

selves when they entered into their covenant with God. Let us henceforward resolve to be more faithful, and more earnest in our efforts to advance the onward progress of this great latter-day work. He dwelt for some time upon the authorities and regulations existing in the Church for the maintenance of peace and union, and urged the strictest conformity thereto. Much depended upon due regard being paid to this matter. The judgments of the ecclesiastical tribunals should be respected, as they were based upon the evidence presented and a clear understanding obtained therefrom as to the rights of the principals interested. The system was so organized as to give the fullest protection to those who had differences with their brethren. A spirit which had appeared in some localities to foment dissension should be rebuked wherever it was exhibited. Instances had occurred where people whose cases had been adjusted by the Church tribunals had shown dissatisfaction with the result, because it had not been favorable to them. Others had sympathized with them instead of directing them to appeal to a higher court than that which had investigated the dispute. Thus a spirit of disunion had been encouraged by those who ought to have counseled wisely in the interests of peace.

The speaker turned his attention to the world, and the threatening and unsatisfactory condition existing in its affairs. It had been taught the Latter-day Saints to place their affairs in such a condition as would enable them to rise above such disastrous situations and furnish an object lesson to all peoples. The question of the necessity for their doing this was becoming more and more apparent. If we failed in conforming to the commandments of God in this respect we would not deserve His full confidence and approval. He urged the people to patronize and encourage home manufactures.

The choir sang the anthem,

Jerusalem, my glorious home.

Benediction by Elder C. D. Fjelsted.

SECOND DAY.

Saturday, April 7, 10 a. m.

The choir and congregation sang:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation;
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam,
Good tidings are sounding to us and each nation,
And shortly the hour of redemption will come.

Prayer by Elder John D. T. McAllister.

Singing by the choir:

Glory to God on high;
Let heaven and earth reply.

ELDER F. M. LYMAN

was the first speaker. He said he believed he felt the importance of the present gathering and the business transacted more than ever he did in his life before. In the month of January last he was called to go on a mission to Southern California, and it fell to the lot of Elder B. H. Roberts to be his traveling companion and spokesman. They spent nearly two months there, visiting the principal cities of the state, and gave the people the privilege of hearing the Gospel as the Latter-day Saints had received it. But they found there

were other people who claimed to be Latter-day Saints, professed followers of the Prophet Joseph Smith; and some of their hearers were somewhat doubtful as to whether they should listen to them or to others who claimed to be the legitimate followers of the Prophet and the Church which he established.

This was about the 101st Conference that had been held since the death of the Prophet Joseph, and from that time until now the Latter-day Saints had gathered together twice every year and by their unanimous vote had sustained those men who were designated by the voice of the Lord to bear the keys of the kingdom. The Latter-day Saints should keep a little account of the line of the Priesthood that had come down to us, in order that every man might know that he had received his ordination from those who stand in fellowship with the Church. The Josephites claimed that we had been cast out; that when the Saints left Nauvoo and went out into the wilderness they went away from Zion; that Nauvoo is Zion, and no other part of the country. But fortunately the Prophet Joseph, during the very last Conference of the Church that he attended, in April, 1844, announced that the continent of America was the land of Zion, both north and south. And on the following day the Prophet Hyrum Smith stated the same fact. This Church was as much the work of God now as it was in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, and there had never been a moment when there was a chance for any reorganized church, or any other, to come in and break the thread of authority and succession of the Church that we had here today. When, therefore, he saw this body of men gathered together in this place, bearing the Priesthood, he knew that God was still with this great latter-day work and would never desert it. The people must guard the authority of the Priesthood, then, as steadfastly as they would their lives. The Twelve never would be disorganized, from this day forth; and God had so ordained it that this Church would remain and endure, and its greatness would increase from this time forward until the final winding-up of the scene.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG

next addressed the assemblage. He was specially glad to be once more among the Saints in General Conference, as he had been absent from Salt Lake City for several months, visiting members of the more southern stakes of the Church, including Mexico. He had been much interested in witnessing the improvements that had been made in those remote settlements, especially in Juarez, which was already a beautiful little city. He had never witnessed so much of the power of God manifested in the Church as recently. The Saints had been forgiven their sins at the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple, and it was evident they had not returned to the practices that then required the special exercise of the clemency of the Almighty. Experience had taught the speaker that although the Saints did not fully obey the commandments embodied in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, if they strove to reach as

high a degree of perfection as practicable the Lord would forgive them their trespasses. They knew that the revelations contained in that book were true. All these things were for the perfecting of the people of the Lord, and for the building up of the Kingdom of God. The day would come when the law of God must be kept upon this and every other land, when the fiat would go forth, "Thus saith the Lord God," and it would affect not only this people, but every other nation under the whole heavens; it would be obeyed and Christ would come whose right it is to reign. The times were near at hand when the commandments of God would be given to us in things which never had been before. In conclusion the speaker prayed that His heavenly blessing would rest down abundantly upon this people.

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS.

rejoiced in the opportunity which had been given to the Latter-day Saints of again meeting together in General Conference, and in the testimonies which had been borne by preceding speakers. A variety of subjects had been touched upon. When this Gospel first reached us and we were permitted to investigate it, we found therein that which would amply satisfy the human soul in its longing and searching after the truth. And what blessings it gave to the repentant sinner, to know that by going down into the waters of baptism, under the hand of one authorized to officiate in that ordinance, his sins were all forgiven. The power of the Latter-day Saints had been increasing and extending ever since the organization of this Church, not merely upon earth but with the heavens. The Lord had watched over this people and would never desert them nor suffer their prayers to go unanswered. We were on the road to exaltation, in fellowship with angels, with the just made perfect, to be made hereafter partakers of God's kingdom. Elder Richards spoke on the subject of the building of temples and the sacred work for the dead performed therein; he also touched eloquently upon the beauty and importance of the labors of the Saints in that direction. If we were living correctly before the Lord our testimonies would increase, our light would shine brighter and brighter, and we would be still further strengthened in the ways of righteousness and truth. He counseled the Latter-day Saints to be diligent in keeping God's commandments and to remain steadfast to their covenants with Him. Let them depend not on falling Babylon. The speaker touched briefly upon the question of home industries and advocated the supporting of these as far as possible by the people. Utah had obtained a good reputation in the East for the firm stand which she had made during the late trying crisis, and there was no reason why we should not continue to maintain it. If the Latter-day Saints only kept their lamps trimmed and sought to do the will of God, the Holy Spirit would give them understanding and guide them onward unto the perfect day.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW

was the next speaker. He read from the Book of Doc. and Cov., section 84. The question refers to the blessings