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CHARLES W. FENBROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . April 16, 1892

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The First Presidency, in behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, tender their grateful acknowledgments to all the organizations and individuals who, with music and labor and generous service, contributed to the glory of the occasion of laying the capstone on the Salt Lake Temple. Their best reward is in the joy of the event, but these thanks are also due.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency of the Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
April 7, 1892.

THE RECENT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THE General Conference which adjourned yesterday, after a session of four days, was more largely attended than any previous gathering of the same character in the history of the Church in this dispensation. Doubtless the eagerness of the whole community of Latter-day Saints to witness the ceremonies connected with the laying of the capstone of the Temple accounted to a considerable degree, for the comparative increase in the number of people who usually flock half-yearly to this city from all parts of this inter-mountain region to worship, be instructed by the servants of God and to consider the best means of developing the cause of Zion. Independent, however, of any unusual attraction, it is a demonstrated fact that each succeeding Conference is more fully attended than its predecessor, and the cry for "additional room" becomes more and more urgent. The great Tabernacle is no longer adequate to accommodate the general assemblies of the Saints. The evidences of the growth of this people are unmistakable.

The inclemency of the weather during the first two and a half days of the time Conference was in session, appeared to cause but little diminution in the attendance and no abatement in the interest taken by the people in the proceedings. It has been necessary in recent years to hold an overflow meeting at the Sunday afternoon session. On this occasion, for the first time, two such meetings had to be improvised—

one on Sunday (April 3rd) and the other on Tuesday (the 5th).

The late occasion was of engrossing interest for several reasons. The teachings of the authorities were characterized by marked pointedness and refreshing vigor. The Lord has said He delights "in plainness." It may therefore be taken for granted that He must have been gratified by the teachings imparted by His servants to the Saints. How could it be otherwise, His Spirit having inspired them?

Probably the most important topic dwelt upon, aside from the great theme of Temples, their object and uses, was the necessity for greater unity among the brethren. This was called forth on account of some of the brethren, in their excess of zeal in party politics, forgetting the principles of sacred fraternity and brotherhood that ought to govern their intercourse with and conduct toward each other. The treatment of this subject by the First Presidency and some of the Apostles was most timely, and will have a powerful effect in correcting the evils to which the remarks referred. If a halt were not called in this direction, there would be danger of a practical illustration of the prophetic character of the warning given by the Lord to His people to beware of certain conditions lest they should "become as the Nephites of old." That ancient people indulged in a wrangling, bitter partisan spirit on political matters, and there began "to be disputings" among them. On this subject the 6th chapter of third Nephi makes instructive reading.

Among the important themes treated was the necessity of willingness on the part of the Saints to be directed by the counsel of the authorities of the Church in everything pertaining to the welfare of Zion. It is an anomaly that the Church should have to be reminded of their duty in this respect, seeing the revelations—with which the people ought to be familiar—are so plain on this subject. Every man should act in his own calling, and not assume to take the place of others or to direct those who preside over him. Resistance to this principle must bring, as its legitimate fruit, a schismatic condition. There is, however, sufficient sense of order and consistency in the great bulk of the brethren to prevent any such deplorable situation. We do not believe that any great permanent differences will develop from the wrong referred to by the brethren who stand at the head of the Church. The teachings of Conference will, doubtless, have a powerful corrective effect in this direction.

The laying of the capstone on the Temple was a grand and impressive occasion. The weather was mellow and beautiful, and could scarcely have been more suitable. The Spirit of God was poured out upon the vast assemblage, numbering, within the block, fully forty thousand, while many thousands more thronged the adjacent streets and covered the roofs of buildings in proximity to the Temple Block. Not a single accident, so far as we have learned, occurred to mar the pleasure of the notable event. The shouting of the hosanna chorus, accompanied by the waving of handkerchiefs, constituted a sublime spectacle to the

eye, while it furnished a grand, soul-stirring sound to the ear. The laying of the capstone by means of electricity, by our esteemed and venerated President Woodruff, was a novel feature of the ceremonies.

The resolution introduced by Apostle Francis M. Lyman, in relation to the finishing of the sacred edifice within one year, to enable President Woodruff to dedicate it on the 6th of April, 1893, found a hearty response from the multitude present, and will from all other Saints so soon as they are made acquainted with it. The necessary funds will roll in to aid in the attainment of so great an object. Brother Lyman himself, being the mover of the resolution, generously headed a list with a donation of one thousand dollars, and others will do likewise, while many of more limited means will contribute according to their abilities, down to the "widow's mite."

The musical exercises of the Conference were splendid. The choir, led by Brother Stephens, made delightful melody, while Brother J. J. Daynes' organ accompaniment was all that could be desired. The congregational singing had a majestic effect. Captain Held's band did excellent service at the Temple ceremonies, and so also did the Union Glee Club.

Taken all in all, the recent Conference was a striking and memorable occasion in all of its features. It caused the heart of every consistent member of the Church who witnessed or participated, to be filled with the oil of gladness at the thought of being a Latter-day Saint.

THE WORLD'S FAIR BILL.

It seems that the Committee on Territories of the House of Representatives look on the matter of the Governor's authority, as to the World's Fair Commissioners, in the same light as set forth in the DESERET NEWS. They report favorably the bill which was passed by the Utah Legislature, and give reasons and authorities in support of the position taken by the Assembly.

There is only one apparent reason why Congress should not pass the bill, and that is it would seem to be an exercise of power that does not belong to Congress, except under the most extreme construction of the "absolute sovereignty" theory. We hold that Congress has no right to legislate money out of our territorial treasury, or to impose a tax on the citizens of Utah for territorial purposes. But as this bill is really the act of our own Legislature, validated in the only way possible without the Governor's signature, the difficulty may possibly be overcome.

If this money can be obtained in the way designed by the Utah Assembly, one great impediment in the way of success at the World's Fair will be removed. Meanwhile we hope the Commissioners now appointed will continue their labors, and not wait for congressional action one way or the other.

The House Committee have this to say about the Governors objection in their report recommending the passage of the bill: