

# FORTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Fortieth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the New Tabernacle at ten o'clock this morning. The weather being very beautiful, the Saints who live in the country settlements came to the Conference in large numbers.

On and around the stand we noticed President Brigham Young, President Geo. A. Smith and President Daniel H. Wells, of the First Presidency. Apostles: Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Ezra T. Benson, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, junr., and Joseph F. Smith. Patriarch: John Smith. John Young, Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum. George B. Wallace and John T. Caine, of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion. Joseph Young, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and John Van Cott, of the First Seven Presidents of the Seventies. Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, the Presidency of the Bishopric. There were also Bishops, Elders and leading men from every settlement in the Territory.

The congregation sang the hymn on page 257, "Come all ye Sons of Zion."

President Geo. A. Smith opened the Conference with prayer.

The hymn on page 268 was sung, commencing, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning."

PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SMITH first addressed the Conference. He said the last six months had been remarkable with the Latter-day Saints on account of the great progress they had made during that time. They were beginning to understand the proper course to pursue in relation to business and other matters. This was the result of the principle mentioned and acted upon by Joseph Smith. The people were taught true principle and were learning to govern themselves. An effort had been made last year to gather the poor from the nations. The result of this effort had been a pretty large emigration. Another effort to accomplish this laudable object would be made during this Conference. The Saints should not forget their friends in the old countries, especially those who have befriended them. In relation to his late visit to the southern settlements, President Smith said he never in his life had seen such good feelings manifested by the people as he had seen evinced by the saints in those places he had visited. The majority of the people in the "Cotton Country" were filled with energy and zeal for the work of God.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON next spoke. He thought that this was the most important Conference that had ever been held by the Latter-day Saints. We are entering upon a revolution. Revelations were given from the Lord to Joseph Smith which incalculated the order of Enoch. The principles were simple, and although they were new to this generation yet they were old as eternity. Those principles were called the Order of Enoch, because the people of Enoch had practised them. When this order was revealed to Joseph Smith, the people were not prepared to receive it. The Latter-day Saints, like all other people were more advanced in theory than in practice. Yet the Saints are far ahead of any other people in practising the theories they advance. The principles of the Order of Enoch have been thus far, except in a few instances, a dead letter. But those principles have never been lost sight of from the time they were revealed thirty-six years ago. Unless we can agree with and practise those principles in our lives we are told unqualifiedly that we cannot be permitted to go back to build up the centre stake and accomplish the redemption of Zion.

Evils are existing in the world that have existed to a greater or lesser extent in all ages. They are to be seen in our own country. When the foundation of this great Republic was laid it was expected to become the glory of the world. The evils of the old countries, however, have been transplanted and become common in this land. An aristocracy of wealth is steadily arising whilst another class are steeped in misery and squalid poverty. Attempts have been made to stay the progress of these evils. The attempt of the Icarians to establish a system of communism at Nauvoo, from

which the Saints had been driven, was an instance of this kind. This attempt proved a failure, so have all other attempts of men of themselves, to attain this object. It required the Lord to accomplish the uniting of mankind together in one common bond. As soon as the Almighty commenced His work, unity was manifested and love diffused among those who obeyed His revelations. The Lord has said that unless we are equal in temporal things we cannot be equal in spiritual things. This does not mean that we shall wear the same clothes, have hair of the same color, etc., but to have an equal claim on the treasury of the Lord, on the blessings of God and His Holy Spirit. The object of the introduction of the Order of Enoch among this people was to introduce on earth a state of things that would be a pattern of what existed in the heavens, and thus make preparations for the coming of the Savior. Elder Cannon then read extracts from several revelations in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, on the Order of Enoch.

It was not the intention of the Lord to allow the same evils to find place in His church that prevail in the world. Some have thought that should the Order of Enoch be introduced it would encourage the indolent. None need fear this. Those stewards who do not increase upon their talents will not receive the same blessings as those who are diligent. This is one of the greatest principles to check grasping dishonesty and other evils. Here is the solution of one of the great problems of the age.

