

The choir and congregation sang:  
How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the  
Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent  
word.

Benediction by Elder C. D. Fjelsted.  
AFTERNOON SESSION.

The choir sang the hymn which be-  
gins,

Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall  
join

In work so pleasant, so divine,  
Now, while the flesh is my abode,  
And when my soul ascends to God.

Prayer by Elder Angus M. Cannon.  
Singing:

High on the mountain top  
A banner is unfurled,  
Ye nations now look up,  
It waves to all the world.  
In Deseret's sweet, peaceful land;  
On Zion's mount behold it stand.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. RICH-  
ARDS,

of the quorum of the Twelve, was the first speaker. Such occasions as this, he stated, were spiritual feasts designed to build us up and strengthen us for the duties of life. One of the most important of these duties was the raising of a family to the Lord, and the procuring from the earth of things necessary for their support. All should be producers, for in self-dependence was happiness. The tendency to shirk these responsibilities was deplored; it was much better to assume them and gain strength and self-confidence from their proper performance. It was wrong for people who should be helping to build up the Church, to turn to the Church for support.

Referring to President Woodruff's last instructions to the people, the speaker advised that they be read and studied by them, for they were particularly striking and valuable. Although he had left this stage of action and had gone to join his departed associates yet the proper step had been taken to provide a successor in the Presidency of the Church, according to the precedent established after the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith. His death had thrown all his followers into gloom, as he had been such a close friend and wise counselor. At the time nearly all the Apostles were absent from Nauvoo, and various men arose, claiming authority and acknowledging no allegiance to any one, Lyman Wright, Father Cutler, George Miller, James J. Strang, and others separated from the main body and founded communities which were doomed to disintegrate, while Sidney Rigdon attempted to usurp authority over the people at Nauvoo.

In these trying times the Twelve followed the admonitions of the Prophet before his death, to stand at the head of the work and exercise presiding authority, according to the endowment of power placed upon them by Joseph. The power of the Priesthood restored to the earth through holy angels, rested upon the Twelve until the year 1847, when, in December, the First Presidency was reorganized and a fullness of organization perfected, the vacancies in the Apostleship being filled in 1848, the speaker being the last of the four ordained. When President Brigham Young departed, another period of the Presidency of the Twelve occurred, John Taylor being at the head of the quorum. Time was taken to get the mind of the Lord, and He made it manifest that a Presidency should be reconstructed. And when President Taylor died, the Twelve held the direction of affairs for a time, until by the manifestation of the Spirit, it was seen that it was the proper time for the First Presidency to be again organized. Unity of sentiment

and purpose had always marked the action of the Twelve in this matter. When President Woodruff died, there was no disunion in the minds of the fourteen brethren who stood at the head of the work. Therefore, when they assembled in their regular organization as a quorum, and were contemplating the temporal and spiritual needs of the Church, it began to be apparent that the time had come for the reorganization of the First Presidency, and the word of the Lord was given to this effect. Therefore, it was clear that the acceptable time for this action had come.

The speaker felt to rejoice at this manifestation of the will of God. President Woodruff had always been full of instruction and blessings to the people, and God had shown a peculiar watch-care over His people in giving them safety from the many dangers of the present time. Among these was not only the rise of false Christs, etc., but the occurrence of wars and rumors of war, a necessary part of the great and last dispensation, as necessary as any other portion. It was by war and its attendant developments that this land had been settled and prepared for the establishment of the great Latter-day work, with liberty of worship. The War of the Rebellion had also prepared the way for the free spread of the Gospel in the Southern States, where the work was now taking root and making rapid growth. So in Europe, when the Gospel was desired in Germany, it was introduced amid difficulty and even exile, not only the Elders, but also converts, being expatriated. But after the war between France and Germany over Alsace and Lorraine, circumstances have become somewhat favorable to the spread of the work; the Elders, though banished from some places, being gladly welcomed in others.

