

The Latter-Day Saints'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

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

No. 34.—Vol. XVI. Saturday, August 26, 1854. 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
BEATCLIFFE TERRACE, GOSWELL ROAD, LONDON, JUNE 26, 27, AND 28, 1854.

(Continued from page 520.)

June 28, 10, A.M.

Council assembled pursuant to adjournment.

Meeting opened by singing. Prayer by Elder C. G. Webb.

The names of those present were called.

Elder BENJAMIN BROWN—The Pastors and also the Presidents have represented my field of labour, but I may be able to throw a little additional light upon matters. I am happy to say, that where I have been labouring, the work of God is in a prosperous condition. The Saints are increasing in faith, and are receiving many spiritual blessings.

When I first entered upon my labours, few strangers came out to hear, but latterly great numbers have begun to inquire after the truth, new fields are opening up, and this rejoices my heart, and stimulates me to action. The brethren and sisters are more faithful than they were. I can truly say I have felt the power of my mission, and have been much blessed in my administrations. I felt rather home-sick when I left my last field of labour, but I find that the Saints are all good. Many of them saw me in visions and dreams before I went among them.

I have learned more of the power of the Priesthood since I came on this mission, than I ever knew before—all things

must be subject unto it both in and out of the Church. When all the Saints carry out this principle, the Devil will have no power over them.

With regard to brother Samuel, the Saints feel well towards him, and I, above all others, have reason to feel well towards him. I am glad that brother Franklin has come to labour among us.

Elder WILLIAM W. MAJOR—The ten Branches under my care are doing well. We have baptized thirty-four within the last three months, have a good attendance of strangers, and many earnest inquirers after truth. We have got our book debts and Hall rents nearly all paid off, and some of them were heavy. As to the Presidency at Liverpool, we always hold them in honourable remembrance, and sustain them in mighty faith and prayers. We always intend to honour those whom the God of Israel honours.

Elder GEORGE D. GRANT—Brethren, I highly appreciate the privilege afforded me to speak for a short time. I have enjoyed myself first rate during this Council. I am thankful that men in the last days speak by the power of God, as they did in former times. I have been with President Brigham Young, both by night and by day, and have been his guard. I have been with him, and have ever been ready

to obey his mind as the mind of the Lord, and I desire to be ever ready to obey every one who is entitled to my obedience. If I have lacked anything towards brother Brigham, I desire to make it up by obeying brother Franklin. All the blessings come by obedience to the servants of God. So long as the children of Israel acknowledged the hand of God they were blessed. We can see the hand of God in leading us through the wilderness into the valleys of the mountains, and feel to tender Him our thanks for it. I have been in various circumstances with these brethren, and have learned lessons from it, and continue now to learn in England, and for this knowledge I would not take all the riches in the world. I am unable to express my thanks for the goodness of God in preserving us across the waters, and shielding us from every evil. We had brother Franklin with us, who was as a father to us all the time.

I would say to you all, brethren, be faithful in keeping the commandments of God. It is the strength of the Saints to pray to the Lord. I should be happy if I could preach, but my capacity has not been for preaching.

I feel that the *Star* which is published in this country should be sustained, as it is a mighty engine for the rolling forth of the work of God. Brethren, let us not feel when we speak about money that the people are poor, but let us feel that we are rich all the time. Let us feel, brethren, when we talk to the people, that they are rich.

I have been in many close places, calculated to try many people. Well I want to be tried in every other place. Never let money buy you or poverty push you, but push on the kingdom of God. Lehi saw a rod of iron, and those who clung to it and held on to the word of God received salvation, while those who left the rod of iron went down to destruction, so it will be with us. Brethren, if we hold fast the truth and keep the commandments of God, we shall be saved, if we do not, we shall be lost.

Elder JAMES A. LITTLE—I have enjoyed myself in this Council. The Spirit of the Lord has been with us, and it has filled every heart. I believe the Lord is going to do a great work in these lands, and I rejoice that I have the privilege to help to do it. The God of heaven has sent us here to preach the Gospel to this

people. My very heart bled when I heard the Presidents say there were thousands of poor souls who had never heard the principles of salvation, but there were no means to support the Elders. Great God! Has it come to this, that the paltry dollar stands in the way of saving the people! This grieves me to the heart. I can see no other way of doing the work, than to keep the idea before the mind that there is a God in Israel, and that we are His servants. I believe in the principle of obedience; and if I am told that Adam is our Father and our God, I just believe it. Brethren, I feel well, and have felt well all the time.

