

meeting all the elders of this conference, and so many of the Saints. He explained in regard to the duties of those assembled, and extended to all a hearty welcome.

Elder Cameron followed on the importance of believing in and practicing the same principles as were enunciated by Jesus and His apostles. Said nothing short of obedience to the same would save mankind in the

#### ETERNAL WORLD.

Quotations from the Bible were given proving his assertions.

Elder Bluth, the next speaker, dwelt for some length of time upon the great necessity of the Saints watching themselves in small offenses. The speaker made use of the illustration that an adept in masonry would not, in building a house for durability and symmetry, use the largest stones, but rather the smaller ones, which would be carefully hewn and placed in the structure with skill. And, as these small stones put together form a large and beautiful dwelling, so also will small faults if not checked they grow into a mountain of sin, which, in time, will completely wreck the individual. Where there is a fault or weakness, overcome it, and do not permit it to govern you. Prayer is the most potent agent we can employ in shaping ourselves for a life of usefulness, and we should never neglect this duty and privilege.

#### ELDER IRA W. HATCH

followed, bearing testimony to the Gospel which Joseph Smith, the Great Prophet of the nineteenth century, was the instrument in the hands of God of re-establishing on earth. None can escape the judgments of an offended God but by rendering obedience to the same, for the principles of the Gospel are eternal and unchangeable, and they afford the only avenue of escape for mortal man.

These principles cannot be understood but by the enlightening influences which come from God, for "what man knoweth the things of God but by the Spirit of God?" And in order to obtain the Holy Ghost, which was and is to guide into the way of all truth, man must submit to the ordinances upon which this blessing is predicated.

#### ELDER JESSE N. PERKINS,

the next speaker, felt thankful for the good circumstances and pleasant surroundings of the Elders and Saints at the present time. Spoke of the importance of all members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints "letting their light shine" that others thereby may be made partakers of the heaven-born principles of the everlasting Gospel, and of setting an example in faithfulness and moral courage.

President John Morgan delivered a very interesting and instructive address on the proclamation of the Elders of Israel and the result following the acceptance or rejection of their divine message. The speaker quoted from the Gospel according to St. Mark, 16th chapter and 16th verse: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned." Said God is no respecter of persons and it is within the reach of every individual born on the earth to save or condemn himself. One cannot save or damn another. In regard to religious belief and worship, man is

#### RESPONSIBLE TO GOD ALONE.

We have our agency in these matters, but the Author of our being will hold us responsible for the actions committed here on this planet. "He that obeys the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be saved," is only a part of the decree of an All-wise Creator. The remainder is this: "He that believeth not shall be damned." It is as necessary to heed the latter proclamation as the former, as by our unbelief we are damned, or cut short of blessings, because without belief there is nothing to incite us to action. Thus our progress is stopped by unbelief.

Conference was dismissed by Elder S. H. Head.

At 2 p. m. conference was again called to order. Elder Corroll was the first speaker. His remarks were confined to the importance of the Saints obeying the Word of Wisdom as given through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Elder Houston, the next speaker, quoted 2 John, verse ix, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." Said there is but one Gospel, and that is the power of God unto salvation to every one that will submit to the laws and ordinances therein contained. The speaker referred to the testimonies which had been borne by the Elders that had spoken previously, and asked the hearers to prayerfully consider them and what had been spoken.

Elder Wright of the West Tennessee Conference, being present by invitation, said it was a pleasure to him to meet the elders and a few of the Saints of East Tennessee. He read from Luke 23d chapter, where

#### A DIALOGUE

took place between Jesus Christ and the thief on the cross. As the promise, "today shalt thou be with me in paradise," made by Jesus while on the cross to one of the malefactors, affords so much happiness to a class of baptism-deniers. The speaker dwelt on that point for some time, proving the fallacy of the belief that "the thief went straight to heaven."

President Morgan was the last speaker. Many people believe that death reforms the individual, but the speaker said this was an er-

roneous belief. Said the effects of habits contracted here will follow us beyond the grave unless repented of. When death separates the spirit and body separate, the former goes to the land of spirits, while the latter decomposes and returns to the mother earth. But while the body is here, and after the spirit has taken its flight, it cannot be tempted. The man may have been a thief and yet his body would not steal; or a drunkard and now the liquor, that would have been so tempting during the time the spirit inhabited the mortal part, is rejected. Thus we can see that it is the spirit—immortal part—of the drunkard that craves the drink. What we are here we shall be hereafter, unless a reformation takes place; therefore it is very necessary that evils should be corrected here.

