

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5TH, 1883,
10 o'clock a.m.

In compliance with a published announcement of the First Presidency, a large number of officers and members of the Church assembled in the Assembly Hall. The First Presidency, several of the Twelve, and a good number of local and distant leading members of the Church were present on the stand.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR called the meeting to order.

The choir sang:

Jesus, from whom all blessings flow,
Great Builder of thy Church below.

The following prayer was offered by President GEORGE Q. CANNON:

O God, our Eternal Father, we Thy servants and Thine handmaidens have assembled ourselves together this morning in this place which has been erected for the worship of Thy people, for the purpose of commencing our Annual Conference and giving such instructions as Thy Holy Spirit shall dictate. And we beseech Thee, O Father, that Thou wilt look down in mercy and compassion upon Thy people, and cause that the Holy Spirit may descend upon us in power, with its gifts, with its graces, with its qualifications, that we may rejoice therein; that Thy servants who shall be called upon to speak may speak in the power and demonstration thereof; and that Thy people who listen may do so possessed of the same influence, and filled with that light and intelligence, and with that meek and lowly feeling which will cause them to receive Thy word and rejoice therein. We are thankful, our Father, that this another opportunity of coming together in a Conference capacity is afforded us. The years roll by, and Thy purposes hasten to their fulfillment. We behold them going forth among the nations of the earth. We see the fulfillment of the predictions of the holy Prophets. We see the advancement of Thy great and glorious design which is connected with this great and last dispensation. We behold the gathering together of Thy people and the proclamation of Thy Gospel to the nations, and the honest being gathered out. We behold the building up Zion, and the extension of the Stakes and the lengthening of the cords thereof, and the building up of the settlements of Thy people, and the peopling of the waste places throughout all these valleys of the mountains. O Father, we behold this wonderful fulfillment of the predictions which thou hast made by the mouth of Thy servants the Prophets, and we rejoice this morning therein. We are thankful that we have this another opportunity of coming together, and of mingling our voices and our faith together, and of glorifying Thee the Lord our God in our hearts, and in the midst of Thy congregations. And we rejoice exceedingly that Thou hast preserved us from our enemies, notwithstanding the many efforts they have made to curtail our liberties, and to destroy us and to destroy the influence and power of the Holy Priesthood, and to obliterate it from the face of the earth. On this morning, this 5th day of April, 1883, fifty-three years since the organization of Thy Church, we thank Thee that we can still meet together as a free people in this land, which is still a land of liberty unto us; and that we can rejoice exceedingly, O our Father, in the possession of this great and precious blessing. We offer unto Thee our humble tribute of praise and thanksgiving for this blessing. And we ask in the name of Jesus Thy a continuation thereof. Forgive the sins and transgressions and the short-comings of Thy people. O Father, help us to repent of our sins and put them away far from us. Help us to humble ourselves in the dust of humility, and to acknowledge our unworthiness before Thee, a holy and exalted Being. Help us to confess our sins unto Thee and unto one another, that they may be blotted out from before Thy face; and that in the hours of extremity and of trial when adversity shall seem to enclose us round about, when we call upon Thee, our Father, in the name of Jesus, that Thou wilt still condescend to hear and answer our prayers, and to extend Thine arm of consolation and deliverance, even as Thou hast done so recently in our behalf, making the feet of Thy people fast in these mountains. And we beseech Thee to

