

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, December 25th, 1892, commencing at 2 o'clock p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Mortals, awake! with angels join,
And chant the solemn lay.

Prayer by Bishop Wm. B. Preston.

The choir sang the hymn:

Jesus, once of humble birth,
Now in glory comes to earth.

The Priesthood of the Twenty-first ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER JUNIUS F. WELLS

was the first speaker. He desired, he said, to have the Spirit of the Lord to guide him in what to say. He rejoiced in the privilege of being in the assemblies of the Saints, to hear the counsel of the servants of the Lord and to partake of the emblems of the sacrament. He also rejoiced in the testimony he had of the truth of the Gospel and felt to bow in humility and gratitude to God for having revealed this truth, because he believed truth was not known to the people of the world. Christendom is without Christianity. In the Christian world, notwithstanding all confessions to the contrary, there is not the same faith as there was in the first Church. The beautiful teachings of Christ are partly accepted by philosophers, but the right comprehension of His word and works, is hardly found. How many believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus and accept His ministry as essential to salvation? Men are willing to concede that Christianity is a system with a mission in the world, as other religious systems, but beyond that very few understand what that religion is.

By the fruit ye shall know them. In this age the Lord has restored the Gospel as it was in its primitive purity. This we testify and ask the world to judge of our testimony by the fruits produced.

The speaker mentioned the fact that in all ages, from the first time a promise was given of a Messiah, the Angel of the Lord has been communicating the mind and will of God to men. So also in this age glorious manifestations have been given. Through revelation Joseph Smith was told that the churches had gone astray. He received a sure testimony, for it was given to him to see the face of God and hear the voice of the Son of God. There was no room for doubt. There has never been given any surer testimony. Promises were also made unto him. His future life was foretold, when he was given to understand that he should be the instrument to re-establish the Church on earth, and he was given the authority necessary to accomplish this work. What has Christendom to say of such ministry? Such things as ministering through angels is not even known to modern Christianity. Not only to Joseph, but

to others have the heavens been opened, and today thousands can testify to the truth which Joseph proclaimed. The speaker rejoiced in this testimony and this faith. He could say that he knew that the Lord lives, and will answer those who pray to Him. His countenance shines in favor on those who are willing to stand up for Him in this age of idolatry.

There has never been a time in the history of this people, of which it can be said with more truth than now, that the harvest is ripe and the laborers few. There are many who do not believe our testimony that the Lord has spoken, but others there are who are willing and prepared to receive it. It is therefore our duty to warn mankind and declare the will of the Lord. It is our duty and also our privilege, for no greater honor can be bestowed on a person than that of being sent as a messenger of heaven to our fellowmen.

The Lord has indeed favored Zion. When we see the power and strength visible among us today, we see how much we have for which to be thankful. The speaker has been led to reflect, this morning on the journey of the early Saints with all the hardships they had to endure; and then on the condition of the people today with their beautiful cities and towns and temples. This should fill our hearts with gratitude. May we realize the blessings we have received. It is hard to understand the magnitude of these blessings, but may we endeavor to do so, and serve Him faithfully, who is the giver of all.

The choir sang:

Jesus, I my cross have taken.

APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

was the next speaker. He hoped, he said, the Spirit of God might rest upon him while standing before the congregation. The testimony of Elder Wells, he said, is important. If true, those who reject it are in danger; and those who accept it have life eternal. A similar testimony has been borne among the nations of the earth, and as a result this people have gathered here. The Spirit of God, which in the latter days was to be poured out upon all flesh has given us a testimony that the Gospel is true. While some has been done by the way of preaching the Gospel to every creature, yet our labors have only just commenced. Many nations are yet without the Elders of the Church. We are told that all kindreds and nations and tongues must hear it. How industriously we should be engaged in bearing our testimony, that in the day of judgment men should be without excuse if they reject it.

Every succeeding year shows, however, some advancement. Looking back on the year now soon passed, we can see the progress made. There have been difficulties and obstacles, but these have not been of a nature to stop the onward course. Blessed are they who are in such communion with our Heavenly Father, that they can bear the great changes that are still to come. Looking at the early history of the Church, we wonder that many great men apostatized for the most trivial causes, apparently. But we must remember the Church at that time was in its infancy, and small trials seemed great then, just as to children those things

seem to be of great importance which cease to be considered so in after age.

This is a day on which our hearts should melt in gratitude to God and be filled with kindness to our fellow-men. We should have room for only one feeling, "Glory to God in the highest," for a Savior is born. In this fact we should feel to expel all hard feelings from our hearts and repent of all wrong doings and right what we possibly have done wrong. We should remember this day our situation and reflect on our past life. Have we done wrong in any manner, this day of all others should move us to amend our ways, that the future may find us more closely attending to our duties than the past. The Gospel has done much for us. It has made a brotherhood of us, put us on an equal level in the sight of God. The fact that the Gospel of the kingdom is preached to the poor should be a testimony to the world today as it was to the disciples of John. The poor in the world are in a terrible condition, and where can they turn for sympathy and relief except among those who have accepted the Gospel, which teaches us to take care of the poor? In the Church there is no distinction such as exists in the world. The poor is as welcome as the rich; the unlearned as the scholar. Yet, we cannot be saved in ignorance. The Gospel teaches us to advance. Joseph Smith, although an untutored youth, when the Lord selected him as His messenger, became one of the most learned men of the age. Thus it is with the Saints.

The Gospel further teaches us to love one another. Christ, in defense of the temple, felt righteous anger in his heart, but in his feeling towards men He showed a spirit of forgiveness. This should teach us to be zealous about the honor of God at the same time we feel kindly towards those who trespass against us. This we are taught in the Doctrine and Covenants. The Lord forgives whom He pleases, but we are required to forgive all men. We should not feel bitterness toward anybody. God's justice is tempered with mercy. If we could see our weaknesses, we would at least be restrained from saying anything to hurt our fellowmen.

The choir sang the anthem, Wonderful Counselor.

Benediction by President George Q. Cannon.

In the application for a mandamus by Congressman Belknap to compel a recount in Ionia county, Michigan, an order to show cause was today granted, returnable the first day of the January term.

The Union Pacific limited fast mail which left here at 7:30 yesterday, was derailed near La Tourelle Falls, sixty miles east of Portland, Or. The engine, baggage car and express car left the track, but no one was injured.

James Williams, a colored man in Chicago who confessed to complicity in a Paris murder, sticks to his story with the reservation that he was not an active accessory. He was examined by physicians, who pronounced him sound of mind, and the police will now look up his story carefully.