self on the ground that he is building
himself a barn. Now, this is so reason-
able that I think we will excuse him, at
any rate until he gets it finished. Per-
haps we will find some who have married
wives, others who have bought a yoke of
oxen, and because of this they cannot go.

There is no necessity for the brethren
hurrying away. They can go down this
Fall, tarry through the Winter, and be
prepared for the Spring. We shall excuse
those who ought to be excused, and es-
pecially if they are building barns. As
for those who have been there and have
left, we expect to see the time that they
will wish they had stayed there; and that
those who have been called and have not
gone will wish they had done so.

There are a few items I wish to lay
before the Conference before we dis-
miss, which I think we shall do when
we get through our meeting this after-
noon. One of these items is to present
to the congregation the Deseret Alph-
bet. We have now many thousands of
small books, called the first and second
readers, adapted to school purposes, on
the way to this city. As soon as they ar-
rive we shall distribute them through-
out the Territory. We wish to intro-
duce this alphabet into our schools, con-
sequently we give this public notice. We
have been contemplating this for years.
The advantages of this alphabet will
soon be realized, especially by foreigners.
Brethren who come here knowing noth-
ing of the English language will find its
acquisition greatly facilitated by means
of this alphabet, by which all the sounds
of the language can be represented
and expressed with the greatest ease.
As this is the grand difficulty for-
ners experience in learning the English
language, they will find a knowledge
of this alphabet will greatly facilitate
their efforts in acquiring at least a par-
tial English education. It will also be
very advantageous to our children. It
will be the means of introducing unifor-
mity in our orthography, and the years
that are now required to learn to read
and spell can be devoted to other stud-
ies.

I wish to call the attention of our
sisters to our Relief Societies. We are
happy to say that many of them have
done a great deal. We wish them to con-
tinue and progress. During this Confer-
ence, many of the ladies have worn very
nice straw hats of home manufacture.
This is commendable, and this course
should be persevered in, until our hats
and dresses are the workmanship of our
own hands. To my view no trimming for
a hat looks more beautiful than a nice
straw rosette, bow, or button; it looks
better than a feather or artificial flower.
In our Relief Societies we wish to intro-
duce many improvements. We wish our
sisters of experience to teach the young
girls not to be so anxious for the grati-
fication of their imaginary wants, but to
confine themselves more to their real ne-
necessities. Fancy has no bounds, and I of-
ten think it is without form and come-
liness. We are too apt to give way to
the imagination of our hearts, but if we
will be guided by wisdom, our judgment
will be corrected, and we will find that
we can improve very much. We can im-
prove the language we use. I want my
children to use better language than I
sometimes use. Still, I have thought as
the prophet Joseph has said, when you
speak to a people or person you must
use language to represent your ideas, so
that they will be remembered. When
you wish the people to feel what you
say, you have got to use language that
they will remember, or else the ideas are
lost to them. Consequently, in many in-