help us to multiply and increase and spread abroad, and to lay the foundation of liberty deep, so deep that it shall never be overturned or destroyed; and that we may rear upon this foundation a glorious superstructure that shall be the admiration of all men because Thou art the founder thereof; because Thou hast aided in the building thereof. And wilt Thou grant, O Father, that throughout all these valleys Thy Holy Spirit may be poured out in great power upon Thy people, and especially upon the rising generation. And when we behold the departure of so many of Thy faithful servants who have been the pioneers of this great work, and see them go one by one, leaving others to take their place, we feel that we need Thy aid, O Father, to be with those who remain, that they may carry forward this work in the spirit and in the power with which Thou didst design it should be in the foundation thereof. And we beseech Thee in the name of Jesus that Thou wilt raise up faithful laborers in Thy ministry; that Thou wilt fill the rising generation with the Holy Ghost, that they may rejoice in the truth as their fathers have done, and that they may be faithful laborers in proclaiming salvation to the inhabitants of the earth, and in the building up of Zion at home. Give unto them testimonies concerning the truth that shall make them valiant in advocating and maintaining the truth in the midst of all circumstances even if it may cost them their own lives. O Father, pour out Thy Spirit, we beseech Thee, in power upon them, that the sons and daughters of Zion may be worthy of their parentage, that they may be worthy of the blessings that Thou hast vouchsafed unto Zion, and that they may carry forward this work in a manner that shall be acceptable to Thee the Lord our God. We ask this morning that Thou wilt let Thy Holy Spirit, with its gifts and the qualifications thereof, rest down upon thy servant President John Taylor, who is in our midst. Thou seest, O Father, the great responsibility which rests upon him in his advanced years. Thou hast been his friend throughout his life. Thou hast been with him since he has been called to preside over Thy Church in a wonderful manner. We still beseech Thee to continue thy blessings and mercies unto him, and make him equal to the discharge of every duty devolving upon him. Fill him with the revelations of Jesus. Direct his attention to every part of this work that needs looking after, so that nothing shall escape or go unattended to; that every department of the work may receive proper attention from time to time, that Thy servants may be encouraged, that Thy servants may be strengthened, that Thy servants may be reproofed and may be warned from time to time, as occasion may require. Bless Thou his counselors; may they be one with him in all things; may they preside, even the First Presidency of Thy Church, in a manner that shall be acceptable unto Thee. Pour out Thy Holy Spirit upon them, and upon Thine Apostles, with President Woodruff at their head, and upon all the authorities of Thy Church, every President of Stake, and every counselor, every Bishop and every counselor, and every member of the High Council, and every High Priest, and every Seventy, and every Elder, and all the members of the Lesser Priesthood throughout all the ranks of the Priesthood, that there may be that spirit and power and manifestation of gifts which shall be acceptable unto Thee the Lord our God. Comfort the hearts of thy people this morning. Heal those who are sick who are not appointed unto death, and comfort those who mourn, and put it into the hearts of those who have means to minister to those who need, that there may be no cry ascend throughout all this land unto thine ear from the poor. And grant that all oppression may cease, and that tyranny shall not be known in our midst, and that no feeling of want shall be known throughout the habitations of thy people; and that the cry of neither man nor beast shall ascend unto Thee as a complaint against those who inhabit this land. We ask Thee also that thou wilt remember those who may be in difficult circumstances; and where there are those whose faith is tried, wilt thou be near to them and strengthen them, and uphold them that they may not yield to the destroyer, but that they may stand firm and faithful in the truth.

We now dedicate this meeting unto thee, and this Conference of which this is a commencement, and

ask thy blessing upon us; and we dedicate unto thee all that pertains unto us, and pray Thee to accept of us, in the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.

The choir sang:

Come thou glorious day of promise
Come and spread thy cheerful ray.

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR

Said the object of our coming together at Conference time is to take into consideration the condition and welfare of the Church in all the world—the Church of God, the Zion of God, the Kingdom of God. On such occasions we do not meet to advocate anything for our own personal benefit, but for the purpose of promoting the interests of God's work in the earth. Its affairs are assuming a more important shape than at the beginning. We are yet a small people, but our settlements cover a space of from 1,200 to 1,500 miles. It is expected that from all these places the leading authorities, at least, will come together once a year, that all may become acquainted with all throughout the whole land of Zion. It is expected that we take an interest in all these matters, and that the whole people be properly represented. If we are under the influence and guidance of the Spirit of the Lord—and we have no right to administer without it—we shall all see eye to eye. Our duties are similar to-day to those at the beginning of the Church, only more extensive, for as the Elders are active and willing to attend to their duties the work is continually increasing. New settlements are being made under the direction of the Holy Priesthood, so that the people who go out from the older places may not be scattered over the country, but may congregate together where they can have meetings, schools, Sunday schools, mutual improvement and relief societies, etc., so that they may be under proper regulation and enjoy good order and the Spirit of the Almighty. We intend to continue to spread out and preach the Gospel to the Gentiles and then to the Jews and to Israel, and attend to the gathering of the honest in heart, and the building up of the Kingdom of God, till His will is done on earth as in heaven. We must, here, set a pattern to others. The work must start with the Zion of God, and we must serve God and keep His laws, that we may be the receptacles of the word and will of God, that it may go forth to the ends of the earth. If we do not take this course, who will do it, and how shall the will of God be done on earth? We are here to do His will, and He will be nigh unto us to help us. He will take care of His Saints, and He has declared that it is His business to provide for them. I pray that the blessing and spirit and power of God may be on those who speak and upon those who hear.

