked with an evil eye upon those who came to preside over them. But prospects are brightening, and I trust that in a short time things will be much better than they are at present.

Our Conference extends into four counties. In some instances it is forty miles from one Branch to another, in others fifty.

The Saints are blessed with poverty to such an extent that it is unnecessary for me to tell them they are poor, they all know it. It is no uncommon thing for them to live on bread and water day after day. Some of them are ready to do all that they are requested, while others, who watch with an evil eye, are not in possession of much information; some of the officers have not met in council for three years. They are lacking faith on one principle—the last “cat that was let out of the bag.” Polygamy has been got over pretty well, that cloud has vanished away, but they are troubled about Adam being our Father and God. There is a very intelligent person investigating our principles, and who has been a great help to the Saints; he has all the works, and can get along very well with everything else but the last “cat,” and as soon as he can see that clearly, he will become a “Mormon.” I instructed him to write to Liverpool upon it.

The Travelling Elders and Presidents of Branches are united, and are preaching the Gospel in the open air, when the weather permits, and they bring in very favourable reports. There are plenty of places where the Gospel has never been preached, and consequently there is room for Elders to labour on the Gospel principle. Pastor Webb and I have laid our plans, and I believe we shall do a good work, as the prospects are much better than they were six months ago.

Elder THOMAS B. BRODERICK—I rejoice to have the privilege of meeting with you this afternoon to represent the Wiltshire Conference, over which I have presided the last six months. I have joy in looking over the Conference in its present condition, compared with the condition which it was in when I took charge of it. If poverty were a crime, I should have to represent the Saints in very bad standing. There are two things which are a pest to that Conference—poverty and parsons. When the Elders distribute tracts, the parsons go and take them up, and keep them, or give them up when compelled. They also use their influence over the people, to such an extent, that, if they were convinced, they dare not obey. Some will come and hear the Elders preach, and then go away and

tell their neighbours they have heard a *moing sarmon*, but they take no further notice.

We have baptized forty-four or forty-five persons during the last half year. When I left the Saints in that Conference, our parting was with many tears, they were sorry to part with me, and I with them. When I was appointed to the Kent Conference, one of the Saints told me they had taken up a collection for me, and had had a *moing good un*. On my arrival, I found 1s. 1½d. This will give you an idea of the state of temporal affairs there. I have preached the Temple and Emigrating funds considerably, but I find that money matters are very limited. As to the Book Agency, it is not as I would like to see it; there are debts which have been standing for years, for books, room rent, &c.; the said debts for rent must now be paid, or the Saints must give up their meeting room.

We have a great many books and tracts on hand, partially caused by some of the Saints leaving the Conference after taking a few of the first numbers of the *Star*, and the remainder of those volumes being left on our hands. I have never preached poverty to them, neither should I have done, if I had remained, but I feel that a man who has influence over them may make them believe just what he has a mind, by contrasting their circumstances with the position of others. For my own part I never feel poor, but always feel rich.

As regards Travelling Elders, we have been very short of late. Last Conference, I called one out. There is another who will soon be ready to go out also. We cannot extend our labours any great distance, for by doing so we should be encroaching upon some of the other Conferences. If other Travelling Elders were to be sent there, they would have to depend upon the Lord, as the Saints could do nothing for them.

As brother Samuel wished to know our feelings concerning him, I will give mine in a few words. It is my feeling, that President Samuel W. Richards has done everything for the salvation of the British Saints that possibly could have been done, and I will ever pray the choicest of Heaven's blessings to be with him through all coming time. Amen.

Elder JOSEPH HALL—It is with pleasure that I arise to represent the Lands End Conference. They are a good people.