Benediction by Elder Heber K. Perkins.

Sunday, October 9th.—Promptly at 10 a. m. conference convened. President Perkins was the first speaker. He said the Spirit of God is not manifested in contention but in peace, longsuffering and gentleness; therefore the Elders have not come here to rob you of your rights and liberties, but to unfold, in a God-fearing manner, the principles of the Gospel of Christ. The speaker's words were replete with the spirit of "peace and good will towards men."

Elder Daybell followed on the inconsistency of

#### "DEATH BED REPENTANCE."

Proved by the "law and the testimony" that baptism was and is essential to salvation. Bore testimony to the truth of the Gospel as taught by the Latter-day Saints.

Elder Willard Hatch, the next speaker, said there is no way by which salvation can be attained except that which the Savior has pointed out, and they who seek to climb up any other way will be counted as thieves and robbers, and punished accordingly. Exhorted all to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.

President Morgan then addressed the congregation. He prefaced his discourse by reading the parable of the sower, Matthew, 13th chapter. The evils of prejudice were held up to view in a word-picture by the speaker, and the condition of the people in this, the Wilson County field of labor and the parable given were compared. By the glances exchanged among a number of the listeners we would say that Elder Morgan had "hit the nail on the head" in his illustration. The congregation then sang the hymn on page 165, "Do what is right let the consequence follow."

Prother Pierce Simmons pronounced the benediction.

At 2 p. m. the conference assembly was again called to order by President Perkins. Elder J. W. Baroes was then called to address the congregation. After touching on the history ordinances of the Gospel, the speaker dwelt upon the great importance of having authority from God before our acts in His name would be acknowledged in the heavens. Jesus said to His apostles: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you." This order has been somewhat changed by the Christian world, and now many men call themselves to the ministry. But what they seal on earth will not be sealed in heaven. Paul detected the imposture in the case of the Ephesian Saints (Acts 19) and they, as a consequence, were rebaptized. The promises made to Joseph, through Ephraim his son, were referred to, and a copious supply of Scripture was produced, proving the divinity of the Book of Mormon.

#### ELDER HEAD

was the next speaker. He read from Luke xvii, 26: "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man." The situation in the days of Noah was in part elucidated, and the condition of the nineteenth century was compared with the days immediately prior to the flood.

Singing.

The closing prayer was offered by Elder Wright.

Elders Wm. Daybell and John V. Bluth were released to return home, the former having been absent over 23 months, while the latter was released on account of poor health.

Five council meetings were held during the two days, and in them much profitable instruction was given by Presidents Morgan and Perkins. The conference is in a very good condition, and for this much credit is due Elder Perkins for his efficient labors as president over the same.

Another feature of the conference worthy of mention was the good treatment received by the Elders at the hands of the Saints and friends in the vicinity of Baird's Mills.

S. H. HEAD,  
Clerk of Conference.

## CONFERENCE IN TENNESSEE.

Joyful Re-union of Saints and Missionaries.

BAIRD'S MILLS, Wilson Co.,  
Tennessee, Oct. 11, 1887.

### Editor Deseret News:

On Saturday and Sunday, October 8th and 9th, the Elders of this, the East Tennessee Conference, held their annual two-days' meeting at the above place, in the Saints' meeting-house; and, as the event was truly an enjoyable one for the Elders and Saints, I will proceed to give a brief synopsis of the same.

There were present, Elder John Morgan, President of the Southern States Mission, Elias S. Wright, president of the West Tennessee conference, Heber K. Perkins, president of this conference, and traveling Elders, J. W. Barnes, Willard Corroll, William Daybell, Jesse N. Perkins, Joseph Houston, Ira W. Hatch, Joseph Cameron, John V. Bluth, Willard Hatch, and S. H. Head.

On Saturday at 10 a. m. meeting was called to order, and after singing a hymn, prayer was offered by Elder J. W. Barnes, singing "Joy to the World."

President Perkins then spoke a few minutes, expressing his pleasure in