

this afternoon. Let it be considered that here are individuals from almost every nation on the earth. Another congregation like this can probably not be found anywhere. Would people gather like the Saints have done unless they had an assurance that by so doing they were acting in accordance with a divine command? The speaker related some of his own and fellow travelers' experience in crossing the plains, and the hardships they endured during that three months' journey, as well as their first experience in this valley. But the people did not murmur. They felt they were doing the will of God, and it is a fact that those who endured much for the Gospel's sake in coming here, are among the most reliable members of the Church.

Another evidence is the remarkable change that has taken place in these valleys since the first settlement. The soil was at first considered not only barren but dead, and it was thought nothing could be made to grow here. Today all this is changed. Every spot will soon blossom as a garden and the very climate has changed, until it is celebrated throughout the land for its salubrity. The land was blessed by the servants of God, who predicted this change, and to God is the honor due; for He heard and answered the prayers of His people.

Similar evidence could be gathered from another land, the country of the Jews. About fifty years ago Apostle Hyde was sent to Palestine to bless that country and to dedicate it for the gathering of the Jews. He did so. At that time there were only about 5000 Jews in Jerusalem. Now the descendants of Israel are in a great majority in that city and the country is being reclaimed. This has taken place in answer to the prayers and is a proof that Joseph Smith was inspired in his work.

The speaker next referred to the fact that the Saints are accused of being led by the Priesthood; that they have given up their own judgment and are therefore not entitled to the rights which belong to free citizens. The idea is absurd. It should be remembered that we are living in a great republic and that almost every family has one newspaper or more. In a land where there is a free press, tyranny cannot exist. People would soon rebel against it. The assertion that the Saints do not have their free agency is not true. We are free to do all that is right. As Saints, we are not at liberty to sin or to act wickedly, for if we do, we will lose our fellowship in the Church, but further than that, the Priesthood could not and would not interfere.

The speaker closed by asking the blessing of God on His people, that they may be humble and able to do His will in all things, and finally obtain eternal exaltation.

#### APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

was the next speaker. He had listened with much interest to the remarks made by the previous speaker. We can all recognize the statements he made as true and realize the necessity of practicing in our daily lives the principles of which he has spoken.

If there is one thing more pleasing than another in connection with the work of God it is the fact that no indi-

vidual, be he ever so feeble, so young, so old, so unlearned, or so intelligent, and who has an honest heart, but will find an opportunity to aid in the carrying out of this work. God has gathered out from the various nations of the earth men and women endowed with various qualities. He has united them in one Church and they have one supreme ambition—to save themselves and their fellowmen. God utilizes the various capacities of His children to carry out His purposes, and if sometimes mistakes should seemingly appear to be made in the selection of instruments for certain branches of the work, such are not due to God, but to the lack of wisdom in His children. There is a place for each one, where his talents can be used to assist in the progress of this latter-day work. If any is endowed with peculiar talents, there will be corresponding opportunities to use them.

Speaking of the fact that men are sometimes selected to perform duties of which they seem to be incapable, Apostle Cannon mentioned, as an instance, that missionaries were sometimes sent out who were but poorly prepared for that kind of labor, both as regards natural ability and study, and the consequence is that in many fields of labor men are found who are not doing a great deal of good. Again, among the people at home we find men who labor to acquire property but because of incapability of managing temporal affairs are left in a poor condition, whereas the same men if they were set abroad, might be the means of saving many souls.

The speaker further said he thought the idea was becoming too prevalent that only those are to be sent out as missionaries who have ample means to support their families at home and to pay their way. The fact is that the Elders must bear the Gospel to the world whether they are poor or rich. The labor is not lifted off their shoulders because they are poor. In former times the Elders went out, notwithstanding their poverty, and they were not less successful on that account. They reached the honest souls who were waiting to hear the Gospel. Nor did they lack food while preaching the Gospel. You, yourselves, are witnesses that they accomplished wonders among the nations of the earth and that friends were raised up to them on every hand. It is an error, if not a sin, to entertain the idea that the Elders must necessarily have resources on which to draw when going abroad. This robs them of the necessity of being entirely dependent on the Lord, and the world of a chance to be proven by the Gospel. The Lord has said that the laborer is worth his hire, and even in this day when the harvest is almost gathered, yet, if the Elders are faithful, the Lord is willing to bestow on them blessings similar to those which He gave in the early history of the Church.

The speaker said he believed in the division of labor. He had seen the excellent results obtained thereby in a celebrated European establishment for the manufacturing of watches, where men gave their whole lives, each to one certain part of the watch. This could be applied to some extent to the work of God. Men who are capable of accumulating property should be

willing to look after those who have none, but who are capable of doing much good laboring in spiritual things. It would not be well to confine anybody to one particular department of the work of God, but those who are especially talented in one direction should be given an opportunity to labor in that, but not selfishly to build themselves up at the cost of others.

It seems necessary that a system, concerning which a few principles have been revealed should be established for the good of the people. Then a mighty change would take place. Then men would no more be called upon to perform duties for the means they possess but for the qualification which they have.

It is said that we should become saviors on mount Zion. Some think that by not going abroad they are deprived of the privilege of that title. But there are many ways of saving souls right at home. In gathering the people from abroad, in building temples, redeeming the soil, erecting homes, etc., we are giving the strongest testimony to the world that we are a people who are striving to establish peace on earth among men.

The temples are open to those who are prepared to work therein for the salvation of souls. This work is hardly heeded as much as it should be. Some think they have so few names of their dead relatives that it is not worth while to labor for them. The speaker related the remarkable experience of a man who said he had only eight names, and who thought he would not commence the work for so few. But he was advised to work for these first, and when he had done so, he obtained by revelation knowledge of 8000 in all, for whom he had to work, and he now feels that life is too short for such a great and glorious undertaking.

The speaker closed with an earnest appeal to the Saints of God to lay up treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed. Earthly riches must be left here. They cannot follow us, nor can we by them obtain salvation. The deeds we do will follow us, and if good, will bring us abundant reward. May God help us to be faithful and true, and do all the good we can to our fellowmen, and then receive our reward in God's celestial kingdom.

The choir sang the anthem:

"Glorious is Thy name."

Benediction by Elder H. P. Richards.

The Norwegian Storting has unanimously resolved to take up a state loan of 20,000,000 kroner.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson and Lieutenant-General George Sverdrup, enroute to the king, are at loggerheads. The would-be reformer has attacked the latter in a severe article in *The World's Occurrences*, regarding sundry meretricious decorative transactions, at which insinuations the courtier has taken offence, counter-charging the belligerent poet with being far too imaginative in his assertions, and that he has stretched the truth so far that the stories about his (Bjornson's) refusal of the St. Olaf's order and of the legion of honor are simply lies.