Some of the brethren have alluded to females in the Branches, but I can say that I have a sweeping majority of them—so much so, that I do not think there are more than fifty male members in the whole Conference. It has been remarked that the sisters may go out to distribute Tracts. But the sisters in the Lands End Conference cannot even do that, on account of their families. Relative to the condition of the Saints, poverty is a principle that I detest to speak upon, but there it is, and it stands out in bold relief. If my Saints have not done so much as some others, it has been because they could not possibly do it. We have two collections every Sunday, for one purpose or another. As to general funds we have only one, and it is very small, for the most of the Saints are seamen's wives, and they obtain for themselves and families from 16s. to 24s. per month, which you are aware is not much for any purpose. Those who are not seamen's wives, are widows and servants, and in no better circumstances.

Relative to new places, there are many, but we have nobody to send to them. We have two Travelling Elders, one is Elder Ross, who has laboured indefatigably in Exeter, where a great excitement has prevailed, but it is now abating a little. We have some opposition from the Primitive Methodists, we and they both preaching in one place. On Sunday week they were very opprobrious, and they disturbed the brethren when preaching. In Devonport we had two rooms, but, through some inconvenience, we have given them up and taken one large room. There are several very important places in the Conference, where the Gospel has not been preached, neither can we mission them, not having any Elder to send there, nor any means of sustaining one, except he depend upon the Lord.

Relative to the principles recently revealed, we have not the least difficulty. If Adam's being our Father and God cannot be proved by the Bible, it is all right.

Relative to the Book Agency, the Saints prize their *Stars*, and, when unable to pay for them, they request the Agent to lay them up in reserve until circumstances render them able to pay for them.

As to President Samuel W. Richards, I have laboured under his counsels with the greatest pleasure, and the Saints of our Conference have enjoyed themselves

under his counsels and instructions. I never preach poverty to them, for it is totally unnecessary. We are about to devote one day's wages to the liquidation of the book and *Star* debts.

Elder MATTHEW ROWAN—I have been six months in the Sheffield Conference, and have laboured with great pleasure in giving such instructions and counsels as the Spirit of the Lord has dictated unto me to impart unto His people. We have neither poverty nor parsons to contend with. We have had to pay a great deal of money for one purpose or another. At our Conference last Sunday, (yesterday) I found that more than £100 had been got up during the six months, but I trust in a short time we shall have paid all our debts, both for books and other things; then we shall be free indeed.

We have baptized more this half year, than have been baptized in six months for some time previously; still our baptisms are not very numerous, yet I trust they will be more frequent, as we have our officers go out preaching on Sundays, and they bring in favourable reports. We have two Travelling Elders who are labouring diligently to build up the Saints.

It is not necessary for me to take up much time in representing our Conference, only to say it is in good condition. We preach money, for the funds, and for other necessary purposes, all the time, and the brethren expect such preaching, therefore they are not disappointed in the least. The Gifts of the Spirit are frequently manifested in our meetings, and the Saints are increasing in faith and knowledge.

As to President Samuel W. Richards, we had our Conference yesterday, and we took an expression concerning him, in which all were united in expressing their joy and satisfaction with his labours. I pray the Lord to bless Elder Richards and carry him safe to Zion.

Elders W. G. MILLS and J. CAFFALL then begged to speak in behalf of President S. W. Richards. The privilege being granted they both spoke in terms of the highest satisfaction, and only regretted not being able to express their feelings in a more able manner, as their language was inadequate to convey any idea of their feelings.

Elder JOHN W. LEWIS—With reference to the Lincolnshire Conference, I cannot speak upon it as I would like, but a great improvement has taken place

during the last six months. We have laboured diligently, and have restored a general good feeling, which is something towards better times. Our Book Agency is in a *very, very bad* state. There is upwards of £100 due to the office at Liverpool, and I found, by auditing the Books last week, that there was about £44 deficient of the amount to meet that demand. We have adopted a plan to raise the amount, by assuming five shillings apiece around, which will pay it. We have on hand some fourteen or fifteen complete volumes of the *Star*. Travelling Elders and Sub-Agents have left our Conference in debt to the amount of £6 or £7, and have been taken no notice of. There are others who have gone to the Valley and left the Conference in debt, for the last four or five years.

