



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1869.

THIRTY-NINTH SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Thirty-ninth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints convened this morning at ten o'clock, in the New Tabernacle.

On and around the stand we noticed President Brigham Young, President Geo. A. Smith and President Daniel H. Wells, of the First Presidency. Apostles: Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, junr., and Joseph F. Smith. Patriarch: John Smith. John Young, Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum. John W. Young, George B. Wallace and John T. Caine, of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion. Joseph Young, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and John Van Cott, of the First Seven Presidents of the Seventies. Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, the Presidency of the Bishopric. There were also Bishops, Elders and leading men from every settlement in the Territory.

The meeting was called to order by President Brigham Young, and the Tabernacle Choir, led by Bro. Geo. Careless, sang the first hymn, "The Morning Breaks the Shadows Flee." Prayer was offered by Elder Orson Hyde. The hymn on page 288 was sung by the Tabernacle Choir.

PRESIDENT DANIEL H. WELLS addressed the Conference. He was pleased at having the privilege of meeting with so many of the people who had come from distant parts of the Territory to be instructed in the ways of the Lord. He was pleased that we had a Territory teeming with Saints. Whether Saints of God are willing to become self-sustaining is an important point for their consideration. There is a warfare in existence betwixt the powers of good and evil, the latter striving continually to overthrow the authority and power of the holy priesthood. We may expect to have this power to contend against continually. We have the inestimable privilege of living under the best and most benign Government on the face of the earth. It is a government that has come down from heaven. The Lord could not have instituted His government among the nations of the earth in their scattered condition, hence those willing to obey His laws have gathered together. The Almighty uses agencies for the accomplishment of His purposes. We cannot attain to the glorious blessings of the celestial kingdom unless we obey the laws of that kingdom. Every kingdom has a law. To attain to the blessings of the celestial kingdom, to go into the presence of the Father and of the Son, is worth living for. We must, in order to attain those things, obey the counsels of the servants of God. There is not that amount of unity among the Saints that there ought to be. We are still somewhat divided in temporal matters. If we are approximating to unity in temporal things we are traveling towards the condition which the Lord desires, that is the Order of Enoch. It is desirable that the Latter-day Saints should patronize each other, and not any store, unless compelled by necessity to do so; if there is anything that they cannot possibly do without, then they can go to the co-operative stores and obtain it. At our Territorial Fair there have been just as good and useful articles of home-manufacture exhibited as can be manufactured elsewhere. This shows we have the power to sustain ourselves if we have but the will. To be self-sustaining is one of the most important principles of political economy, and is acknowledged to be such in every community.

Our exports should exceed our im-

ports. If we attain to this point instead of the means of the Latter-day Saints being drained out of the Territory they would be increased. We can make as good fabrics here as elsewhere, but we cannot produce them as cheap as in some other places. This brings in the labor question, which if not properly regulated will cause others to step in from a distance and do the labor which ought to be done by the Saints. The high price of labor will bring them here. It is to provide against this contingency that so much has been said upon this matter. If the powers that are in opposition to this kingdom had the majority here they would trample us under foot. It rests with the Latter-day Saints to say whether this shall be so or not; it depends on the unity of the people here, and their producing what they need to supply their wants, and not sustain those who are opposed to the work of God. Who can reasonably find fault with people for pursuing this course? It is necessary for the preservation of our existence. The Almighty is at the head of His work and He has never told us to do anything but what would be for our benefit. If any one thinks the Lord does not know His own business and has not placed the right man at the head of the Church, let them produce a better if they can; if they cannot, let them forever hold their peace.

Many of the faithful servants of God have been taken away from the earth because the inhabitants of the earth were unworthy of them. If we live consistently with the counsels of the servants of God, by doing all in our power to bring about the Order of Enoch, we shall be preparing to associate with them. A short time since, a gentleman who was here on a visit, asked him whether a citizen residing here could sell a house and lot if he had one to dispose of, to an outsider. He told him certainly he could if he wanted to; but said the speaker, if I had a house to sell, I would prefer to sell it to a friend rather than an enemy. The stranger agreed with that, saying that he had a house and lot where he lived, and he would see some men in a warm place before he would sell his house to them.

May the Lord prosper and bless us all, Amen.

Brigham City Choir, under Bro. Fishburn, sang "When there's love at home."

PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SMITH next spoke. He said it is very gratifying to meet the Saints in Conference, to see so many familiar faces from all parts of the Territory, and from every part of the world. It has been my privilege to do so many times.

On the evening of the dedication of the Kirtland Temple, the priesthood numbered 416. At that time I was acquainted with nearly every one in the Church. It is very different now.

We expect to go back to Jackson Co., from whence the Saints were expelled in 1833. Some are now living who were driven at that time. The Saints were guilty of the heinous crime, so our enemies said, of anointing the sick with holy oil, that they might be healed. For this they were driven from their homes. The losses consequent on their being driven are estimated at \$500,000, the interest on which, to this date, would amount to \$1,800,000. What the compound interest would be I cannot say.

He did not design to give details of the five times we have been driven. Those who drove the Saints, left them to their own resources. They came here poor and commenced to develop this barren country. In the history of nations and individuals those who have had to take the world roughly have made the mightiest men, whilst those who have been nurtured in ease have not so often become distinguished. This may in some way apply to our case. Other peoples who have settled in new countries have been favored and nurtured by the government; as in the case of the people of Oregon and other places. With the settlers of Utah it has been different. Every scribbler who has passed through this Territory has filled his sheets with misrepresentations and falsehoods. For what we have and are, we are indebted to God alone and to no other source. At one time a scapegrace who had been sent hereby the government to fill an official position, after his time expired, took it into his head to resign, and to represent the Latter-day Saints as being in rebellion against the government, and although the authorities at Washington had abundant testimony that this man lied, yet they inaugurated what has been termed the "contractors' war," and the coffers of the government were robbed of \$25,000,000. But thanks to the overruling hand of Our Heaven-

ly Father, they accomplished nothing to the injury of the Latter-day Saints.

The gathering together of the Saints from the nations of the earth is as wonderful as the prophecy of Jeremiah,—"It shall no longer be said the Lord liveth who brought us out of the land of Egypt, but the Lord liveth who hath brought us out of the various nations of the earth where we were scattered." The people came here in poverty. Yet at the present time there are not ten per cent of them that are not living in their own houses. Some have said why co-operate to do our merchandizing? On the same grounds it might be asked why do we co-operate to dig a waterditch, or to fence a track of land that belongs to a hundred or more persons? Simply because that is the easiest way to accomplish it. So it has been with the opening of new roads to the canyons to get timber. It could not be done by one man. How is it that we have built this magnificent organ, which is the admiration of all visitors? It is the finest organ ever built in America. Why cannot this principle be extended to merchandizing and everything else, when the same gratifying results would follow? We ought to introduce tanneries, build factories and produce machinery on the same principle. Some feel that they have a right to go to the store of an outsider to purchase articles they want because they can obtain them a little cheaper. What has caused the reduction in price? The co-operative movement.

The Zion of God is not limited in its extent on this continent; but, as the Prophet Joseph has frequently declared it shall comprehend all North and South America. Notwithstanding the powers of the adversary, the Saints will in due time go back to Jackson County, and build a magnificent Temple and the most beautiful city in the world. May God grant us the righteous desires of our hearts, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir sang the hymn commencing "Glorious things of Thee are Spoken."

Conference adjourned till two o'clock p.m.

Prayer by President Geo. A. Smith.

Wednesday, 2 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Young. The Tabernacle Choir sang the Hymn on page 115, commencing "On the mountain tops appearing."

Prayer by Elder Horace S. Eldredge. The Tabernacle Choir sang the hymn on the 199th page, beginning "The glorious day is rolling on."