Therefore the time would come when the sons of Israel would be looked upon by the world as mighty, and through their faithfulness and the Priesthood they bear, invincible to their enemies.

The speaker closed with the prayer that he and all the Church might be faithful in the performance of all duties and happy in the fruition of all their righteous desires. This would come to pass if the love of Zion were placed above every other sentiment.

ELDER HEBER J. GRANT,

of the quorum of Apostles, addressed the Conference. Following is a brief synopsis of his discourse: He rejoiced in having the privilege of once more meeting with the Saints in Conference, and hoped to be able to encourage them to press forward in the performance of their duties—to seek first the kingdom of God. We had weaknesses to contend with, but if we desire above all other things to know the mind and will of God, He would help us to keep His commandments. There was abundance of room to cultivate faith and endeavor not to become discouraged. The speaker rejoiced that he himself had a hopeful disposition. When the difficulties of life were formidable it was all the more necessary to put forth determination, exertion and energy. There was a great force in will-power. When we determined to attain a given end, God gave power to accomplish it. It was too often the case that the sick failed because they give up too readily. The exercise of the faculties in overcoming difficulties developed character. The one great object of life ought to be to do everything possible for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God. All should pay an honest tithing. No president of a Stake was fit to hold his position who failed in this regard. When such was the case, he weakened his ministry because he was not a faithful example

to the people under his supervision.

Elder Grant said he knew that the mantle of the Prophet Joseph Smith fell upon the shoulders of Brigham Young. His own mother and other faithful Saints had told him that they had heard President Young speak with the voice of Joseph, after the latter's martyrdom.

The speaker here read a prophecy of the Prophet Joseph in relation to the Saints gathering to the Rocky Mountain region and there becoming a mighty people. He took occasion to draw attention to this fulfillment because of certain men who were in the community seeking to convince them that the Church was disorganized after the death of its first President and Prophet. Elder Grant also spoke of other prophetic declarations which had been fulfilled in certain attitudes assumed by the United States government toward the Latter-day Saints. A prediction made by Joseph Smith to and concerning Stephen A. Douglas, and its verification were also alluded to. All these predictions had reference to the future of the Church when it should be located in this region. They had no relation to any reorganized church, but the true Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which had never been disintegrated.

The speaker knew that Lorenzo Snow, Wilford Woodruff, and John Taylor were Prophets of God. He knew that he, himself, had been raised up from a bed of sickness by the power of God, and that this Church was His work.

ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE

followed. He referred to the appreciation of the Gospel and its blessings, by the Saints, and his doubt that that appreciation was adequate. He himself rejoiced in being a member of the Church of Christ. Great promises had been given to the Saints, that they should be blessed in life, and raised from the dead to rewards of righteousness. Referring to the revelation in section 120 of the Doctrine and Covenants, Elder Teasdale stated that the Lord had established His Church and restored the Priesthood, with the power to preach the Gospel to the world. The Saints were living in accordance with the light of the Gospel, freeing themselves from the wickedness of the world, and enjoying the fellowship of the Holy Ghost. True, some who were not worthy the name of Saints, were transgressing the law of God, but they were only the tares among the wheat. The Saints on the contrary were doing all in their power to please God. Many of them had come out of the world for this purpose, and they seemed, in most cases, to appreciate, in an especial way, the blessings of the Gospel.

The testimony of the Spirit had been poured out upon the people in many instances, and it was fitting that they should acknowledge the hand of God in all blessings bestowed upon them.

There was no happiness in the world superior to that of a man who kept the commandments of God. All should be just in every action, treating all men in a spirit of integrity. Representing Christ, through the Priesthood, the Saints should show by words and works that they were in possession of a divine testimony to the truth of the work. They should retain their first love and zeal for the cause of truth, showing themselves a righteous people, as they had done to the present.

The choir and congregation sang:

Come, come, ye Saints, nor toil nor  
labor fear.

Benediction by Elder Joseph E.  
Taylor.

Conference adjourned till Sunday  
morning, Oct. 9th, at 10 a. m.