At our last Conference it was agreed to pay the five shillings each by the 1st August. Thirty-eight pounds of this debt I find has been upon the Conference two or three years, and has been called an old debt.

As regards the Conference and Emigrating Funds, we have got up about £7 for each fund since our former President left.

As regards President S. W. Richards, I believe there is not a person in the whole Conference but what feels well towards him. The Saints have frequently inquired whether he was an old or a young man. On being informed that he was a young man, they have been struck with wonder at the wisdom manifest in his counsels. They also rejoice at the idea that brother Franklin has returned to preside over them again.

We are preaching all that we possibly can in the open air. We have had one camp meeting, which has done a great deal of good. We purpose having four or five more. Two persons have been employed in what is termed "Mormon killing," but they have not been very successful.

The poverty of the Conference is very great, and it is now being increased, as many of the brethren, not being able to get work, are fleeing to the coal mines in the Sheffield Conference. That Conference will now reap the harvest. Some of the Saints are as good as any people in the world, and would be happy to do more, provided they had it to do with, while others never did do anything, and I believe never will. The spirit of ga-

thering is very rife, and if the new gathering places be opened, the Saints will make great efforts to go.

Elder MILLEN ATWOOD—I repaired to the Bradford Conference as soon as circumstances would allow, but, before my arrival, the former President had left. Elder Bunker was there, and he gave me the information which I desired. I have endeavoured to carry out his counsels and instructions, and I purpose doing so the remainder of my stay, as I know that that is the only way to be right.

There are three Travelling Elders in the Conference. Two of them have come into the Conference since I came. They are good men, and willing to do all that I tell them.

We have a large stock of *Stars*, &c., on hand, some available and some not available. Our stock is increasing every week, and I believe the *Seer* and the *Journal* have a great influence upon the minds of the Saints, and hinder much the sale of the *Star*. Some person has written from the Valley, and says that the *Star* is worth nothing, and may be dispensed with, for the Saints will have to throw it away when they emigrate. Some of the Saints are very poor, but their feelings are good, in fact they are a good people altogether.

Elder GEORGE W. BRAMWELL—It gives me great pleasure to be able to say that the Birmingham Conference is in very good condition, as a whole. There are one or two Branches which appear to be consumptive, but I have made arrangements for special meetings in them, the results of which, I hope, will be satisfactory. We have had some things of a very unpleasant nature to contend with, but I think they are now over. There has been quite a mania for Loan Societies, and the brethren have been bond for each other, and have in almost every case had the money to pay, which has caused considerable feelings, but we hear little of these things now. As to our general Book Agency, it is in good condition, having stock and Branch debts sufficient to meet the demands of the office.

With reference to President S. W. Richards, I will say, for the Saints in the Birmingham Conference, that they are all well pleased with his administrations as President of the British Churches, Editor of the *Millennial Star*, &c., so much so, that, when informed of his being about to

turn to Zion, it caused a deep wound in their hearts. But I am happy to say that as soon as it was made known unto them that his brother Franklin would succeed him, the wound was healed. So far as I am concerned, I could wish myself an artist, to be able to portray the joy and satisfaction which have prevailed my bosom at the wisdom displayed in his counsels, but, knowing as I do, my incapability to do justice to such an undertaking, I will content myself with praying God to bless him in all his future life, and to enable him to obtain a full and complete salvation.

We have three Travelling Elders, who are all good men, and who endeavour to carry out my instructions to them, which is also the case with the Presidents of Branches.

We have but few places in which to introduce the Gospel, being bound up on every side by the other Conferences, but the brethren are preaching on Sundays in every place where they can obtain a hearing.

Pastor Barlow and I have made arrangements for the liquidation of the greater part of our Book debt, which we purpose carrying out at our next Conference. We should have done this sooner, but we have had to raise about £160, since I took the Presidency, to free the Conference from other debts.