Elder EDMUND ELLSWORTH—Brethren, for some years past, my labour has been of a very different character from that of most of you. I have been in the habit of doing anything I was told to do, no matter whether I was familiar with it, or whether it was something that I was a stranger to: and I have been enabled to accomplish whatever has been required at my hands.

I had command of the little company, at the engagement in which brother Higbee was shot. I know that nothing but the power of God could have preserved the rest of us. Brother Higbee would not have fallen, if he had obeyed the injunctions which were placed upon us before going to the battle. There is no rule of safety but walking in the counsels of those who are appointed to counsel us in the Lord. My love for those who are over me in the Lord is stronger than the love of women. Why is this? Because women cannot save me in the kingdom of God, but those men can if I do my duty to God and my fellow men.

I feel that the Spirit which prevails in Zion is here, and I just feel that the work of God will roll on mightily in these Islands.

Elder JOSEPH A. YOUNG said he was no speaker but would try and say a few words. He alluded in pungent terms to the vile conduct of some who had corrupted their ways before the Lord; exhorted his brethren to purity of life, that they might have the Holy Spirit to be with and to guide them in all their labours, as the only rule of their lives that could give truth and efficacy to all their acts. The Scriptures were like the finger-board, to direct us in the absence of a living guide, but when we have a living

guide we do not need a finger-board. We were surely engaged in the work of God, and it would roll forth. May God bless you. Amen.

Elder WILLIAM H. KIMBALL—I am happy to be with you. When I left the Valley I did not think I should have the privilege of attending a meeting like this, in distant lands, where so much of the Spirit of God, and the power of the Priesthood, are manifest. The part of the work which I have been engaged in has been such as to make me know, in a particular manner, that President Young is a Prophet of God, for I have seen and known his words fulfilled in many remarkable instances. [Here Elder Kimball narrated thrilling instances of the fulfillment of Prophecy on the battle field, during actions in which he was himself engaged, while in the late Indian war, in Utah; alluded to the one mentioned by Elder Ellsworth, bore testimony of wonderful manifestations of the power of God in delivering His servants, as he did the five hundred of Ammon, from death, in fulfillment of the prediction of President Young and his father Heber, and expressed a fervent desire to still live and help roll on the great work of the last days.]

Elder WILLIAM G. YOUNG—I will say that what my brethren have said is true, every word of it. My determination is to press forward, and obey all the counsel that has been given unto us. It is in our power to secure every blessing that has been promised to us. Then let us try and keep ourselves pure, let all try and go home as brother Samuel is going.

When cousin Franklin was speaking, I thought of a dream I had before we started from the Valley. I dreamed that uncle Brigham sent a number of us on a mission, and I saw that many of my brethren who are here to day were sent with us. We were sent across a large stream or body of water which lay east of Salt Lake City, and were commanded to go and cut the poles, and pile them, but not to cut any of the large timber until we should receive word from him, as he wished the large trees to remain until the season for bark peeling, when the logs could be sawn and the bark used for tanning. We went and cut the poles and piled them, by thousands, and I thought there was one brother whom we could scarcely restrain from cutting a large tree. He did strike his

axe into it, which caused me to feel very sorry, and I awoke. Let us be diligent, my brethren, to do that which we are commanded to do, and leave that alone entirely which we are commanded not to do.

Elder C. G. WEBB—I am thankful for the privilege of standing before you, but my feelings are such that I scarcely know what to say. Still I feel proud to stand before you, and I believe that if I had an assembled world before me I should be happy to speak to them upon the principles of the Gospel. In fact my whole interest is bound up with this people, and has been for nearly twenty years. I have been associated with this work when all has seemed to be over with it; I have now the privilege of seeing it occupying a position such as is filled by no other religious society upon the face of the earth. I have listened, with much pleasure, to the remarks of President Franklin, and I also believe that the influence of this Council will spread forth and be felt throughout the land.

Since my arrival in England I have seen many things among the Branches, that I have grieved over, but I have generally adopted the policy of putting away the evil, and saving the Saints, and I have great pleasure in finding that my labours have been blessed.

It is an easy matter to tell the people what they must do to be saved. But this is not enough; it is necessary that we should use an influence that will arouse them to do their duty. It has been my preaching all the time to save the people from their errors, and it has never been my lot to meet with a man that I could not labour with. There are men with whom it is easier to labour than with others. Some will scarcely go at all; some will go along by themselves; and I have met with men who could and would help me along. I have always tried to avoid misunderstandings with my brethren, for it is better to endure for a season than to give the Saints to know there are difficulties between the brethren.

Since I have been in this kingdom I have noticed how the Prophets of God act, and I find they try to act as much like the Almighty as possible. And I have learned the best way to get along is to endeavour to pull up all those who are below us. I believe it is important that those who hold the Priesthood should have cor-

rect views, for, in all places where I could get the Priesthood properly organized, the work has gone on well.

