

Deseret Alphabet.

The circumstances attending the introduction of the Deseret Alphabet are similar in their character to the reception which usually attends innovations upon an established system, whether scientific, theological or philosophical. The originators of every new system have always encountered the prejudices which flow as a consequence out of the existing ignorance of the newly discovered system or invention.

Discoveries in science have been regarded as emanating from a desire to push a favorite hobby into notice, and in some cases the prejudices have been so strong, that the men who have dared exhibit some system that heaven has enlightened their minds about, have been incarcerated in a dungeon. The penalty however differs according to the character of the judges, and the more tolerant merely pass by in silence that which ought to elicit their warmest admiration, and immediate adoption. There are however some few minds that at a glance discern merit; and these few encourage the genius to bring forth his productions.

In the new alphabet one character frequently represents sounds that three are required by the present system, as in L eth, Þ the D esh &c, this necessarily must effect a saving of time in writing.

Many of the sounds of the Deseret Alphabet are in unison with the natural sounds expressed by the infant learner; while on the contrary in the present alphabet the learner is compelled to believe that "tion" spells shon. In spelling the word child the little ones will spell che-i-l-d. Not che, says the tutor, that's wrong; say c-h-i-l-d.

The form of the characters of the new alphabet are evidently better than the looped and long tailed letters as in l, h, g, &c. Very much time is spent in making these looped letters. The child in making the letter d, first makes an o, and fails to bring the back stroke up the d to meet the right side of the o to form the d.

I really know the adoption of the Deseret Alphabet will be a boon to all who use it, and the learner as he advances in his studies realizes this truth. It is a set of characters expressing the sounds used in language; and those characters are easily formed. The adoption of this system must greatly facilitate the student in his pursuit of literature and science.

A. B.

MINUTES

Of a Seventies' Conference, held in the Tabernacle at Lehi City, commencing on Saturday, March 3d, at 10 a.m.

Meeting opened with singing by the choir. Prayer by Elder McOlney.

On motion of Thos. McKenzie, John Brown was appointed president and James Harwood, clerk.

The meeting was addressed by Prest. Brown and Elders McKenzie, McArthur and Smith. They made many good and appropriate remarks upon the duties of a Saint and the blessings to be obtained by a strict obedience to the gospel.

Adjourned till 2 p.m.

2 P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Singing by the choir and prayer by Elder S. F. Driggs.

In the course of the afternoon the conference was addressed by Elders McOlney, S. F. Driggs, M. Phelps, Prest. Brown and Bishop David Evans on various subjects relating to the welfare of the Saints and their duties from day to day.

Adjourned till 6:30 p.m.

6:30 P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Singing by the choir. Prayer by Elder John Fawcett.

Elders M. Farnsworth, L. H. Hatch and S. White addressed the meeting.

Adjourned till Sunday, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, March 4, 10 a.m.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Singing. Prayer by Elder McArthur.

Elder P. Thomas addressed the conference followed by Bishop Harrington of Lake City. Adjourned till 2 p.m.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Singing. Prayer by Elder C. Peterson.

The meeting was then addressed by Bishop Walker upon the object of our gathering to this place and upon the principle of obedience and was followed by Elder McArthur and Bishop David Evans, mostly on the subject of marriage.

Prest. Brown said he was well pleased with the good Spirit that prevailed during the conference; encouraged those present to appreciate and profit by the instructions imparted. Made some remarks upon the necessity of the presidents of quorums being diligent in looking after those under their care.

It was moved and carried that a copy of the minutes of this conference be sent to the Editor of the DESERET NEWS for publication.

On motion, conference adjourned sine die. Benediction by Prest. Brown.

JAMES HARWOOD,
Clerk.

JOHN BROWN,
President.