Elder W. G. McMULLEN—I rise with great pleasure to represent the Saints in the Warwickshire Conference in good standing; they all rejoice in the work of the Lord, as it has been made known unto them. The Priesthood are united, and they attend to their duties without any difficulties on my part. We have several good men, men of talent and sound judgment, and who require teachings and examples of the same nature from all who labour in their midst.

We have two Travelling Elders, they are good men, and they labour diligently, and have been a great assistance to me, by visiting the Branches and keeping things in order when I have been unable to attend.

As to the general Book Agency, I find there is from £5 to £8 due to the office, for which we have nothing, either in stock or Branch debts, to show. At the commencement of the year, I ordered no more *Stars* from the Office at Liverpool than the Saints had promised to

take, but I find now that they have not been taken according to promise, but they are accumulating every week. Elder Douglas had made some arrangements to liquidate the Book Debt, which I have endeavoured to carry out as far as possible. I have three or four prominent men, who have families; they are men well calculated to do good in the ministry; they go out preaching on the Sabbath, and sometimes on the week days.

Elder JAMES PACE—I can speak in the highest terms of the Saints in the Bedfordshire Conference. The authorities of the Church have their entire confidence, both those in the Valley, and those in England.

We have four Travelling Elders, two of whom have just started out, and I believe will be instruments in doing much good. We have good men presiding over the Branches, some of them have good abilities, while others are not so talented. The officers go out on Sunday by twos or threes to preach; they get good meetings, and are in good spirits. We have plenty of room for labourers, but not much means to support them. There are several large towns in which no opening has been made, but I think, if we had faithful Elders to mission them, an opening might be effected. The Branches are generally in good standing, and are willing to obey the counsels of those placed over them.

With regard to our financial affairs, I flatter myself that all will be well. Our Book Agency is in good condition. The Agent is a good man. We are getting off considerable of the old stock. We have shared the blessings of our beloved Pastor, and the Saints have felt built up, and we feel that in coming time we shall be able to reap where others have sown.

Elder JOHN M. BROWN—I have been in the Cambridgeshire Conference nearly two years, during which time many things have transpired, some pleasant and some otherwise. We have baptized about twenty-five persons during the last six months, in the whole of the Conference. The Saints generally are in good spirits and in good standing—they wish and are determined to do right. I have no Travelling Elders in the Conference, but there is a large district of country in which the Gospel has been preached little, if any. I have preached a great deal in the open air during the last two months, and I hope to do good thereby. If we had two or three good

men, full of faith, to labour in our Conference, I feel confident they might do good, but whoever comes there to labour must come prepared to live by faith. We have a number of debts which have been accumulating for some time. Our book and *Star* debt is considerable, but we have adopted means to liquidate it. We have about seventy members in Cambridge—of that number there are only five brethren, all the others are sisters.

Elder CHARLES A. HARPER—In regard to the Norwich Conference, I am prepared to state the feelings of the Saints to be good. We are introducing the Gospel in places where it has not been preached, and the places that have been preached in we are leaving alone for the present. We are determined to let the people hear, that they may judge for themselves. As regards temporal affairs, the Saints are very poor, most of them have been out of work for some time, the principal part of them are weavers and shoemakers, and have had to go into the workhouse, which is the reason our funds have not been as large as usual.

We have a very large stock of *Stars*, of the back volumes, but have very few of the present volume, as we pack them up and send them to the country Branches; and those Saints who are too poor to buy them, we take up a collection and give them the *Stars*. There are about 6000 or 7000 *Stars* in general stock. At our last Conference we took a vote for all who were in work to apply one day's wages towards liquidating the book debts. Out of 1000 members we raised about £14, which shows they are not in a position to do much. I have preached the promises of God, and not poverty, to them.

We have not baptized as many as some of the Conferences, but we have baptized a few, and we hope to baptize more in the coming half year.

As regards brother Samuel W. Richards, I can speak for the Saints concerning him—they all feel well satisfied with his labours, and pray the Lord to bless him with all things needful for his future life.

