

DESERT NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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WEDNESDAY, - OCT. 11, 1882.

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

Thursday, Oct. 5, 1882.
10 o'clock a. m.

In response to an invitation by the First Presidency, a goodly number of the officers and members of the Church met in the Tabernacle. The First Presidency, several of the Twelve Apostles and many leading men and Bishops were present.

President Taylor called the meeting to order.

Choir sang:

Let Zion in her beauty rise,
Her light begins to shine.

Prayer was offered by Pres. George Q. Cannon.

Choir sang:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR

Said he was very pleased to meet with the Saints this morning. The weather seemed to be a little unpropitious, and many people appeared to be afraid to come out because of the cold. He did not know but they were just as correct in their ideas as those who had turned out to meeting. Nevertheless those who were present exhibited their desire to associate with the Saints of God, and to listen to the principles of eternal truth. It was thought, wisdom not to prolong the meeting this morning on account of the cold. He proposed, therefore, to adjourn until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when the meeting would be held in the Assembly Hall, where all who could get in would be comfortable. It was impossible to meet there this morning as it took some time to warm the place. He and his brethren had a desire to make things as comfortable as possible all the time. We would try to fear God and work righteousness, obey His laws and keep His commandments, and thus have the spirit and blessing and power of God to be in our midst. He would say to the Saints assembled, that the God of Israel was with His people, and would be with them, and it was for them to do right, fear God and keep His commandments. He concluded by blessing all Israel, and all who loved Israel, and exhorting the Saints to be faithful in all things.

The choir sang the anthem:

Glory to God.

Meeting was adjourned till 2 o'clock, in the Assembly Hall.

Benediction by President Joseph F. Smith.

2 p. m.

Meeting was held in the Assembly Hall which was comfortably warmed.

The choir sang:

Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire.

Prayer Elder Lorenzo Snow.

The choir sang:

O Jesus the giver
Of all we enjoy.

ELDER W. WOODRUFF

Said the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized 52 years ago, on the 6th of last April, and since that time it has furnished a grand school for the Elders of Israel to be educated in, not only in doctrine but in the principles of government. The Priesthood is one of the most delicate and important gifts that was ever conferred upon man on the earth. There are many called and but few chosen. Many have been called not only to the Aaronic but the Melchisedec Priesthood. The Prophet Joseph organized the Church in 1830 and the world have been afraid of it ever since. He organized it by revelation. He had no power to accomplish what he did except on the principle of revelation. The inspiration of Almighty God is the only power by which any of us in our day can do anything towards the

building up of the kingdom of God. All that was ever spoken and placed on record by the ancient prophets and patriarchs was under the influence of the Holy Ghost; and all their prophecies, if they are not fulfilled, will be fulfilled in the due time of the Lord. Adam spoke by the Holy Ghost, and his words will be accomplished. God will not disappoint the expectations of His Saints. He has set His hand to carry out the great programme of the last days. The nearer we get to the Lord the more faith we have, and the farther we are off from Him the less our faith will be and the more likely we are to go into darkness. It requires faith in God to endure the tribulations through which the Saints are called to pass and to believe that all things will be fulfilled spoken of by the Prophets. There are tens of thousands who know that this is the work of God. There is no power beneath the heavens that can prevent the purposes of God being accomplished; What is the matter with the world and the cause of its opposition to this work? It simply arises from the fact that God has set His hand to build up His kingdom and that is the reason why the ministers of religion and others fight it as they have done from the beginning. He then testified to the good counsel that Joseph Smith and Brigham Young had always given to him and to others. He testified that neither President Young nor any of the leaders of the people had anything to do in the massacre at Mountain Meadows, but he heard the report of John D. Lee who never intimated that he had taken any part in the dreadful deed, and he also heard President Young condemn the act and express deep sorrow that so much innocent blood had been shed in this Territory. The Elders of Israel have never been instructed to take life or the property of others but to become saviors of men upon Mount Zion, and they had never been counseled to do any act which would not bear the light of heaven and the records of the earth.

Elder Woodruff spoke of the power and influence of tradition with which so many of our people have had to contend. The God of heaven looks to the Elders of this people to aid and assist Him in carrying out His purposes. The Elders should be awake to the responsibilities that rest upon them at the present time. He referred to many of the sayings of the Prophet Joseph and the revelations that came through him. If we did not build up this kingdom we should be rejected ourselves. He had no doubt about the ultimate triumph of this work, neither had he any doubt about the fulfillment of these revelations that God has given through His servants in these days. He spoke of the new birth of all who embrace the Gospel, which takes away the fear of death. He also related a few incidents in his own experience. The work that the Elders of this church are called to perform is such that if faithfully done, will entitle them to glory, honor and immortality in the world to come.

He then spoke with regret of the course our Government is now taking in sowing seeds that will bring a harvest of trouble, and if they did not repent, they would reap anguish and death. Referring to the increase of evil in the world, he said he was 20 years old before there ever was a murder committed in the State where he was born, and now every daily paper teems with the record of every kind of evil committed in the land. He exhorted all to faithfulness, and prayed that the Spirit of God may be with the Elders of Israel during the Conference.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW.

