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TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Oh! 'tis not when the gentle breeze fans the wide ocean,
That the safety and strength of the ship can be shown;
And 'tis not in prosperity's hour, the devotion,
The fervor and truth of a friend can be shown.

Not—the ship must be proved when the tempest is
howling—
When dangers and mountain waves down on her press;
The friend, when the sky of adversity's scowling;
For the touch stone of friendship's the hour of distress.

When prosperity's day star beams pure and unclouded,
Then thousands will mingle their shouts round its
throne—
But oh! let its light for a moment be shrouded,
And the smile of the faithless, like shadows are gone.

Then comes the true friend, who to gulls is a stranger,
The heart of the lone one to soothe and caress—
While his smile, like the beacon light blazing in danger,
Sheds a beam o'er the gloom of the hour of distress.

Oh 'tis sweet 'mid the horrors of bleak desolation,
When pleasure and hope seem eternally flown—
When the heart is first lit by the dear consolation,
That a haven of happiness yet may be won.

Grief fades like the night cloud, bliss mingles with
sorrow,
When the first welcome rays through the darkness
appear,
And the rainbow of hope gleams bright, though it
borrows
The splendors from the storm cloud—a smile and a tear.

Oh! 'tis those whose life's path hath been clouded and
cheerless,
Can feel the full burst of pure transport and bliss,
When the trusted and tried friend comes boldly and fear-
less
To share or relieve the dark hour of distress.

Past grief may yet cease to be thought of; but never
Can time make the feeling of gratitude less.
May the blessings of God rest ever and ever,
On him who forsook not in hours of distress. W.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

Convened in the Tabernacle, Thursday, Oct. 6, at 10 a.m.; President Brigham Young presiding.

ON THE STAND:—Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells;

Of the Twelve Apostles—Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards;

Seventies—Joseph Young, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and Levi W. Hancock;

High Priests—John Young, Edwin D. Woolley, Samuel W. Richards, John M. Bernhisel, William W. Phelps, Samuel L. Sprague and Thomas B. Marsh;

Presiding Bishop—Edward Hunter;

Presidency of the Stake—Daniel Spencer and David Fullmer;

Patriarchs—John Young;

Reporters—George D. Watt and John V. Long.

Choir sung, "Great is the Lord."
Prayer by Pres. John Young.

Singing by the choir.

President B. Young said that, as this was the monthly fast day, the services would be conducted as on all regular fast days; that the privilege would be granted to the Saints to speak those things that were in their hearts and to confess their faults one to another. He spoke of the inclinations of the human family to mingle with and participate in the surrounding influences in which they dwell; that it is the peculiar privilege of the Latter Day Saints to associate together, free from surrounding influences; said that through the fall we are prone to evil, but when our spirits came into our bodies they were free from evil—they were pure and holy and prepared to receive instructions from the source of all good; that, notwithstanding the power of the evil one, the spirit of man will reign predominant privately if it cannot publicly; that the time will come when people will not be tempted as they are now, for the intelligence diffused among them will be sufficient for them to live without temptation. Advised the Latter Day Saints to let their light shine, to let the spirit within them come off conqueror; also, when tempted and buffeted, to keep their mouths closed, instead of diffusing abroad that which the evil one puts into their hearts; if they had anything good in their minds he counseled them to speak of it, but to keep the bad feelings to themselves; that it was their privilege to diffuse light and knowledge to the nations of the earth. He then allowed the congregation to occupy the time.

Ten persons bore testimony to the truth of the gospel revealed through Joseph Smith; after which Elder McAllister sang, "Do what is right;" and when nine others had spoken, he sang, "The moral conflict." Seven more spoke and, at 2 o'clock, the meeting was dismissed till 5 p.m.

Pres. B. Young told the people that whatever they did, should be done by the dictates of the Holy Ghost; remarked that the religion

of Jesus comprehends all sciences, every species of mechanism, and that it will drink up the whole earth with its philosophy and intelligence.

Benediction by Elder Erastus Snow.

5 O'CLOCK, P.M.

Singing. Prayer by Pres. John Young.

Elder Orson Hyde addressed the congregation on the pre-existence of man, giving it as his opinion that we each signed a document before we came here, by which promised to be faithful to our God and to our covenants, while we dwell in this mortality.

President B. Young bore testimony to the truth of the great work of God and recommended principles of honesty, truthfulness and obedience to the laws of God in this life and thereby secure an eternal identity with eternal lives in the next estate.

Singing by the choir.

Benediction by Elder Ezra T. Benson.

FRIDAY, Oct. 7—10 a.m.

Choir sung, "Behold a king shall reign in righteousness."

Prayer by Bishop L. D. Young.

Choir sung, "How beauteous are their feet."

