

ing in contact with the earth that stains and discolors our lives.

We profess to be, and are, the children of Abraham; not in a mystical or figurative sense, but in reality. Our progenitors were scattered through many nations, and we believe that God had a purpose in view in sprinkling the nations with their blood. The question may be asked: why was it necessary to sprinkle many nations with the blood of Israel? The answer is, that this blood might be a preservative. The children of Abraham are the salt of the earth. Salt is a preserving element. The children of Abraham, though widely scattered, are being steadily gathered. In response to the call of the servants of God, they come to Zion, "one of a city and two of a family" in fulfillment of prophecy. Why is this? It is because the spirit of God rests upon their minds and finds response in their hearts no matter to what nation they belong. This sprinkling of the blood of Israel among all nations, though a seeming calamity, will be the means of blessing all nations. God promised that through Abraham all the nations of the earth should be blessed. This was chiefly fulfilled in the birth and mission of the Savior, though only in part. If we are the children of Abraham we must do the works of Abraham. "We are the salt of the earth, but if the salt hath lost its savor wherewith shall the earth be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." We are also "the light of the world," and "a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." Men do not "light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, where it gives light unto all that are in the house." These are deep sayings, and worthy to ponder over in our most serious considerations. They are filled with the spirit and force of truth. Being Abraham's children, we must do the works of Abraham. He was required to leave kindred and country and all the associations of youth. In this respect the Latter-day Saints have done the works of Abraham. Here are men and women from all parts of the world who have left their native lands, their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and other loved ones, to gather to Zion. Those of us who would not do this are not worthy of the blessings of the Lord. Many of us who have been born and reared in this mountain region have not been tried in this respect, but rest assured, those of us who have not been thus tried, will have the test applied in some other manner. God will pass us through the mill, that our harsher feelings may be ground away.

Abraham was given a child of promise. All his hopes were centered in that son; and yet he was called upon to sacrifice him. We read this flipantly, not understanding its full significance. The history we have of it is only brief. The Bible is but an abridgement of great events. We are not told of the terrible struggle this command cost Abraham; we do not read of the pathetic account of Sarah's breaking heart while passing through this ordeal. Some will say, it is easy enough to do as Abraham did, when you know that God has commanded it. I do not believe but that Abraham

was tested in this matter just as you and I might be now. How was he able to tell that his informant was not an angel of the Evil One? Satan can appear as an angel of light, and can deceive the natural eye. He can speak with the tongue of an orator, and thus deceive the natural ear. It was doubtless the Holy Spirit that convinced Abraham.

The strength of a chain was its weakest link. A shrewd general marshals his hosts so as to attack the enemy at the weakest point in his fortifications. Satan is a wily and skilful general and attacks the human family where they are least able to repel him.

The speaker closed by saying that a day of sacrifice and consecration was coming. A day of unity and equality would follow. The faithful alone would be able to stand when the Lord of Hosts should appear, for he would be "like a refiner's fire and as fullers' soap," and would purge men from their iniquity, and all those who were purified would go back to heaven whence they came.

Apostle A. H. Lund

said: I earnestly desire that I may be able to address you with the same spirit as the preceding speaker. The work of God is spreading, and the people are improving. They are securing testimonies for themselves, and are thus learning to know God, whom to know is life eternal. Most of this congregation has received the testimony that God has restored His work in this age. The knowledge we have received is not enough. We are not warranted in sitting supinely down and neglecting our duties. Life, with all its battles, is before us. If we do what is right victory is assured us. It is good for us to have struggles.

The gathering was a theme on which the prophets of God in ancient days loved to dwell. Israel was scattered, and the country made desolate. The curse of God was upon the country. For a long time it was incapable of sustaining a population. But a change is taking place. This is the day of the restitution of all things. Since the servants of God were sent to the Holy Land, shortly after the ushering in of the present dispensation, to bless it and dedicate it and set it apart for the return of the posterity of its ancient inhabitants, a mighty revolution has been wrought in the climatic and other conditions of that historic country. The emancipation of the Jews has commenced. The day is hastening to ward us when these unfortunate and despoiled exiles will return with rejoicing to the land of their forefathers.

Elder B. H. Roberts

addressed the meeting as follows: In attending a quarterly conference in an adjacent Stake of Zion recently I took occasion to remark that the gathering reminded me somewhat of a sight I once witnessed in the House of Commons in Great Britain. The House had resolved itself into a committee of the whole in order to more successfully discuss and consider certain problems which confronted the English nation; that laws might be legislated and enacted that were calculated to advance the best interests of the people. So with the people who had assembled in that Stake. They had met to take in-

to account the questions that interested them most; that they might give and receive such instruction as would be for their best good. This conference is held for a similar purpose. But it differs from the operations of the House of Commons in that it is of infinitely more importance, because it not only concerns our temporal welfare but our spiritual as well. The instructions given will not only effect men in time, but in eternity also. This comparison may sound like egotism to strangers, but it is nothing more than the declaration of a truth. In making this statement we are not indulging in boastful talk. In proof of this, I refer them to the principles taught in our meeting this morning. Our instructions may cause a smile of derision and contempt to flit across the features of the unthinking, but we care not for that. We are ever ready and willing to defend that which tends to the temporal or spiritual welfare of mankind. The importance of the work of God does not depend on individual testimony. We point to results and ask the world to ponder. The achievements of the Saints in these mountain valleys are such as should strike the world with admiration. Poverty-stricken and weary they entered these vales, but by complying with the principles taught in this conference they have been made the most prosperous and contented people on the globe. On the arrival of the Latter-day Saints on this valley nothing but arid wastes were seen. But the streams were taken from the mountains; the wastes were watered, and today happy homes are surrounded by productive vineyards, heavily laden orchards and fields that yield astonishing returns.

There is to my mind no grander philosophy than the Gospel of Christ. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him." As a logical sequence, repentance follows. In its proper order comes baptism, after which we stand cleansed of our misdeeds. Our bodies, which are the tabernacles of God, and are then ready for the reception of the Spirit of truth which makes us children of light. These principles are true and it is important that the world should know them. The knowledge of these doctrines must eventually flood the earth.

Statesmen may devise means, nations may seek to bring about certain conditions for the welfare of man. But it is necessary to work from within, not from without. I know of no other scheme that will ameliorate the condition of man as well as the Gospel of Christ.

The choir sang the anthem:

Let the mountains shout for joy, after which the congregation arose and joined in singing the "Doxology."

The benediction was pronounced by Apostle F. M. Lyman.

A PRIESTHOOD MEETING

was held in the evening, beginning at 7 o'clock. It was probably the largest gathering of the kind ever held since the organization of the Church in this dispensation. The speakers were, in the order in which they addressed the assemblage, Presidents George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith and Wilford Woodruff. The themes dwelt upon