

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, July 13th, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Charles W. Penrose presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

O Jesus! the Giver
Of all we enjoy.

Prayer by Bishop Elias Morris.

The choir sang.

O my Father, Thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place.

The Priesthood of the Eighth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT

was the first speaker. In the course of his remarks he said: I have a testimony of the Gospel of Christ. I know that by keeping the commandments of our Lord and Savior, and by obeying the laws laid down for the guidance of his people that the promises which have been made that we shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or of man can be fulfilled. It is because of a knowledge of the Gospel, because of the testimony of Jesus Christ, that I am ever ready and willing to raise my voice in defense of the principles of truth and the plan of life and salvation.

I have recently had the privilege of traveling in some of the Eastern States and in Canada. I visited some of the largest cities in the east, going as far as New York, and I confess that I was greatly surprised as I mingled among the people to find how little they know of the Latter-day Saints. I met a great many who expressed astonishment upon hearing that we believe in the Bible. They had no idea that we accepted King James' translation as a guide for our actions. They seemed to think that the "Mormons," so-called, had a Bible of their own, that we had cast away the Holy Scriptures and did not believe in Jesus Christ.

I have discovered in traveling both east and west that the "almighty dollar," so to speak, is the bible of the people. It is business with them morning, noon and night. Men of the world know very little except of those things which tend to give them earthly advancement. They are bright, active and energetic in their business affairs; they study, they make their religion, as it were, the accumulation of wealth. Indeed there is no question that there is a great growth of wealth in the hands of the few, and that therefore the many are gradually becoming placed in straitened circumstances. There is also, I am convinced, among the Latter-day Saints, a gradual growth of what we might term "class distinction." That brotherly love, fellowship, and union which existed among the Saints in early times, which made them in very deed brethren and sisters, which made their aims, interests and ambitions one in common are gradually dying out; we find that there prevails a disposition

for every man to labor for himself and for his own advancement. Those of us who are faithful with the revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith must realize that this tendency of which I speak is contrary to the principles of the Gospel, and that unless we become more united we cannot expect to be blessed of the Lord as He has promised. I regret to say that there are many Latter-day Saints who think, because they have received a testimony of the principles of the Gospel and a knowledge as to the plan of life and salvation in a foreign land and have gathered together in these valleys, that this is all that is necessary; but any person who has taken the pains to read and study the teachings of our Lord and Savior will become thoroughly convinced that faith without works is dead—that it requires labor and a fulfillment of the duties and obligations resting upon us as members of the Church if we would gain the reward.

In the meeting here last Sabbath we heard considerable about the disposition of the people to seek after pleasure, thereby neglecting their religious duties and obligations. We heard also of the actions of our enemies from time to time as against the Latter-day Saints. For my own part, I have never seen the day when I entertained the least fear as to what our enemies could do to injure the work of God. They can do nothing against us but what shall be for us. The only cause for fear that I have had is lest the Saints, either as individuals or as a people, might become negligent in keeping the commandments of our Heavenly Father. The trials and tribulations through which, from time to time, we are called upon to pass are calculated in their very nature to connect us more closely together and cause us to be united. It is in days of adversity that the better part of man's nature is developed, and the same applies to nations as to individuals.

In the early days of our country, after our patriot fathers had fought for and obtained their liberty, they labored not in the interests of party or of political rings, but with all the zeal they possessed, to found and establish a government whereby liberty could be secured to all. Today, however, we find that men have become wealthy; gigantic corporations have sprung into existence; money and politics control the laws which are enacted; men unblushingly stand up in the halls of Congress and admit that they are violating the Constitution of their country by passing certain laws, but urge that they do it "because the country demands it." The concentration of wealth and power and the laboring for self-aggrandizement is the ruling spirit of the age. In years gone by men did not look toward their own personal interests. Our patriot fathers labored for the common good of all, to establish a land of liberty that should in very deed be the home of the oppressed of all nations. But things have changed. History is repeating itself, and evidences of

dissatisfaction are very plainly seen on all sides. There is a lack of that patriotism and honor which should exist in the hearts of men who hold high and responsible positions. They will remark unblushingly, "Your cause is just, but we can do nothing for you."

Now we as Latter-day Saints, as the people of God, seeing the tendency of wrong, and the growth and centralization of power, should seek to become more united, seek to labor for each other's advancement. It should be impossible for any member of the Church to suffer without all suffering; and we should likewise rejoice together. The persecutions by our enemies, the trials through which we are called upon to pass, amount to absolutely nothing. They are in the nature of chastisements, just as a parent would chastise a child whom he or she loves, when it does wrong, in order to bring it back to the line of duty.

The Latter-day Saints are accused of being narrow and contracted in their religion and ideas, and yet this is the Gospel of Christ, reaching out and embracing all mankind, and redeeming them eventually through the atoning blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is indeed glad tidings to a fallen world; and it behoves each and all of us who have received a testimony of the Gospel so to live and order our lives that the example we set shall bring credit to the work of God. I maintain that the Latter-day Saints should so live that as they come in contact with the people of the world those who learn to know them will have to acknowledge their honesty of purpose, sincerity of heart, the uprightness of their lives, and their good example.

Speaking of persecutions, if the Latter-day Saints had not been driven to the mountains, one of the predictions of the Prophet Joseph would have fallen to the ground. Those who drove the people here thought, no doubt, that they were doing God's service—that the "Mormons" would probably be hunted into the wilderness to starve and die, and that a "vile blot" would thereby be wiped out. Joseph Smith had said that the Saints would be driven from city to city, from county to county, from State to State, finally to the Rocky Mountains, and become a great people. Therefore those who persecuted the Latter-day Saints were simply making a fulfillment of the prophecies uttered by the Prophet, he who told us that the day would come when not only city, county and State would be arrayed against us, but the whole United States. This prediction was laughed and scoffed at by people forty years ago. Why? It was ridiculous to imagine that in a land of freedom and of boasted liberty such things would happen. But the day has come, and we have frequently seen in print, at the head of the newspapers, "The United States of America versus the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." We have seen our property taken away from us and confiscated, and measures are now