President Brigham Young spoke from the text—"Except ye are one, ye are not mine." Said that all the heavenly host were one in mind and that they agreed with their dictator; that there could be no feeling, no suggestion, no sentiment entertained different from those entertained by the man or being that dictates them; the principle of oneness will save the people, but no people can be one except upon the principles of eternal life; the world is full of discord, strife, vanity, and it must so remain, unless righteousness brings about this oneness; all thrones, kingdoms, principalities and powers that are not concentrated in this oneness must and will crumble to pieces. He also pointed out the duties of the people towards their Bishops; showed how a man would increase in wisdom and knowledge, if he was prayed for and the faith of his Ward was centered upon him. Spoke of the follies of the people in their intercourse with each other; reasoned at some length on the duties of husbands and wives; admonished the people to live above the law; said the people were improving, but he wished them to so live that they could discern the things of God from the things of man in a moment; the Lord will save all Israel and likewise the children of Esau. He remarked that it is one of the most glorious doctrines of the religion of Jesus that the Lord is going to save all except the sons of perdition.

Elder Theodore Turley bore testimony to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ; referred to the words of Daniel relative to the stone being cut out of the mountain without hands and spoke of the influences by which he had been surrounded; told his experience in California, while preaching the gospel there.

President Heber C. Kimball spoke in high commendation of bro. Turley, then took up the text, "I am the true vine and my father is the husbandman." Said if the people would be of one heart and one mind, neither the devil nor any other power would have anything to do with them; it always made him feel sorrowful when he saw men set a bad example; advised the Saints to cleanse their hands and their hearts from all iniquity; made some remarks on the subject of prayer; bore testimony to the truth of the gospel of Christ revealed through Joseph Smith; alluded to the importance of obeying counsel in all things; recommended economy and care in the preservation of the grain that is raised in this Territory; blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

Choir sung, "The Lord will comfort Zion."

Benediction by Elder Lorenzo Snow.

2 O'CLOCK, P.M.

Choir sung, "Come sound his praise abroad."

Prayer by Elder Erastus Snow.

Choir sung, "Truth reflects upon our senses."

President Daniel H. Wells took for a text, "Let us manfully man the ship Zion." Called upon the people to shake off every species of wickedness and to henceforth live by the truth; to put away contention and strife and obey every principle of righteousness. Reminded those who had been assisted by the Perpetual Emigration Fund that it was their duty to pay back what had been expended in bringing them here, in order that the means might be again used to gather the poor; made some important observations on home manufactures and home produce; alluded to many difficulties that brethren labor under who are engaged in home manufactures; exhorted the Saints to be diligent in the performance of their duties; to be humble; to be prayerful and to continue to improve in every good word and work, that the greater blessings of the kingdom of our God may be poured out upon them; spoke of the Lord calling and sending Moses to lead Israel from the land of Egypt and the power that was then displayed and said that similar and greater power would now be made manifest if we would live our religion.

Elder John Taylor referred to the miracles wrought and the power that was manifested in the days of Elijah, and in speaking of the false prophets who called upon their idol gods to send fire to devour their sacrifice; remarked that the spirit of wickedness always was and

is very noisy, while the spirit of truth, of light and virtue is modest, pure and holy; that when the Saints meet in conference the Spirit of God is with them in peace, quietness and power; argued that union produces strength and power and that the many lights coming together produces a general illumination; that we were strong then because we were associated with the leading authorities of the Church and kingdom of God; spoke of the confusion and anarchy that exist in the world; of the exertions in the nations of Europe in regard to one power coping with another for the sake of territory and dominion; of the animosity and bad feeling that are exhibited in the United States and in South America; enlarged on the principles of government in general and the power evinced in governing and controlling the people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; also alluded to the reduced power and influence of the Catholic church at the present day in the European nations and the tyranny that is there usurped and exercised, and said that the reason why it is so, is because they are without God in the world; made remarks on the various sources to which men apply for light and knowledge and, among the rest, named Joseph Smith making application to the Lord for knowledge and his receiving a revelation to establish the kingdom of God; argued that the order of God could only be established by that power which controls the universe, for that is the great source of religion, morality, science and intelligence; alluded to the power of steam, electricity, and compared them to the power by which Philip was carried away into the wilderness; prayed that the time might soon come when the will of God shall be done on the earth as it is in heaven.

Choir sung, "The standard of Zion."

Benediction by President B. Young.

SATURDAY, Oct. 8—10 A.M.

Meeting called to order by President Daniel Spencer.

Choir sung, "Come ye that love the Lord."

Prayer by Elder E. T. Benson.

President Joseph Young treated on the weakness of man, the greatness of his folly, and his backwardness to seek after eternal things. Read the text, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."—[John 17 chap. 3 verse. Exhorted the Elders of Israel to perfect themselves as much as possible in the glorious attributes of the Deity; spoke encouragingly to the Saints who have just arrived in the valley.