Pastor J. S. FULMER—I rejoice that I have been able to track so nearly the counsel that has been given this day. I am satisfied that the spirit of the Lord is with us, and this is a blessing to me; it is so to us all. I have thought the work was only just budding in these lands, and I am happy to learn the authorities have a similar view. The Elders who are labouring with me have concluded to take the Gospel among the farmers, to whom it has not been preached before. I have been spending my faith and time among the Saints, and the other Elders go among the strangers.

We ought to bring our minds into a state of subjection to those above us. To be sure we have a right to think when we think right, but we should endeavour to think as those think who are placed to preside over us. I rejoice to be with my brethren in this place, and I pray the Lord to bless us all.

President S. W. RICHARDS—I will speak of the emigration, so far as I may have had to do with it. I, together with Elder Spencer, thought it right to send off as many persons as possible during the last season. Last year we sent persons for £10 each. It was found to be a successful experiment, with the assistance of a little loan. With the advice of President Brigham Young, this year, we fixed the price at £13 per head. We also borrowed a little money, on the principle that two brethren advance £5 each, one of them to emigrate at once, and the other as soon as the money is paid back. By this means many have been sent out, and both the Church and the individuals have been benefitted.

We likewise proposed that all the Saints who could raise £10, and were willing to emigrate, should make a donation of it to the P. E. Fund, that they might show their disposition to help their poor brethren and sisters. Many responded to this call. It was also suggested that all who were in possession of means should lend it, so that I might be able to fulfill my promise to the Saints in lending £3 to each person who could raise £10. By these means we were enabled to assist at least one thousand persons who emigrated this year. I feel satisfied with what we have done, and I believe all is well. The money

lent the office will be returned in proper time. The object in gathering the Saints to the States is merely that they may be the better able to go to the Valley. All who can go through will be expected to do so. The brethren should not hold out promises to the Saints, that they will be emigrated at any particular time, for they may not be able to fulfill such promises.

Last winter many came to Liverpool without means to support themselves till the time of sailing. This was a matter of great expense to me. I hope the Elders will see that this is not the case in future, for everything which affects the interests of the Saints should be attended to with the utmost care.

Some of the Elders who are presiding may emigrate this next year; if so, I hope they will see that all financial affairs they may have to do with, are properly arranged before they leave. There have been some delinquencies in these things, and hence I speak of them.

There are some Saints whose names appear on the Church books, but they are not known. Some of the Elders have thought proper to cut such persons off from the Church. This is not right. No person should be cut off unless he has done something wrong, and will not repent. Those absent persons may, for aught we know, be in good standing, and circumstances may keep them away. Those, however, who are known, and will not do their duty, should be dealt with. I should think some means might be used, to find those Saints who are missing. For instance, their names might be published in the *Star*, and in this way we might find some of them.

In some Conferences a number of preachers are wanted. There are several brethren coming from the Valley, but still it will be necessary to ordain many native brethren, and send them forth, and let them go without purse or scrip. Let the Pastors and Presidents see that these things are attended to. This is the principle upon which we are to prove the world, and also the brethren. I fully approve of the remarks made yesterday, in reference to not ordaining men unless you have something for them to do.

It is not expected that the *Star* and other publications will be sold on credit. This arrangement has been violated, and hence the Conferences are in debt. The early numbers of the *Star* are generally

sold, and there is a falling off in the latter part of the volume. The design of the counsel given respecting returning the *Stars* to the Office, is not to give permission to hunt up all the odd numbers to make up complete volumes, but simply to return such complete volumes as have not been sold. Brethren, we have got to exercise our powers, that they may increase. And these things should be attended to in a proper manner. We ought always to feel that we are the servants of God, and that we have the Holy Priesthood. When we lose sight of our Priesthood, we are without influence of our own, and perhaps we shall be trying to lay hold of that which belongs to some other person.

I was pleased to hear Elder Glover speak of establishing Sunday Schools, and I am happy to say that the brethren in Liverpool are doing the same. I would recommend this to all the Pastors and Presidents. A very excellent Catechism, by Elder Jaques, has been published, which it would be wise to introduce into your schools.

A delinquent Book Agent can be dealt with wherever he may go, even if he should go to the Valley.

President F. D. RICHARDS—I desire the brethren to carry out the counsels of brother Samuel in reference to the establishment of schools. In thinking over the subjects that need to be spoken upon, I know not where to begin, nor where to end. But you know what should be done, for you have the spirit of your offices.