PRESIDENT GEO. Q. CANNON

Said these Conference meetings are of exceedingly great interest; when I am absent I feel it is really a deprivation. In assembling, every man and woman should come with an earnest desire that those who speak, may speak on those things things that will be most profitable. The only difficulty we have is to cover all the topics of counsel and instruction that are needed. A different style of teaching is necessary now to that at the first of this work. Everything connected with this work is of magnitude, and has a national character. If we had our way we should not court publicity, we would not make ourselves conspicuous. But circumstances are thrown around us despite this feeling, to cause us to stand forward and assert and maintain the position to which we have been called, and thus we obtain a prominence which no other people have attained. We are treated as though we were a separate tribe, and have been compelled to learn the art of self-government. With few honorable exceptions, those who have been sent to govern us have treated us as though we were not fellow citizens but aliens. If peace and good order have prevailed, if the rights of person and property have been respected, it is because the people have determined that it should be so. The consequence is that there are thousands in these mountains who know how to take the needful measures to sustain a true republican form of government. In this our position is different from that of any other people, and all these topics come within the range of our religion and, belonging to our every day welfare, they necessarily come within the scope of the

teachings at our General Conference. A great change has been wrought since we came to these mountains. That which was taught in theory is being developed in practice. We can see how wisely the servants of God who taught us then were inspired to instruct us. I have listened to many statements, but I have heard more solid, practical instruction at our Conference and in the visits of the Elders to the people than I ever heard in the halls of Congress. God inspired His servants to give the people the bread of life and though they have not always appreciated it they have gone thereby so far as they have partaken of it. God designed that we should be a distinct people, and our enemies raise the barriers and seem determined that it shall be so. We must be self-sustaining and not be too closely identified with Babylon. Those who have neglected instruction on these points have experienced sorrow. Hearts have been broken, affections trampled upon and feelings wrenched, because of failure to profit by instructions of this kind in reference to marriage with those not of us. The Saints were instructed by the Prophet Joseph that they should labor for Zion and not for the world. Those who have followed that counsel are rich in faith and their circumstances are at least no worse than those who have loved the world. We are under obligations to labor with our whole hearts in this cause, and lay the foundations of this work so deep that they can never be torn up. One obligation we are under is this: To carry with us here the same spirit of the Gospel which inspires those who go forth in self-sacrifice and unselfishness to carry the truth to the world. They put down self and labor for Zion, and are thereby lifted to a higher plane than they ever occupied before. This Spirit should guide us in all the affairs of life, and I pray that it may be with us continually.

Adjourned till 2 p. m. to meet in the Tabernacle.

The Choir sang an anthem:

Awake, put on thy strength, O Zion.

Benediction by President Willford Woodruff.

2 p. m.

The Choir sang:

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come.

Prayer by Elder J. D. T. McAllister.

The Choir sang:

My soul is full of peace and love
I soon shall see Christ from above.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW

Read passages from the doctrine and Covenants on pages 197, 111, 159, 161, 187, 233, 257, 258, 262, 348, 382 in reference to consecration, stewardships, the United Order, tithing the duty of the rich towards the poor, equality in temporal things and the duty of Bishops in relation to consecrations and tithings of the Saints and said, I find in looking over these revelations that there are one hundred and eighty verses touching on the United Order. It has been the impression among some of our Elders that this Order has become obsolete, because the Lord speaks of the laws pertaining thereto being obeyed after the redemption of Zion. I do not advocate the establishment of this Order in Salt Lake City, but I think it the duty of every Elder to live in the spirit of that Order. When people consecrated their property as first revealed, it was left to each one how much he should consecrate. Bishop Partridge asked Joseph in regard to this matter, and received for answer that it should be left to the individual to be the judge, and if the Bishop thought there was not enough consecrated it should be decided by twelve High Priests. When it came to stewardships each one reserved what was necessary for his support and that of his family; the rest was given into the Lord's storehouse instead of putting it into a bank and drawing the interest. Joseph sought to establish the United Order, but the people did not live up to its principles, and therefore were expelled from Jackson County. The law of tithing was introduced as an abiding law in Zion. It was given that the people might become holy and be able to keep the higher law, as the law of Moses was once given for a schoolmaster to bring the people to Christ. It is necessary that the Saints become united in their temporal affairs. They are not satisfied with merely paying their tithing. Look at the vast amounts which have been paid outside of

tithing for the building of temples! Look at the amounts paid in the interest of emigration! This has been acting in the spirit of the United Order. In the revelations here read there are duties required of the poor and obligations placed upon the rich. A man may be rich without being in fault, or poor and yet do right. The Lord found no fault with Job, or Jacob, or Solomon because they were rich. Yet there may be rich men among us and also poor men with whom the Lord could find fault. I am not in favor of common stock; that is, that every man should have just the same amount. But the way should be open for every man by industry to obtain all that is necessary. The same equality should obtain in temporal as in spiritual things. Every man does not receive exactly the same spiritual gifts or authority, but the way is open for all to receive them at some time when fit to enjoy them to advantage. So persons who have just arrived here from poverty cannot expect to enjoy the comforts which others have acquired by years of labor and diligence.

He then read from the Doctrine and Covenants on pages 337 and 338, showing that the United Order was given for an everlasting order for the benefit of the Church until the Lord should come. Two months after this revelation the Lord gave the revelation in which it was stated that these commandments concerning Zion should be fulfilled after her redemption.

Elder Snow explained the condition of the people who had been driven out of Jackson County, and their inability to carry out the principles of the United Order until they should be restored to their lands in Zion, and hence the revelation in regard to waiting until the redemption of Zion. Yet in Kirtland the Order could still be carried out and so in other places where it might be established. He showed too that the time would come when we would be required to carry out the principles of the United Order to the very letter. He read further from the Doctrine and Covenants, page 345, showing that the Saints were rebuked of the Lord for not doing so, and that Zion cannot be built up without obedience to the Order. He exhorted the Saints to take such a course that they may reach that position in temporal things referred to in the morning by President Cannon, and not only know that this is the work of the Lord, but also know that they know it.

President Woodruff hoped the congregation would remember the discourse they had listened to. He thought it was too cold to prolong the meeting.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a. m. The choir sang the anthem, "I will bless the Lord at all times."

Benediction by Apostle F. M. Lyman.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, APRIL 6.

Death of a Pioneer.—Bishop Chamberlain, of Orderville, Kane County, who is now in the city, is in receipt of a telegram informing him of the death, at that place, on the 3rd inst., of Elder Israel Hoyt, after an illness of three days. The deceased was an old member of the Church, much respected, and one of the Pioneers of Utah.

A Sudden Death.—A sudden death occurred in the Sixth Ward this morning. The wife of Mr. Erasmus Wetzel, who was confined about two weeks since, arose and dressed this morning. Her husband went out for about twenty minutes, and when he returned she was either dead or died a very few minutes afterwards.

Returned from the South.—We have had the pleasure of a call from Elder John E. Carlisle, of Logan, who has just returned from a mission to the Southern States. He left here on the 19th of April, 1881, and labored in Virginia Conference, which includes a portion of West Virginia. He met with fair success, being instrumental, in conjunction with his companions in the ministry of bringing a few into the Church, and opening up some new fields. He enjoyed his labors greatly.

Badly Burned.—Last evening a workman at the Germania smelter met with a very serious accident. By some means he lost his balance and partially fell into a quantity of molten metal. His left hip and hand were fearfully burned, so that the flesh was badly cracked. There