Spoke of the invaluable aid of the Holy Spirit in the imparting of true intelligence to the human mind. He read extracts from the Book of Esther, and related the particulars of the conspiracy against the Jews in the 127 provinces of Media and Persia, and their salvation wrought out through faith, fasting and prayer, and the diligence and self-sacrifice of Queen Esther. He showed that in the providences of God described in the Bible, Testament and Book of Mormon, there is a striking analogy between the special deliverances that God effected for His people anciently, and those that have been made manifest towards the Latter-day Saints in our day. And that would also be the case in the future. Wherever danger has appeared imminent towards the people of God, either in ancient

or in modern times, some means have been manifested just in time to avert the impending evil. But in order to secure these deliverances the people of God must be found in the discharge of those duties required at their hands. He spoke of the experience of some of the ancient worthies, and the power with which they were inspired. Some people thought that this work would be overthrown, but all faithful Saints that keep the commandments of God know to the contrary. The knowledge of the principles of the Gospel which we have received fills us with hope and faith in reference to the future of this work. He spoke of the manifestation of a resurrected being to John the Revelator while on the Isle of Patmos, and a similar manifestation to Joseph Smith and others in the Kirtland Temple, which constitute testimonies that God lives and has an oversight of His people, that the world are ignorant of. A knowledge of those principles that come from the eternal worlds, will enable men and women to stand firm and steadfast to the faith of the Gospel. Let this people be united one with another, and keep the commandments of God, and He will turn the hearts and the feelings of the rulers of the nations to be favorable towards us; and cause the chains and fetters that are now sought to bind us, to be broken. Let us therefore humble ourselves before God, and seek earnestly His Holy Spirit, and He will deliver us from every evil.

The choir sang an anthem,

"Sing to the Lord in Joyful Strains."

Adjourned till Friday morning, 10 a. m.

Benediction by President Joseph F. Smith.

FIFTY-SECOND SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty-second Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, met in the Assembly Hall on Friday, April 6, 1882, at 10 o'clock a. m., as per adjournment.

Present on the stand of the First Presidency: John Taylor, Geo. Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith; of the Twelve Apostles, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, F. M. Lyman, John H. Smith and Moses Thatcher. Counselor D. H. Wells. Patriarch John Smith.

Of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies—Henry H. H. H. H. S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates, W. W. Taylor.

Of the Presiding Bishopric—Edward Hunter, L. W. Hardy and R. T. Burton.

Besides Presidents of Stakes, Bishops and leading members of the Church from all parts of the Territory.

Conference was called to order by Pres. John Taylor.

The choir sang:

Mortals awake with angels join,
And chant the solemn lay.

Prayer by Elder Brigham Young.

Choir sang:

Come thou glorious day of promise,
Come and spread thy cheerful ray.

ELDER F. M. LYMAN

Addressed the Conference. He spoke of the general expectation of a great and glorious event that is to take place in the last days, even that of the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which is sustained by the holy scriptures. The minds of the Saints were established in confidence concerning this and other pending events. He referred to the eternity of those principles that are contained in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and spoke of the many experiences of the faithful Elders of the Church, and the assurances they receive from God by attending to the various duties devolving upon them. They are thus enabled to become saviors among men. Said it was not enough that we simply care for and pray for ourselves, but are called to aid and assist in building up the Kingdom of God upon the earth and in carrying the Gospel to all the world. We should pray not only for the honest in heart, but those who are dishonest and wicked, for the Gospel is intended to improve the character and disposition of all who are willing to be

brought under its influence. He had no fears, for he knew it would prevail and that it would not be left to another people, but each individual was liable to fail unless faithful to duty. He made a stirring appeal to those present to discharge the individual responsibilities that rest upon them, and to so live that they may enjoy the rich and heavenly influence of the spirit of truth. He spoke of the great proportion of children among the Latter-day Saints in comparison with families of the same strain of blood among other people who thought five children a vulgar number, the families of the Saints usually averaging from seven to thirteen children. He urged the necessity of having the children well cared for and properly educated, and trained in the first principles of the Gospel before they are eight years old. Unless this is done, he said there would be a heavy responsibility resting on their parents to be accounted for because of their neglect. Where there is proper care taken with the children, having them blessed according to the law of Zion, baptized when eight years old, and afterwards instructed in the law of tithing, obedience to parents, sent to the Sabbath School and other associations where they can learn and enjoy the society of the Saints, there is little danger of such children ever apostatizing from the church. He spoke of the need of watching the outskirts of Zion, and the benefit of the organization of the people who branched out or "swarmed" into new places with the discipline and restraints established by the authorities of the Church. He referred to the evils threatened, and predicted that there would be a ram caught in the thicket. This he said was not the work of man it was of God; the leaders he knew by acquaintance from his boyhood, were as honest and pure as any men that lived, and were devoted to the good of the people. The world cannot destroy the truth, it will live and endure for ever.