ELDER EZRA T. BENSON was the next speaker. He said, we are here to learn and obey the Order of Enoch. All the property we may appear to possess belonged to the Lord, and was only loaned to us to build up His kingdom to gather the poor and accomplish His work. We have no legal excuse for neglecting to obey the counsels of the servants of God. The co-operative movement was one of vast importance. The laws of Utah and its condition are beginning to be respected by what is called the outside world. Many express the opinion that President B. Young is the greatest financier in the world, else the united condition of the Latter-day Saints could never have been brought about. We might have arrived at a greater degree of perfection, as Elders in Israel, if we had laid aside all petty jealousies which sometimes beset us. Although we might have bettered our condition in many things, yet his heart was filled with joy and thanksgiving and praise to God that our condition is as favorable as it is. Let President Young rule, and we shall be blessed. Whether he desires us to raise silk, enter into co-operation, or do anything else, let us do it, and it will result in the prosperity of Israel. Let us co-operate in every good thing, for the Lord is operating among this people.

The congregation sang the hymn on page 29, "Arise, O Glorious Zion."

Conference adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

President D. H. Wells dismissed the meeting.

APRIL 6, 2 P. M.

The congregation this afternoon was much larger than in the morning, the large Tabernacle being nearly filled. The congregation was called to order by President Brigham Young.

The Tabernacle Choir, led by Bro. Sands, sang the first hymn, commencing "The morning breaks, the shadows flee."

Prayer was offered up by Elder Joseph F. Smith.

Tabernacle choir sang the hymn on page 263, beginning "Know this that every soul is free."

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS addressed the congregation. The Saints come together to be strengthened that they may be able to dispell whatever darkness may beset their path. When we first heard the principles of faith, baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, those principles were as staggering to us as those advanced principles that are now taught in relation to temporal things. It was at first difficult for us to understand those beautiful principles that are necessary to be attended to for the salvation of our dead. Since that time the Saints have advanced. By obeying the counsels of the servants of God in relation to our temporal affairs we shall become, to the world, as great a subject for astonishment in regard to our temporal condition as we are in spiritual matters. We should become a pattern for them to follow after. The true order of government is that which is after the Patriarchial order. That order alone will bring about an assimilation of interests and consequent harmony and

good will. We have not yet attained to a very great degree of unity in relation to temporal matters, but we are advancing in that direction. It was the design of the Almighty to make the interests of one portion of his family the interests of the other portion that the whole human family may become one. Some, doubtless, think that they are too wise to be taught by the servants of the Lord. This was comparable with instances where children would not be taught by their parents. If the parents would inform themselves in regard to all necessary matters, they would be able to teach their children and increase their knowledge. So it is with the servants of God in respect to the Saints. It is the privilege of those who hold the Holy priesthood to teach and instruct us. All things that we do ought to be done in the name of our Lord and Master Jesus. Whether we take possession of farms, or build factories, we should do it in his name. In the changes that are taking place in our temporal affairs we are going through another conversion. We are like a child who is making its first attempt to walk: Our faith in those matters will increase until the order of Enoch could be introduced and the interest of the entire people become identified with each other.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON read a report of Zion's Co-operative Merchantile Institution, showing the progress that had been made in this great movement by the various branches of the Institution. He also read a report of the Female Relief Societies.

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG delivered an interesting and instructive discourse upon the subject of co-operation and other temporal matters. His remarks were reported in full and will shortly be published.

The hymn on page 166, commencing, "We thank Thee O God for a Prophet," was sung. Conference adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a. m.

Benediction by Elder Erastus Snow.

Wednesday, April 7, 10 a. m.

The Conference was called to order by Elder Geo. Q. Cannon.

The Tabernacle Choir sang, "Praise ye the Lord."

Elder Wilford Woodruff prayed.

The Tabernacle Choir sang the hymn on the last page.

ELDER ERASTUS SNOW addressed the Conference. We come together as Bishops, Elders, Priests, Teachers, etc., to receive the bread of life from the lips of the servants of God, that we may all become one. We are a wonder to the nations of the earth. If they had eyes to see and hearts to understand, they would know that, to bring a people like this from all parts of the world, and form as complete and united an organization as exists among us, is as great a miracle as to raise the dead. The Lord Jesus has said, "except ye are one ye are not mine." He prayed that His disciples might be one. This oneness is not meant in a physical sense. We differ in stature and proportion. It is a unity or oneness of faith, purpose and interest that is desirable we should arrive at. Classes and aristocracies of wealth should be abolished. The Constitution framed and established by the Fathers on this continent was the best government on the earth. Yet there is great disproportion betwixt classes in this country. The struggle between capital and labor is very great. The laboring classes are under the necessity of combining to resist the encroachments of capital. The Quakers are, to some extent, an exception to this rule. By economy and frugality they have become almost universally rich and are a class of themselves. Among the Saints there are instances where parents allow their children to stay at home rather than go to Sunday School, and the parents themselves will not attend meetings, because, probably, they cannot appear so well dressed as others. These things are not pleasing in the sight of God. The co-operative movement, which has been recently inaugurated by our President, will correct many evils such as these. It would be well for the Saints to read the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants in relation to the Order of Enoch. According to that order, the means placed in our hands could not be used for self-aggrandizement, but would be the common property of the Kingdom of God, to be used for the benefit of the whole. Thirty-seven years ago the Saints were not prepared to build up the Centre Stake of Zion. We have come to these barren wastes to redeem the land and gain an experience to prepare us for that great work. There is a tendency among men to take honor and glory to themselves. The Lord

is willing we should all have our due, but He reserves to Himself the privilege of awarding it. May God bless us all. Amen.

PRESIDENT DANIEL H. WELLS next spoke. We are here to take into consideration those things that will conduce to our best interests. There is a propensity in the human heart to walk according to its own imagination instead of obeying the voice of God. We need instruction continually. If we are not instructed, we shall never learn any more than a child can learn to read and write who is never taught. This is the first moment in the existence of this people that the principle of co-operation could be established, and even now many are inclined to grumble at its introduction. Those who have lost their trade by this means need not despair. In a new country like this there are many things to which such may turn their attention. They can become producers instead of merely consumers. They can cultivate the soil. Many articles of produce are sold at prices one half of which would be remunerative to the producer. Here then is a direction into which honest industry may turn. No person should be above learning some useful occupation or trade. Thousands of articles are imported to this Territory that might just as well be produced here. This would make the community rich and independent. Every one of our young men should apply themselves to learning some useful trade and accustom themselves to habits of industry, and not number themselves with that class who seek to get their living by their wits. To whatever plan legitimate labor calls us the elders in Israel should wrap themselves, as it were in a mantle. If men who go to work on the railroad have to some extent to mix with the wicked, it is not necessary that they should indulge in the evil practices of the wicked. All should eradicate from their own bosoms the besetments of sin. Some are not willing to be controlled by their Bishops and Presidents in their temporal concerns. Say they, "We know as much as the Bishop or the President," or whoever it may be, but the sequel will show that they are wrong. Those who cannot understand that co-operation is right, cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven in it. This is the cause of the prejudice that some have concerning it, but the Kingdom of God is in it. There is no power on earth that can stem the current of vice that is flooding the world but the power that is in the Kingdom of God.

The Latter-day Saints have cause to rejoice above all other people, because they have seen the Kingdom of God. Those who build upon that rock, which is the principles of the Kingdom of God, will stand for ever. If we attain to an exaltation we shall have to conform to the terms proposed by the Almighty Himself. We can never bring the Lord to our terms. The Scriptures are good, the Bible and Book of Mormon are filled with sparkling gems on every page, yet the living oracles are worth more to us; they teach us how to save ourselves to-day. The Scriptures were the living oracles to those unto whom they were delivered. May we pursue that course that will enable us to obtain the blessings promised to the faithful.

Elder George Q. Cannon then read the names of the brethren who are called to go on Missions.

The congregation sang "Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning."

Conference adjourned till two o'clock p. m.

Elder Brigham Young, jun., dismissed the Conference.

2 p. m., April 7.

Conference was called to order by President George A. Smith.

The Tabernacle Choir sang "Great God attend while Zion sings."

Elder Lorenzo Snow prayed.

The Tabernacle Choir sang the anthem, "Rejoice in the Lord."

ELDER ORSON PRATT addressed the Conference. Thirty-nine years ago yesterday the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized. Although we have been driven and persecuted so many times, yet by the providences of God we have been always permitted to commemorate the anniversary of that great event. Our journeyings to this place have, heretofore, been slow and laborious. The Lord has put it into the hearts of the people of this continent to construct a great highway, so that what heretofore was a journey of months is now reduced to one of a few days. Notwithstanding the facilities for gathering Israel are greatly increased, the poor cannot be brought here without great expense.