

Philadelphia Branch Records (1840-1854)

--original record book at RLDS Research Library and Archives

--titled "Minutes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Philadelphia"

--branch organized on December 23, 1839

pp. 2-4x: "Minutes of a Conference held at Philadelphia. January 13th 1840x.

"The conference was organized by appointing Brother Joseph Smith Jr President & S Bennett Sec'y Brother Parley P. Pratt introduced the project of Printing the Book of Mormon he mentioned that at a Conference held in New York a resolution was agreed upon and a committee appointed to print the same in New York, subject however to the consent of the proprietor of the copyright and that he now submitted the matter for reconsideration. Brother Sidney Rigdon stated that he had considered the matter and that he had come to the conclusion that the most prudent course would be to print the same in the west among the brethren and thereby keep the profits in the Society and especially to nurture the new printing establishment. Was willing however to submit the will of the conference. Brother Winchester thought the delay necessarily arising out the distance between the supply ~~xxx~~ & the principal source of consumption an objection to printing in the West. Brother Everett wished to ask Brother Rigdon what the expense of fitting up the establishment in the West would be Brother R. thought it would not exceed the sum /p. 3/ of two or three hundred dollars. Brother P.P. Pratt would mention the fact that the printing could be proceeded with immediately here and delay would be injurious to the work here where it would be indispensable. Brother Smith would say that Brothers Ivans /sic/ thought it would be wisdom to ~~xx~~ print i in the West and that he Brother S. approved of that disposition of the affair Brother Pratt then mentioned that he wished the whole matter referred the High Council of the Church. Brother Everett seconded the proposition. It was then put to vote and carried unanimously. Brother Rigdon then introduced the mission of the brethren to Washington and the pecuniary embarrassments under which they were Labouring. Brother P P Pratt argued the importance of the interests invilved in the mission to the whole Church and every man in or out of the Church. Conference adjourned at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Oclock reassembled at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.M. Brothers Dixon & Sleeper were ordained Elders Brother Joseph Smith Jr dilated at some length on the offices of the Priesthood and on the duties of Elders, Bishops, Priests, & and directed it should be entered on the minutesx as the injunction of the Presidency that travelling Elders should be especially cautious of encroaching on the ground of stationed & presiding Elders and rather direct their efforts to breaking up and occupying new ground and that the Church generally refuse to be burthened with the support of unprofitable and dilatory labourers. It was unanimously resolved /p. 4/ that this ~~xx~~ be received as the will and wish of the Conference."

--on Nov 16, 1840, Benjamin Winchester is reinstated to his position as Presiding Elder of Philadelphia Branch, having returned from a mission in Great Britain

--on. 11-12: the personal disagreements between Benjamin Winchester and Almon Babbitt were presented to a meeting of the Church on Monday, evening, March 15, 1841, where the specifics of the conflict were not mentioned in the minutes, but the indication being that the conflict arose out of personal disagreements, and the decision was jointly made by the two men to forgive and forget, with the following decision by the branch on p. 12: "On a vote being taken the Church declared with uplifted hands that they also would drop the matter. Thus was the hatchet buried, peace restored, and a curse pronounced upon any wonton hand who should dare to drag it forth again..."