Elder ORSON PRATT addressed the Conference. During his absence from this city he had neglected no opportunity to meet with the few Saints who live in Williamsburg. It was with the Saints that he had joy, for ever since the Church was organized God has been with us. At its commencement it only comprised six members. God gave revelations in relation to the Holy Priesthood to those few individuals. In the year 1831 He gave additional revelations concerning that Priesthood and its power, and new councils were organized. Then the Saints were inexperienced and were liable to be led astray by spirits not of God; some pretended to have manifestations and revelations for the purpose of leading the Church. The Lord declared in a revelation that the Saints were not to be led by those influences, and said that He had appointed His servant Joseph, through whom he would lead His people. He directed that the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles should be organized, whose business it would be to preach the gospel to the nations, to the Gentiles first and then to the Jews. The Priesthood were called together after the building of the Kirtland Temple, and, in speaking of the Twelve Apostles, the Prophet Joseph said they had received the Apostleship with all the powers pertaining to the same, just as the ancient Apostles; in this God had fulfilled His word to His people—He had bestowed upon men all the power and authority necessary to carry on the building up of the kingdom of God. When Joseph was taken from the earth, all that was necessary was for the people to select one to preside over them who had already received an ordination to the apostleship, which is the highest authority ever bestowed upon man. If the people had not been satisfied with the selection that was made, I would not see before me this great congregation. There may be many people here who have never investigated the nature and authority of the Holy Priesthood. Many revelations have been given; one was given instructing the Saints to

build a house to the name of the Lord, in which revelation it was stated that if His people would go to work with all their might to build that house, and that, should their enemies come upon them and drive them and prevent them from fulfilling that work, He would no longer require that work at the hands of His servants. God has permitted us to be driven many times from our homes, but He has never taken from us the priesthood and kingdom. There is every evidence that can be desired that all the authority of that priesthood has been and is now with us. It is stated in the Book of Mormon that if the people of this nation rejected the gospel, He would take it from their midst. We had to leave our homes in the east before this prophecy could be fulfilled. It is still being fulfilled. The people are coming from the nations in hundreds and thousands. He heartily endorsed those great co-operative movements that had been introduced into the midst of the Saints. Unless we manufacture and export we will be unable to keep among us a circulating medium. May God grant that His blessings may be with all His Saints. Amen.

President BRIGHAM YOUNG delivered a short but very interesting and instructive discourse, in which he gave some interesting facts concerning the benefits arising from the system of Co-operation, and other matters of importance. His remarks were reported in full and will shortly be published.

Bro. Fishburn's choir sang a song entitled, "Our Prophet Brigham Young."

Elder ORSON HYDE was the next speaker. He rejoiced in everything that tends to the defense of the Kingdom of God. If the Saints take heed to the counsels of the servants of God he did not opine that any serious inroads would be made by any power that might be arrayed against the Zion of God. There are living witnesses that lived and associated with the Prophet Joseph, and will continue to live and testify to the truth until the Kingdom can take care of itself, and till that time God will take care of it. As long as those witnesses remain, it will be difficult for inroads to be made into the work which the Lord has commenced. At one time the Prophet Joseph said that he would shortly rest from his labors and exclaimed: "I now roll the responsibility of bearing off this kingdom on the shoulders of the Twelve Apostles." We did not think then that he was so soon to be taken from us. After he had been taken away, when the Twelve returned to Nauvoo, a meeting was appointed. President Brigham Young went to the stand, most of the rest of the Twelve dispersed themselves in the congregation to learn the feelings of the people, and when President Young arose to speak, his voice, gestures, his features, his form, and even his stature was Joseph's. There are many who can testify to this fact as well as myself. Here was evidence that required no argument to prove that President Brigham Young was the chosen of God to lead Israel, for here was Joseph in the person of Brigham. We need have no fears as to who should lead the Church, for whatever may happen, the Lord makes manifest his choice in so plain a manner that it can be comprehended even by a child. It is the constitutional right of President Young to wield all the influence over the people of this Territory that he can obtain. Many, when they see the influence wielded by our President, are jealous; they are not willing that a man should have influence who has legitimately and honestly earned it. In relation to the Government interfering with the Latter-day Saints, he wished to know why should it do so? We have done nothing wrong. I will say that to any power who will lay a stumbling block in the way of the progress of the Latter-day Saints, God will place two stumbling blocks in their way. If the Latter-day Saints are faithful, the Lord will protect us until the kingdom can take care of itself. God bless us all. Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir sang, "Praise the Lord, O, Jerusalem."

Conference adjourned until ten a.m. to-morrow.

The meeting was dismissed by Elder John W. Young.

Oct. 7th, 10 A.M.

Meeting was called to order by President George A. Smith.

The Tabernacle Choir sang the hymn on page 36, commencing, "Be it my only wisdom here."

Prayer was offered by Elder Brigham Young, junr.

The Tabernacle Choir sang "Give ear to my Words."

Elder LORENZO SNOW spoke. We are peculiar and distinct from all other