COUNSELOR D. H. WELLS

Said that "Mormonism" was just as true to-day as it ever was, the Lord is going to build up His kingdom, and we as Latter-day Saints are going to assist Him in bringing about His purposes. This work was not begun by haphazard. The Lord reserved many of His children to come on the earth in the latter days, and when He revealed the Gospel he knew there were men living who would have the courage to receive and sustain it. All people are called to this work, if they chose to obey and step forward to engage in it. It has to be commenced by making a public profession of their faith, and it is not every one that can be so morally courageous as to stem the opposition, and undergo the sacrifices which embracing the Gospel necessarily involves. The journey of life's experiences in the Gospel is marked with trials, and the Saints will be tested to the very heart's core, to prove their integrity. No earthly consideration must stand in the way. God will have a tried people. When will the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God and His Christ, and be given to the Saints? When the Saints have become sufficiently trained and moulded in the principles of the Gospel, that they can have its weight and not turn its riches into the lap of the devil. There is nothing to fear, but everything calculated to encourage the Saints in persevering through evil and good report. The world hates us, not on account of unrighteousness, but because God is the Author of the work we are engaged in. The world knows nothing of God nor his purposes, all the preachers are astray and none of them has ever given a line of scripture for the benefit of mankind. The Saints are a standing reproach to the wicked world. We must be whole-souled in the cause of truth, and be willing to place everything that is near and dear to us upon the altar. Whenever the Saints shall have been sufficiently proved by a test of unswerving faithfulness, even to life itself if required, then we shall be prepared for thrones, principalities and powers and to inherit all things. A covetous man is an idolator, and therefore riches so often cause a shipwreck of the faith. The majority of the Saints will continue faithful and be able to endure all that may be heaped upon them. We are here to pass through the ordeals. If we are not willing to give our lives to God we are not worthy of them. He exhorted all to become as Godlike and pure in heart

for Zion will be built up by the pure in heart, and it will become victorious in the end.

ELDER L. JOHN NUTTAL

Then read a report of the free-will offerings towards the Logan and Manti Temples. Both reports were unanimously adopted by vote of the Conference.

President Taylor said as the weather continued cold, and we were unable to warm the Tabernacle, Conference would meet this afternoon in the Assembly Hall at 2 o'clock p. m. If the weather was warmer on Saturday we would meet in the Tabernacle when all should come well clothed.

The choir sang the anthem:

"O praise God in His holiness."

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

FRIDAY, 2 p. m.

Conference convened in the Assembly Hall.

Choir sang:

"Zion stands with hills surrounded,
Zion, kept by power divine."

Prayer by Elder Moses Thatcher.

Choir sang:

"How firm a foundation ye Saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word."

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG

Addressed the Conference. He spoke of the assurance with which our Elders go forth and testify to the truths and revelations which they know to be of God, and yet the wise men of the world regard those testimonies as very presumptuous. He deplored the unbelief of the world who refuse to receive the principles our Elders preach, or compare them with the Bible, which most people profess to believe in as the word of God. He referred to the experience of many of our Elders who, while preaching the doctrines of the Bible. They could retain a large congregation, until they proclaimed themselves to be "Mormon" Elders, then almost to a man the whole congregation would reject the doctrine and teachings to which they had previously listened.

The speaker testified that all those who obeyed the Gospel and remained faithful to the end would be saved in the kingdom of God, while those who reject the Gospel will be damned. He strongly objected to the children of the Latter-day Saints being sent to be educated in the schools of those who have been sent here to evangelize the "Mormons." In every instance, as far as his knowledge extended, every child that had been educated in those outside schools had become infidels. He strongly recommended parents to thoroughly educate their children in the principles of the Gospel.

A pure people will be gathered out of those professing to be Saints, who will be faithful and true in sustaining, both in principle and in practice, the things that God approves, while many who are careless and indifferent will presently sink out of the kingdom—slough off like the skin of a snake—and apostatize from the Church. He closed his remarks by the declaration that God would bless and sustain his people.

ELDER MOSES THATCHER

Addressed the congregation. He spoke of some of the inestimable blessings and privileges that will most assuredly be realized by those who live in accordance with the mind and will of God. Religion is a personal thing, every individual among the Latter-day Saints has been personally convinced of the truths of the Gospel, under the influence of the Holy Ghost. The speaker then took up a book, and showed that by the aid of the five senses of his being he could go before any court and testify that it was actually a book. And yet, compared with the testimony of the Holy Spirit of God, the testimony of the senses sink into comparative insignificance. He made some strong comparisons between the moral status of the Saints, and of the outside world. He said this kingdom will never be overthrown, but will continue to grow and increase until it fills the whole earth. Yet individuals may fall away and unless we were founded upon that rock against which the Savior said the gates of hell should not prevail, we should not be able to stand. Yet no matter how trying the circumstances may be, that many may be tested by, if they keep steadfast the faith of the Gospel and live in the observance of the laws of God, they will most assuredly gain the victory.