Elder ISAAC ALLRED—I feel it a pleasure to make a statement of the condition of the Southampton Conference, but should feel more pleasure if its circumstances were different. We have had considerable to encounter, both this year and last, but that influence which has been the

cause of so much trouble has given way, to a considerable extent. It was in the Southampton and Dorsetshire Conferences that Elders Armstrong and Margetts were suspended. The actions of these men caused a division, both in the feelings and practice of the Saints—so much so, that through it some were cut off before I went to Southampton, and others have been cut off since. I have laboured with all the energy I have had, in connexion with Pastor Willie, to heal up the wounds, but have little faith that we shall be able to heal them up entirely.

We have five Travelling Elders; they are good men, men that love the Saints, and the Saints love them. There has been a great deal of preaching in some of the places; others have had no preaching in. We have territory sufficient for three large Conferences. We have not baptized as many as were baptized last year, neither do I think we have baptized as many as have been cut off. We are distributing tracts in a great number of towns and villages, both the brethren and sisters are rendering themselves useful in that capacity, and many persons are believing our principles.

The Conference is in debt, but our first half year's donation for the Temple offering will be paid in a few days. The former Book Agent, who was hand in glove with Armstrong and Margetts, in their abominations, proved defaulter for £33, and it is confidently believed they were the cause of his defalcation, and that they shared the money with him. We shall hold our Conference next Sunday, when we purpose adopting some means to pay off this amount. We have on hand from thirty to forty copies of the two last volumes of the *Star*, complete and in good order.

The Elder that is labouring in Southampton is a good man, and will do as far as he can, according to the intelligence in his possession. We have some eight or ten preaching places on a Sunday, some of them are well attended, while others are not so well.

I am satisfied with the labours of President Samuel W. Richards, which is the case with all the Saints.

Elder WILLIAM SMITH—I feel happy this evening in having the privilege to make a few remarks relative to the Dorsetshire Conference. It is small, and, like many others, it is very poor. The Saints

generally are united, and desirous to do the will of our heavenly Father. Some, of course, have not got clear of that spirit spoken of by Elder Allred. As this was the Conference in which Armstrong laboured most, it consequently felt most the effects of his abominations. We have not baptized so many as I should have wished; no doubt those things spoken of have had an influence on the minds of the people. As to the general aspect of things, the Conference is prospering, and it feels to prosper every day. In relation to our Book Agency, it is as well as we can expect.

Elder GEORGE SIMPSON—It is well understood that I have but just been appointed to the presidency of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Conference, but while there I have endeavoured to make myself as much acquainted with its condition as possible. I have examined the General Book Agency, and found that there is about £40 due to the office at Liverpool, for which there is nothing to show.

There are seven Travelling Elders in the Conference, and there is room for a great many more. Those we have are diligent to build up the kingdom of God.

We have baptized upwards of 100 persons during the last three months. The whole place seems alive with "Mormonism," and I feel determined to walk before the people blameless, that no stumbling block may be placed before them on my account. As regards brother Samuel, all the Saints feel well towards him, and would much enjoy a visit from him before he leaves for the Valley.

Elder THOMAS WILLIAMS—I feel to appreciate the present privilege afforded me to represent the Saints of the Hull Conference, for they are a good people. The feelings of some of them have been a little hurt by so many emigrating last season, but all is right again now. Our meetings are well attended by respectable people, and an opening appears to be presenting itself into some families of that class; in fact, some of them have been baptized, and others are to be baptized on my return.

We have about £28 worth of books on hand, which we purpose paying for shortly—we are adopting means to raise the amount.