With regard to the American brethren returning home, I do not feel in a hurry to dismiss so many good men. You have come here for a good and glorious purpose, and you should be willing to stay until you have done a good work. I feel there is a great work to be done in this land, and it is a work that will enlarge your hearts and cause you to rejoice. Brethren, I want you to feel there is yet a great deal to be done in this country. It is your business to stay with the Saints, and teach them and build them up, and the young Elders should go out and preach to the world. I want my young brethren from America to go and try it a while, and I am sure they will find it so sweet that they will want to go again. I want them to go and preach the Gospel on Gospel principles, and then the spirit of the Gospel will be with them. Some have paid too little attention to this

principle, and hence there has been a lack of the Spirit.

Do not let anything of a pecuniary nature bedim your minds, but seek to know what the Lord would have you to do; and He who raiseth up and casteth down whom he pleases, will provide for all our necessities, for we must learn, if we have not, that it is good to trust in Him. Then let us maintain an eye single to the glory of God, let us seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all else that is good for us will come along in its own proper time and way. Beside, a little, with the blessing of God, and the blessings of His people upon it, is better than much with the injured feelings of the faithful. Yes, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than of a stalled ox and hatred therewith." Then let us take that course, in all our administrations among this people, that will prove to them that we are their deliverers; that we have come to bless them in every possible way; to administer to them forgiveness of sins, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit; to teach them to work righteousness, and increase in confidence towards each other; to guard their interests, and prevent unnecessary burdens being placed upon them; and if they are burdened with debts, &c., to aid them, by devising good and wholesome plans to get them paid off, and then to so counsel them, and manage their affairs for them, as to prevent their becoming so burdened again. And when you leave to go home to Zion, being thus free, they will feel free and joyful to do what they are justly able to do to help you to emigrate, and you will have the pleasure of feeling that you have left them in a free and prosperous condition, prepared to adopt and carry out any measures that may be presented by the Presidency, however unexpected. The prayers of the Saints will then follow you across the sea to Zion and bring lasting blessings upon you.

It is necessary that a general change be brought about with regard to these matters, in the Conferences; and when any President is about to emigrate he must see to it that he leaves no debts or responsibilities, except such as his successor, with the unanimous consent of the Conference, feels free to assume and carry out. Then all will have joy in their labours, the love of God will increase and abound in the hearts of the Saints, and they will greatly increase their love toward you.

Among all the evils which are entailed upon the human family there is one which has so deeply pervaded the human mind, that it is difficult for the Saints and Elders always to avoid its evil effects—that is, national distinction. Everything of this kind should be done away from among the Saints; and only those who are the most diligent to keep the commandments of God, and teach others to do so, should have our preference.

He who has made of one blood all nations of men that dwell upon the face of the earth, has undertaken an effectual cure of this evil by gathering the honest in heart from all nations to Zion. There they become one people, the people of God, uniting their efforts to build up His kingdom, throwing off their national distinctions, and imbibing from each other whatever is excellent and praiseworthy, no matter whatever nation he, she, or they may be from who possess it, while that which tends to division, discord, or death is studiously put away. Thus union and confidence are restored, and the Saints progress in solving the great heavenly problem of becoming *one*—a people unto God.

When an Elder is appointed to preside or labour in any Mission or Conference, it matters not which of the United Kingdoms he may be of, let the Saints receive him affectionately as the minister of God, and he shall be made a messenger of life unto them; and thus let us teach the Saints here in their own native land, to be diligent in overcoming and breaking down all these middle walls of partition which now tend to divide and distract, that the Saints may manifest when they get to Zion that they have been taught of God, and are worthy to be numbered with His people. It is necessary that the Saints be instructed in all their duties, that they may be faithful when they have not the Elders and Teachers constantly with them, that they may know how to lean upon the Lord in a dark and cloudy day. I feel that if I could, I would gladly carry them from here to the Valley, so that they might escape all the trials of the journey. But this is not the will of the Lord. They must have experience, they must be tried, they must learn for themselves whether they have got faith to stand and not be shaken from their foundation. It is because that many have not been sufficiently

tried, that they are so easily persuaded to leave the Valleys, after being gathered from Babylon, to go in pursuit of gold or other favourite objects. If they had passed through what those have who founded and established the gathering places in the mountains, they would be so thankful for such a place of rest from the persecution of their enemies, that nothing but a high sense of duty to their fellow men could induce them to leave their peaceful, blessed homes which God had there given them.