President Brigham Young said that he would like to see the man that knew God; he did not wish to throw any reflections upon the conduct of this people, for he had always believed that the people in the days of Enoch, who walked with God, did not make greater progress in the first twenty-nine years of their history than this people have; he was satisfied that we were advancing in knowledge; spoke of the restoration of the gospel by Joseph the Prophet; of the building up of Zion; also of the Spirit of the Lord bringing light and intelligence to the Saints, and how that it opens the vision of their minds so that they see Zion as it will be, and it is the most beautiful sight they ever saw; but then they go into error when they expect to see that Zion here which they have seen in vision; said the Lord was in the house by his Spirit and by his influence, but if he were here in person he would consume us. He explained why there is no work nor device in the grave, viz., because the spirit is not there, but it is in the spirit world, and a thousand times more busy than it was when here. Spoke of God being the father of our spirits; that he has been a man like one of us, but that he is now an exalted being; counseled the Saints to live according to what they know, that they may increase in all things; then, by and bye, they will be satisfied, for, said he, "all is yours, and you are Christ's and Christ is God's." Told the congregation that they were going to present the authorities of the Church, and he wished the people to vote by holding up the right hand, and if they could not vote conscientiously, they might have the privilege of getting up and assigning their reasons.

He then presented the authorities of the Church as follows:

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Heber C. Kimball his first, and Daniel H. Wells his second Counselors;

Orson Hyde, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards, members of said Quorum;

John Smith, Presiding Patriarch;

John Young, President of the High Priests' Quorum;

Joseph Young, Senior President of the Seventies, and Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and Levi W. Hancock his Counselors;

[President D. H. Wells presented the remainder.]

John Nebeker, President of the Elders' Quorum;

Daniel Spencer, President of this Stake of Zion.

In regard to the High Council, President Wells said: The brethren of the High Council are residing in different localities, and many of them have served a long time, and it is proposed that we dissolve this High Council and, at a proper time, organize anew. If this meets the minds of the conference, you will manifest it by raising the right hand. Carried.

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop;

Lewis Wight, President of the Priests' Quorum;

McGee Harris, President of the Teachers' Quorum;

Alexander Herron, President of the Deacons' Quorum;

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works;

Truman O. Angel, Architect for the Church;

Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor, Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells and Edward Hunter, his assistants and agents for said fund;

George A. Smith, Historian and General Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff his assistant, who were all sustained by the Conference.

President B. Young made some remarks on the subject of the High Council, and quoted the following text: "Better is a wise child than an old and foolish king, that will no more be admonished." It was said in old times, "old men for counsel and young men for war;" but his doctrine was, young men for counsel, and young men for war.—Some of the High Council lived at Cottonwood, some in Utah; they had served a long time and had done the best they could, but he would like to see men never be too old to learn; counseled and commanded the Elders to let whisky and brandy alone and, while they were able to walk and ride about, not to say they wanted or needed liquor; argued that every time men take liquor or stimulants into their systems, they shorten their lives; advised men not to work so hard that they had to get half drunk in order to keep it up; said he had instructed Bishops and High Councils to cut men off from the church who will get drunk; he had no fellowship with nor for drunkards, whoremongers, thieves, liars nor swearers.

Choir sung, "I'll praise my Maker while I've breath."

Dismissed by Elder Charles C. Rich.

2 O'CLOCK, P.M.

Singing by the choir. Prayer by William W. Phelps. Singing.

Elder Lorenzo Snow spoke of the strength of the kingdom of God being in proportion to its members living righteous and being able to withstand evil; the necessity of having the Spirit of the Lord, that we may be able to instruct the people and give good counsel; there was too much of a feeling among the High Priests and Seventies to depend upon the Bishops for the good government of the Wards, whereas every man should do all the good he can; seeking first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, that all things might be added thereto. Prayed that peace and prosperity might be upon Zion and her inhabitants.

Elder Albert Carrington felt thankful for the quiet, peaceful spirit that we had enjoyed in this conference; it was important that we neglect not the assembling of ourselves together; he was naturally more prone to reflection than to speaking; yet he was happy in aiding, so far as he could, to promote the interests of the kingdom of God; he was desirous of always abiding in the counsel of his brethren. Spoke of clearness of discernment in regard to right and wrong that every Saint ought to possess; rejoiced that the gospel is without money and without price, for could it have been bought, the devil would have purchased the whole of it, and have made the minds of men subject to that kind of vassalage in which the muscular powers of the laboring classes of the old world are held by the gold and the silver of the great and mighty; spoke of the necessity of having faith in one another; also against lying, stealing and all evil practices; argued that there is no principle of physiology that teaches that it is natural and healthful to introduce into the system spirituous liquors, and that firing it up with strong drink cannot be done without suffering an equivalent decline and loss afterwards.

Elder Charles C. Rich addressed the audience on the necessity of being saved to-day, and pointed out the way to be saved from the numerous evils that are in the world; reasoned on the necessity of every Saint understanding his duty and performing the same without murmuring, in order that universal oneness and happiness may be brought about, and exhorted the Saints to ask themselves how much of this salvation they enjoyed.

Choir sung, "Lord dismiss us with thy blessing."

Benediction by Elder Amasa Lyman.

SUNDAY, Oct. 9—10 a.m.

Singing. Prayer by Elder Lorenzo Snow.

Singing by the choir.

President Brigham Young quoted the text, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" Said if the human family knew and understood

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