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THE LINKING OF GENERATIONS BY THE LAW OF ADOPTION—EQUALITY IN TEMPORAL AFFAIRS AND HOW TO ATTAIN IT.

Discourse Delivered at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 8, 1894, by

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

This is an immense congregation, and in order to edify those assembled it will require the presence and assistance of the Spirit of God. It would seem presumptuous for any man to arise to address such an audience of intelligent human beings if he were depending upon himself for that which he should say. I sincerely trust that in the remarks I shall make I may be assisted by the faith and prayers of those who are present.

I look upon this as one of the most interesting conferences that has been held for a long time. It must be gratifying to the Latter-day Saints to receive, as they do, the continued evidences that God is with the people, that He has not forgotten His promises, and that He has the oversight of the affairs of His Church, and regulates and conducts those affairs according to the counsel of His own will. I never attend a meeting where the Spirit of God is manifested in power without feeling profoundly grateful in the reflection that God is with us, and that He condescends to honor us and to testify to the people by giving His Holy Spirit. This, also, brethren and sisters, is a consolation and a comfort that no human tongue can describe: to know by testimony from the Lord that we are in the path that He has marked out for our salvation; to know that we have a standing among the people whom He acknowledges to be His, and that through His condescension we have the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is a consolation to know, when light is needed, when questions arise which require more than human wisdom for their solution, that we have access unto our Great Creator, and that through the spirit of revelation which He has promised to bestow, we can know and understand for ourselves. What mighty importance attaches to that which was explained to us this morning by President Woodruff! How wide-spread and far-reaching is the ordinance to which allusion was made, by which children will be sealed to their parents, one generation con-

nected with another, and the whole human family be brought within the family of God, to be His recognized and acknowledged sons and daughters, bound together by the power of the everlasting Priesthood and in the new and everlasting covenant which He has given to man. What a glorious system of salvation spreads out before us in the contemplation of that which the Lord has revealed! What a feeling of tenderness and love wells up in our hearts in thinking that we are the children of God, and that we are and shall be bound together by ties that never can be broken! How this draws us together and makes us feel interested in one another! How it causes our souls to expand as wide as eternity; not confining our hopes and our labors to any individual, or to any one family, but embracing in our feelings the entire brotherhood of man.

Certainly the Latter-day Saints should be the most thankful of any people upon the face of the earth. You travel throughout the earth and ask the wisest and the most learned what object our Creator had in placing man on the earth, in surrounding him with the circumstances with which he is environed, and what He has in view for him in the future, and who could answer you? I know that religious denominations have their explanations concerning the future; but how unsatisfactory they are! How little there is in them to comfort and cheer, to create hopes and anticipations that are bright! Even the Indian, when he talks about his happy hunting grounds, probably expresses a more cheerful view. In the sectarian world there is vagueness. In the pictures they present as to the future life there is nothing that is really satisfactory. Very few of them believe that these ties which make our human lives so delightful will be perpetuated in the eternity to come. The great majority believe that husbands and wives, parents and children will be nothing to each other in the eternal world; that is, their relations to each other within the family circle will be no more close or definite than their relations to beings without that holy tie. Now, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has taught us that ties are formed here which are eternal in their character; that family associations are created that never can be dissolved; that men and women are bound together for eternity; that man is not without the woman, nor the woman without the man, in the Lord; that they have their children; and that the greatest blessing they can enjoy is to have confirmed unto them forever the privileges which they possess in this life. There is something grand in the contemplation of this glorious principle. It gives cer-

tainty unto every man and woman who will seek for it. The woman is not lost, the man is not lost. However obscure and insignificant we may be, we cannot be lost sight of. We will be felt after and brought out, unless we have committed unpardonable sins, and somebody will take interest in us. There is no one in the whole family that will be so insignificant as to be forgotten. This creates peculiar feelings in our hearts, and it ought to make the Latter-day Saints a broad and expansive people in their minds, and I have no doubt it will have that effect.

I look for the communication that was made today by our President to have a great effect upon this people. It will stimulate our love for our families. At the same time it will check any feeling of building up anything like tribes among us. It will attach us to our own kindred and race. It will promote the love of race in our hearts, and it will give our children something to live for; for when a man comes of a family that is an honorable family, there is something that appeals to his pride to do nothing that will bring discredit or disgrace upon his name. Our lineage is not known to all of us. We may not know our origin; but this we may be assured of: that we who have received the truth are choice spirits. The Latter-day Saints have shown their integrity, their valor, and their independence of character in the midst of contumely and reproach, of persecution and hatred, and the threatened loss, in many instances, of employment, property and life. They have come out from the world and have been indifferent to its popularity. They have espoused the principles of truth and righteousness, and valued them more than any other earthly consideration. Where do you think this nobility of character has come from? It has come from ancestors who obtained promises from God, through their faithfulness, in regard to their posterity. Our ancestors may have come through poverty and obscure channels; and some of them may not have possessed any noted characteristics; but when our ancestry is known it will be found that the noblest men and women of God have been the progenitors of this people. God has chosen us for a great purpose. He has brought us out of the world, has shaped our lives and the lives of our parents, and has thrown around them His providences, for the purpose of bringing a people forward in the last days that would help lay the foundation of His kingdom and be willing to bear every persecution and trial connected with it. Of this I feel assured. I can testify of it, and know it to be so. As was said this morning, the communication which the Lord has