Elder PHILEMON C. MERRILL—I am truly happy to have this privilege to stand in this Council, with so many with whom

I have been in different positions. I have felt well all the time, for the Spirit of the Lord has been in our midst. The Carlisle Conference has borne not one of the best of names, in years that are past, and I thought my representation would be the worst, but I feel encouraged now that there are others as bad, for a great improvement has taken place of late. I found a very good foundation laid for this improvement, on which I have endeavoured to build. There is now a good spirit prevailing in Carlisle, although it is one of the oldest Conferences upon the British Isles. We are distributing tracts, which appear to be doing good. I have no Travelling Elders but myself, neither could the Saints in their present position support more, but they, although very poor, are increasing fast in the riches of faith, and I believe that, if Pastor Glover comes to preach another time or two, they will become quite rich. The Priesthood go out every Sunday to preach; they have houses opened to them, refreshment offered them, and have commenced to baptize. The Saints of the Carlisle Conference think they are nothing thought of by the authorities. I believe that if they could have a manifestation of the approbation of the Presidency in Liverpool, they would feel much encouraged.

With relation to brother Samuel, when they learned he was about to return to Zion, their feelings were wounded, but as has been said before, the wound was healed when they were told that brother Franklin was coming to succeed him.

Elder WILLIAM PITT—Derbyshire Conference is a small one, but the standing and faith of the Saints are good, and they mean to do right, and to do all in their power to roll forth the work of God. Circumstances have been of such a nature that the Saints have not had it in their power to contribute to the funds, according to their wishes, but nothing will be lacking on their part. It is a very old Conference, and has been preached in a great deal, so much so that the Saints thought there had been preaching enough, but instead of cherishing this opinion now, we are preaching in every place in the Conference, and we have men who can preach well.

There appears to be a spirit of inquiry, and the people are favourable to us, for when the police have come to interfere with

the brethren preaching, the people have opened their gardens for us to go into and preach. Our finances are not as the Saints would wish for, but they have made arrangements for paying up their book and *Star* debt. There has been a great deal of money squandered somehow, many pounds have been spent, and no account has been made of it.

The *Seer* and the *Journal of Discourses* appear to me to have an influence on the sale of the *Star*, but I suppose it is all right. Every principle that comes out through the appointed channel is all right for our Saints—they believe all that comes through the publications. They have the best of feelings towards the Presidency, both in Liverpool and the Valley.

Elder EDWARD FROST—The state of the Leicestershire Conference is now far better than it has been for some time, but during the last six months a great many of the Saints have been out of work, and have had to go to the Bastille to get food, which has been the cause of the funds being so low. Of late I have introduced a plan for work for the Saints, that they may be better off. We have about fifty *Stars* lying up in stock weekly, but I think the Saints will shortly be better off. Our prospects are very good indeed. The brethren go out from twelve to fifteen miles on a Sunday to preach, and are very well received by the people, who inquire of them when they will come again.

Whenever I have heard them speak of brother Samuel it has been with the greatest respect. When they heard that he was going home, they wondered who was coming in his place. On being informed that brother Franklin was coming, they rejoiced, knowing that he would lead them in the paths of truth. They have already commenced to pray the Lord to bless and preserve brother Samuel on his way to Zion.

Elder JOSEPH WESTWOOD—It is with pleasure that I arise to represent the Nottinghamshire Conference. A great many of the Saints are in the stocking business, and are in depressed circumstances, but they are united in all their efforts to carry out the work of God. They had an idea when I went there, that it was of very little use to preach to the world, but to take care of the Saints. These views have been changed during the last six months, and we have baptized a good number. I found that the Temple Fund would be

far short of the amount required, therefore I drew up a paper, and asked the Presidents of Branches how much they would pay. Some of them paid £1 each, and some of the sisters 10s., &c., by which means I feel assured our half yearly donation will be forwarded by the time.

As regards President S. W. Richards, the Saints sent their love to him, and wished me to invite him to come to see them before he left, if possible.

