

bued with the inspiration of the Spirit of Truth.

There has been an idea among men, from the commencement of the faith which we have espoused, that its devotees were laboring under a delusion, and that the doctrines held by the Latter-day Saints would not stand the test of civilization; that as soon as the revelations given to the youthful Prophet Joseph Smith were brought in contact with the systems of the world, the deception would be manifest. It was thought that with the removal of the Prophet and his personal influence the system would fall to pieces. This idea has not yet ceased to exist. The opinion was also held that the death of Brigham Young would break the system in pieces and make it impossible for us to maintain the distinct standing we had in the early time, when we established our homes in the Rocky Mountain region. But it was discovered that the death of the Prophet Joseph did not have the deleterious effect upon the work anticipated. There appeared on the scene men capable of leading the people, and they were continually inspired with respect and love for the doctrines introduced by Joseph Smith, and although many were disappointed, who claimed to be Latter-day Saints, in the death of the Prophet, because they thought it next to impossible that his life could be taken, yet the mass of the people had received the testimony of the Spirit of God and understood the course they should pursue. The latter were never shaken in their faith. The experiences of those days are remembered by only a small portion of the Latter-day Saints now living. But these will recollect how the Church, with Brigham Young at the head, notified the world that the Elders would continue the work, and that there was no necessity for any break in the regulations for the establishment of the people in the principles of the Gospel. Amidst adversity and trials, the community being mobbed and robbed, they started westward, and for many years were able to congregate together and enjoy the wise instructions of Brigham Young. Peace reigned within our borders until we were falsely accused of being in rebellion against the government, and of having destroyed the records of the courts. Up to this time we had enjoyed ourselves in the principles of the Gospel as, in a measure, a distinct people. True, there were those among us, who were not of our faith and who came in the early times, and in some instances they still remain here and enjoy the privileges and prosperity attending us.

When food and clothing were scarce and we were surrounded with hostile tribes, the power and influence of our great leader were felt, more than it may be today, possibly. For then we were few compared with what we now are. The circumstances surrounding us then required an exercise of power not now necessary. The wisdom of the counsel of President Young who founded this commonwealth was seen when he urged the necessity for the people to gather in villages and protect themselves. This we can now understand, but very few can comprehend the great responsibility that rested on his shoulders. The same remark applies to the

methods adopted in procuring food, clothing and other necessities. For then, to waste food meant starvation, and not to take care of clothing was to suffer from exposure to the cold.

Since our sojourn in our mountain home, States have grown up north, east and west of us. Savage tribes who formerly used to come in upon us from all sides to steal our cattle, are now comparatively harmless. When they were hostile we were taught not to retaliate, but our duty was to feed, cloth and educate them as far as we possibly could. It was as much a crime to shed a red man's blood as that of a white man. The great man who stood at the head of the Church lived and labored for the development of this land, in order that peace might prevail and we learn to practice the principles of the Gospel as revealed to us in our day. The world did not understand the spirit in which the people gathered in the days of Brigham Young, but they believed it possible to scatter them if they could destroy the leader. He passed away peacefully, however, after many years of successful administration as President of the Church.

President Brigham Young was followed by other brethren. No special change transpired through his removal. The Saints continued to labor everywhere in the same spirit as before. We grew in numbers and exercised every right belonging to us. The feeling of the country was worked up against us, and a spirit of hatred, jealousy and strife was engendered in our nation largely through misrepresentation and misunderstanding. We have endured a terrible strain of late years. The government wanted to suppress certain conditions among us, as our fellow citizens seemed to feel that we were not as they wished us to be. But we have accepted the conditions imposed upon us. Wisdom and prudence guided the counsels given to the people. They knew why they had gathered, and hoped all the time that their grievances would be corrected by lawful means. This had been tried, and the battle was all the time fought within the constitutional limits, the Saints being all the time determined to be in harmony with its principles.

There have been changes in the leadership of the Church, and I hope these have not affected the faith of the Latter-day Saints. We have met in a manly way the demands of our government touching the tenderest chords in human nature. No other people would have submitted to such conditions without being dismembered, but our Father has relieved us of the responsibility of contravening the laws of this or any other country in the world. The Spirit bears testimony to the wisdom of this movement, and the Saints, who will seek diligently to know the truth, will perceive that they are on the right side. We have gone through the experiences of the past. The work has progressed and we are in a position to transmit our knowledge to our posterity and impress upon them never to forsake the faith, but to continue to warn the world to escape from the wrath to come.

It makes no difference who may lead the Church, or what our conditions may be, if we only stand in com-

munion with God. For He will instruct us what to do in all emergencies. The work was in some degree dependent upon Joseph Smith in his time, and afterwards on Brigham Young, for these were chosen instruments to establish us in this region. Now we are here, and we are surrounded by many who are not in harmony with us. The views and rights of such should be as sacred to us as our own, and I trust that our rights will be sacred to those with whom we have to associate. I trust the people will prove themselves equal to all emergencies of the future, as they have to those of the past, until they shall have accomplished their great mission on the earth.

Men have misunderstood us, not knowing that we have accepted our mission from the Lord, to warn the world and to point out the pathway to eternal life. We have no strange doctrines. We believe in Christ and in all the principles which he taught. These tend to exalt men. They teach us to love our fellowmen, and I think I can say that we have exhibited this love as much as any people on the earth, and though misunderstood, we have the approval of our consciences that we have done our duty to the best of our ability. Utah has been the home of the poor, and even those who have spoken evil against us have had the benefit of our work.

I have the satisfaction of knowing that Christ is the Redeemer of the world, and that the principles he taught are those by which men can be saved and exalted. The Gospel must go forth unto the ends of the earth, until all have heard it and either received or rejected it, and only by faithfully carrying out this work can we be redeemed from the blood of our fellowmen.

#### PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

made a few closing remarks, urging the Saints to observe the monthly fast days. The intention of these fast observances was that the Saints should bring their offerings together for the benefit of the poor. If each family would faithfully do this, the reasonable wants of the needy would be supplied without it being necessary to apply to the Church for funds for this purpose.

The choir sang the anthem,

Song of the Redeemed.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder George Goddard.

Prince Carl, the third son of King Oscar, was thirty years of age February 27.

Adam Itzel, musical director of the McCaul Opera Company, and composer of the "Tar and the Tartar," while in a sleeping car between Pittsburgh and Chicago, had his clothes stolen. He was forced to lie in his berth and make the best of the thing until he arrived in Chicago. All the stores, of course, were closed on Sunday when he arrived, and Mr. Itzel, clad in his unmentionables and what little else he could find, got into a carriage and was driven to the Jackson Street entrance of the Leland Hotel, where he sent for a blanket, a request which almost paralyzed Clerk Kennedy. He got the blanket.