Concerning the item of doctrine alluded to by Elder Caffall and others, viz., that Adam is our Father and God, I have to say do not trouble yourselves, neither let the Saints be troubled about that matter. The Lord has told us in a revelation which he gave through the Prophet Joseph, January 19, 1841—"I deign to reveal unto my Church things which have been kept hid from before the foundation of the world, things that pertain to the dispensation of the fulness of times." (Doc. and Cov. sec. ciii. 13.) I would like to know where you will find Scripture to prove those things by, which have never before been revealed. Some seem to feel it their bounden duty to prove everything which belongs to our faith from the Bible, but I do not, and I will excuse you from all obligation to prove this from the old Scriptures, for you cannot, if you try. You may bring much collateral evidence from the Bible and other revelations that will dissipate objections, and serve to strengthen the position, but to directly and substantially prove it, as the world require, and as we can do the first principles, it will puzzle you to do it, and from henceforth we may expect more and more of the word of the Lord giving us instructions which are nowhere written in the old Scriptures. If we feel ourselves, or teach the Saints or the people generally, that we are only to believe that which can be proved from the Scripture, we shall never know much of the Lord ourselves, nor be able to teach the children of men to any very considerable extent. If, as Elder Caffall remarked, there are those who are waiting at the door of the Church for this objection to be removed, tell such, *the Prophet and Apostle Brigham has declared it, and that it is the word of the Lord.* That is vastly stronger proof than Christendom can give for much that they profess to believe. Tell the Saints that if this stone does not

seem to fit into the great building of their faith just now, to roll it aside. You can help them to roll it aside out of their way, so that they will not stumble against it while at their daily duties, and it will be but a very short time till they will find a place in their building where no other stone will fit, then it will be on hand all right, and will come into its place in the building without the sound of hammer or chisel.

The advancement of the Saints in their departure from the traditions of their fathers, has become so great, that the sudden transition from Babylon to Zion is more than many can bear. To acquire the truths of any science is a progressive work, and most especially is it so in acquiring a practical knowledge of the science of Theology, for, in the great school which heaven has established, the principles of life, salvation and exaltation, are matters of practical adaptation. There the axiom is laid down, that the past time of our life sufficeth us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, and students of that school are expected to do the will of God, learn the laws of heaven, and live in them. But this sudden filling up of old bottles with new wine sometimes proves disastrous to the bottles, and wasteful to the wine.

Israel, in the days of Moses, could not enter the rest of God, which was the fulness of his glory, therefore He gave them the law of carnal commandments and outward ordinances, which should be their school-master till it should bring them to Christ.

Such is the nature of men, and such the power of their traditions, that few can receive and walk in all the fulness of the revelations of God, until they have had a round of discipline and experience to prepare them for it; indeed the windows of heaven are already so widely opened, and the treasures of life so richly poured out, that in the hearts of many there is not room to receive them. In thus wonderfully blessing His people He expects wonders at their hands. He does indeed demand that the interest of His kingdom on earth shall be their first, great object of solicitude and toil; and to all the honest and pure, the return and complete establishment of the kingdom of God and His righteousness again on the earth is the great, favorite object for which they pray, labour, and toil with unceasing hungering and thirsting.

It is in view of the rapid advancement which the Saints in the valleys are making, and the still more rapid advancement which they will make henceforth, that the intermediate places of gathering are appointed in the States, where the Saints will be instructed progressively in those principles and doctrines which they can there receive and live in, and prepare themselves for their journey onward to the mountains; while those who cannot feel to adopt at once the full order of society as it exists in Zion, can dwell in this kind of intermediate or terrestrial glory till they prove themselves, and obtain faith to live by every word that proceeds from God and His servants, or find the way to be too straight and give up the race. This order of things presents, in beautiful gradation, an illustration of the three glories of the heavens. The terrestrial glory is typified by the moon, and as the moon *waxes* and *wanes*, becoming old and new, so with those Saints who leave this lower or old world and go there—they will either *wax* strong in God, and in the power of the Gospel, and go on to the Valley, the celestial, or they will *wane* in their faith, and turn back to the beggarly elements of the world, which is typified by the stars, like the dog to his vomit, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. All the faithful who can, will make sure of their passages from here direct through, and it will be my diligent effort to get as many through as possible, unless the plan of operation which will be furnished me shall prove otherwise.

While it is a primary object with the Saints to get through where they can receive instruction more fully, and make more permanent arrangements for a livelihood, it will also be better for many to get part way than to remain here, seeing they will be under the instruction and presidential care of one of the Twelve Apostles. Everything omens a more vigorous and energetic movement for the work of the Lord in gathering His people. Let us then be up and doing, be active in putting away all disobedience and impurity, that the Spirit of God may more abundantly lend us its gracious aid to carry on the glorious work.

Meeting closed with singing, and adjourned till 5 p.m. Prayer by President S. W. Richards.

(To be continued.)