

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-sixth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Friday, October 4th, 1895. There were present on the stand: Of the First Presidency—Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith; of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch John Smith; of the Presidency of the Seventy—O. D. Fjelsted, George Reynolds, J. G. Kimball and R. S. Wells; of the presiding Bishopric—William B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder.

There were also many leading Elders from various districts of the Territory and adjacent regions.

Conference was called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir and congregation sang:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation,
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam,
Good tidings are sounding to us and each nation,
And shortly the hour of redemption will come.

The opening prayer was offered by President Lorenzo Snow.
Directed by the choir.

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

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

said: I feel thankful, my brethren and sisters, that I have the privilege this morning of attending this Sixty-sixth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with the Elders of Israel and the Saints of the living God. My first attending any conference of this Church was in 1834, and from that day till the present, from time to time, circumstances have permitted, I have enjoyed this blessing. And while the Prophets, and Apostles, and Elders, and Saints of God, a great many of them, and a number of them who have assembled in these days, are today upon the other side of the veil, still other men as Apostles and Prophets and Elders and members of the Church stand in the flesh, following in their footsteps. I feel thankful to have the privilege of meeting with the Apostles and the various quorums of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today. And while we are together during this conference, I hope and trust that we may all of us have our hearts lifted up in prayer and thanksgiving to God and ask His blessing that we may be guided by His Holy Spirit in whatever we are called to teach to the Saints, and the labors we have to perform as the people of God. We have great reason to rejoice, great reason to be thankful to our Creator, to God, our Heavenly Father, for His mercies and blessings over us today.

The hand of the Lord may very clearly be seen, I think, by all men who enjoy the Spirit of God, in the past history of the Latter-day Saints. His hand has been over us since our organization in 1830, until the present time. We have passed, of course,

through many trials and tribulations, but the Lord's mercy is over us, and we are placed here in the mountains of Israel, the Zion of God, and placed here with responsibilities resting upon us to be carried out in our day and time. I am pleased to meet with the Apostles, and trust, as far as we have time and opportunity, we shall have the privilege of hearing from them. But I will say that President Snow is expected to be absent from us for a day or so, in attending the funeral of Judge Smith, of Brigham City, and I will call upon him this morning to occupy a little time in talking to us.

PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW,

of the quorum of the Twelve, addressed the Conference. He read a portion of the 101st section of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, beginning at the 25th verse. It tells of the establishment of the Millennial reign on the earth, and the glorious conditions that shall be associated with that time of universal peace and the knowledge of God. He said this condition will be exceedingly acceptable to us after we have passed through the troubles and perplexities incidental to our probationary existence. In that time there will be nothing to offend nor disturb. The present position of the world, from a moral point of view, is most forbidding. The public journals are filled with accounts of the most detestable crimes and pictures of human misery. All these will vanish before the dawn of the Millennial morn. We should not forget the great promises that God has made concerning a good time to come. And we should prepare ourselves to us in unison with that delightful time when it shall come. We should realize that we shall know that our course of life is acceptable to God. We should understand the voice and whisperings of the Holy Spirit. In the day when the sky is not obscured by clouds, we discover surrounding objects, their beauty and purpose. So are we dependent on the Spirit of God for light upon the principles of truth and salvation. No professing Latter-day Saint can enjoy any great degree of happiness unless he thus lives, and thus places himself under divine guidance.

There are times in the life of every man when he needs supernatural aid, to prevent his being overwhelmed by the difficulties surrounding him. Hence the necessity of his being righteous so that he may not be left to himself in times of trial and extremity. It appears that it is necessary that the Saints should be tried to the extent of their endurance, that their characters may be developed. There are Elders here now who could tell how, when out in the world, even their lives have been saved by following the direction of the Spirit of God, whose hand has been seen in their deliverance from evil.

We should not only be in harmony with the voice and genius of the Holy Spirit, but we should also be light with each other. If we are not, we may find ourselves greatly deceived.

We are not only laboring for Latter-day Saints, but also for thousands who are out for this work is comprehensive, and opens up to all willing workers a broad field of usefulness.

The speaker concluded by asking the blessing of God upon President Wood-

ruff, whom we were delighted to see present with us on this occasion.

ELDER H. J. GRANT,

of the Council of the Apostles, was the next speaker. He felt to rejoice in the fellowship and integrity of the Saints, and the diligence of those who preside in the Stakes of Zion. Their integrity was unquestioned, and they were ready and willing to do everything for the progress of the work of God. The unity of the Latter-day Saints was commended, as also the fact of the great faith of the people, manifested in their good works. The disposition to depend upon the tithing of each stake for the support of its poor, etc., was happily dying out, and there was a pleasing tendency to sustain the Presidency of the Church with means as well as by faith. It should be the pride of every Saint to pay his tithing, for this purpose. United effort would enable the Saints to place their tithes in the hands of those who could use it to best advantage for the advancement of the work of God.

The blessings of God were not to be measured by individual financial prosperity, but the exercise and growth of spiritual powers would be found to be the measure of advancement toward exaltation. The destiny of the Latter-day Saints was to fit and qualify themselves to dwell with Him, by overcoming natural tendencies toward evil, and cultivating, through the principles of the Gospel, all God-like qualities.

Wise training of children would lead to their advancement, and would lead them to be grateful to their parents for all necessary requirements; so would the various requirements of the Gospel cause those who comply with them to develop all the lovable and noble qualities of the soul, which would make them worthy of the love of God. Teachable, mild and kind through obedience to God, the Saints would be prepared for their high destiny, and this would be best accomplished by the keeping of the common requirements of the Gospel. Great manifestations would not necessarily keep one in touch with God, but the following of the course of duty in all His affairs could not fail to do so. Salvation would come through such a course, not through spiritual manifestations and testimonies alone. Not only this, but such as follow this course would be blessed as well in temporal things. Neglect of these common duties would be a fruitful source of loss of the testimony and blessings of God.

Each one having the carvlog of his own life, he should see to it that he discharge his responsibility to God, for no command would be given beyond the power of man to obey. Especially should the holders of the Priesthood magnify their calling, sustaining those over them in the Church and in the government of the nation in which the Saints live.

He closed with an earnest prayer for the continuance of the blessings of God to His people.

ELDER JOHN W. TAYLOR

was the next speaker. He was thankful for the opportunity of meeting with the Saints in Conference. He bore testimony to the excellence of the remarks of Elder Grant. Thirteen days since he was in the city of London.