Elder OSMAN M. DEUEL—It is with some degree of pleasure that I rise to give something of the history of the Staffordshire Conference, though I am scarcely able to speak, from a severe cold. It is about six months since I was appointed to the Presidency of that Conference. Not having been accustomed to preside, I have done my best, although that may have been but little. The Conference was in a very bad condition, and manifested no confidence in the Priesthood. I found a large number of officers, some had been in the Church fourteen years, but through some things that had taken place they were at sword's points with all the authorities. The Macclesfield district, which is about one-third of the Conference, and the Potteries districts, about another third, were in a dreadful state—these made two-thirds in a bad condition. I found myself in great difficulty—what to do I knew not, but I was satisfied that, except unity of feeling and action of the Priesthood could be restored, no good could be done. I consulted with Elder Earl, and endeavoured to restore unanimity in the Priesthood. There were two Travelling Elders there at the time I went, who, in company with brother Earl, assisted me to remove the hard feeling, as far as we could. I told brother Earl that it must be removed, or we might as well leave the place, and give up the salvation of the people, as no good could be effected so long as hard feeling existed. We have succeeded, to a good degree, in restoring a proper feeling, more especially in the Potteries district, which appeared to be the worst. In the Macclesfield district they promise but do not perform; however, I have determined to put down this way of doing business, if I have not a toe nail left on.

As regards the financial affairs, the war appears to affect the Saints very much. The greater portion of them are in the silk business, and are very poor. All the

ministry are preaching every Sunday, and are doing all in their power to roll on the work of God.

The Temple Fund has come up pretty well; concerning the Emigrating Fund I am not in possession of the particulars. As to the Book and *Star* Agency, there is something like £80, which has been called an old debt, and it has been made no less since I went there, but we have adopted a plan to pay it off, and it is working well. We have about three hundred *Stars* coming weekly, fifty-three of which have to be laid by. I have spared no pains while there, but have done all in my power. I purpose to continue to do so while I remain. As to the faith and prayers of the Saints towards brother Samuel, they are just what they should be; they wish brother Samuel well, and would like him to come and see them before he leaves, and I believe it would do them a great deal of good if he could thus far favour them.

President F. D. RICHARDS then made a few very appropriate remarks, relating to the presiding Elders doing their duty before the Lord, in all humility, and putting down every species of evil. He told Elders Earl and Deuel that as they

had undertaken to clear out these roots of bitterness, he wished them to make a thorough work of it, and leave no roots broken off under ground, that would spring up after, but cleanse out that spirit of fault-finding and disobedience entirely from the Conference. He had been aware of this spirit existing in the Macclesfield and Potteries district before he left, two years ago. The time had come when if men who had been in the Church ten or twelve years had not learned better than to be fomenting discord and stirring up strife, the Church had learned better than to be afflicted any longer with their foolishness. Brethren, the Lord wishes you to act by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in all such important matters, and if you do what appears to you to be right, with an eye single to His glory and the salvation of souls, He will bless you in all your undertakings, and enable you to accomplish whatever you undertake.

The 166th Hymn—"Come all ye sons of God, who have received the Priesthood," was then sung in a very spirited manner, and, with benediction by Elder Dan Jones, the Council adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

(To be continued.)

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1854.

THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN is a subject which ought to command the most careful and serious consideration of all Saints. Those who have had the advantages of a tolerable education, know that it is of great value to them, beyond comparison with gold or any paltry consideration which the earth affords. To such we scarcely need urge the importance of this subject—they know it, they realize it, their gift makes room for them, and if they appreciate the worth of immortal souls, committed to them by God for training and culture, it will be with them a primary object to bestow upon their sons and daughters that knowledge which will enable them to escape the evils of this world and come into possession of the joys and glories of the world which is to come, let the expense, self denial, or sacrifice be whatever it may.

But there are a portion of our readers who we think might be benefitted by a hint upon this subject, some who manifest such an apathy in, such an entire disregard for, educational improvement, that it would seem as if they were careful lest their children should become more enlightened than themselves, or were waiting to be told that there could be any advancement made by their children, beyond what themselves had made. Many there are whose humble circumstances seem to require their utmost