

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

Convened in the Tabernacle, Great Salt Lake City, Friday, April 6, 1860, at 10 a.m.—President Brigham Young presiding.

On the Stand: Of the First Presidency: President Brigham Young;

Of the Twelve Apostles: Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards;

Of the First Presidency of Seventies: Joseph Young, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, and Levi W. Hancock;

Of the High Priests: John Young, Edwin D. Woolley, Samuel W. Richards, Phineas H. Young, William W. Phelps and Samuel L. Sprague;

Of the Presidency of the Stake: Daniel Spencer and David Fullmer;

Patriarchs: John Young and Isaac Morley; Bishops: Edward Hunter, A. O. Smoot and L. D. Young;

Reporters: George D. Watt and John V. Long.

The conference was called to order by the President.

Choir sung, "The morning breaks, the shadows flee."

Prayer was offered by Elder John Taylor.

Choir sung, "Come all ye Saints who dwell on earth."

President B. Young spoke of the church being thirty years old this day, and of the wonder-working hand of Providence that has hitherto preserved the servants of the Lord, and the church of Christ through all the vicissitudes of a persecuted life. Said that the Methodists, Presbyterians, Universalists, and all other sects of religionists have some truth amongst them, but that none of them have a perfect system, still the sincere and honest among them will have a better and a greater salvation than they anticipate; that the heathen and those who never heard the law of God will be redeemed, while those who have heard the law and rejected it will be condemned.

When the Lord brings again Zion and the watchmen shall see eye to eye, Saviors will come up on Mount Zion and officiate for thousands and millions of those who never heard the law, but who would have obeyed it if they had been blest with the privilege; that none will be finally damned or destroyed except the sons of perdition, that we may show mercy to and pray for our enemies, those who persecute us, for the Lord showed Joseph Smith in a vision that they would all be saved, except the sons of perdition, and for them we have no right to pray. The world will receive more happiness than they anticipate, and a better kingdom than they can hope for. The Lord will establish his laws and by them will his kingdom be governed.

Announced that the day would be occupied by the Twelve, Seventies and High Priests on the stand, who would make short speeches and bear testimony to the truth.

Elder Orson Hyde bore testimony to the divine origin of our religion; said he knew that it came from God, and that the Lord spoke through Joseph Smith as he now does through Brigham Young. Testified that he was fully satisfied with all the organizations of the church; he knew they were ordained of God for the work of the ministry and the perfection of the Saints.

Elder Wilford Woodruff rejoiced in the privilege of meeting with the Saints in general conference; referred to the Lord's prayer and made remarks on its peculiar construction and significant phraseology. He related, in brief, his experience with the sectarians before he heard the gospel of Christ, advertising to his researches after the true knowledge of God, and said that it afforded him great pleasure to bear testimony that he had lived to see the day when that knowledge was freely imparted to the honest in heart. He bore testimony that the kingdom of God was established with all its gifts, graces and blessings; contended that nothing could be aspired to by mortals that could equal the priesthood now restored to the earth. The wealth and power of the world he considered unworthy of comparison with it. He testified that Joseph Smith was a Prophet, the Book of Mormon a true record, and that the revelations in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants were from heaven.

Elder Orson Pratt spoke of the vastness of the labors of the missionaries of this church; portrayed the wonders that have been wrought by them in the past thirty years and asked the question, "What shall thirty years in the future develop and bring to pass?" Said the progress of this kingdom will cause nations and thrones to totter and tremble with fear and excitement and the hearts of the righteous to swell with a fullness of joy; that the days of the wicked are numbered; the kings, rulers, governors and gentile nations have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Alluded to the many testimonies that are to be given in the last days, after the testimony of the servants of God.

Elder John Taylor expressed himself pleased with the privilege and thankful for the honor of being numbered among the Latter Day Saints; he prized his standing in the church more than all the riches of the world, for he knew the Lord controlled the affairs of his people. Testified to the truth of the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and that Joseph Smith was a Prophet, Seer and Revelator, and that President Young is his lawful successor, and that the gospel as taught by the Elders of this church is the truth of heaven and the power of God unto salvation.

Choir sung, "Do what is right."

Elder Ezra T. Benson stated that he had been greatly strengthened while traveling among the Saints the past winter and telling them what he knew; briefly reviewed his experience in connection with the Methodist church and his first acquaintance with and introduction to the doctrine taught by the Latter Day Saints. Bore testimony that he knew the religion he had embraced to be true, for he had received manifestations of the spirit according to the promises made to the obedient.

Elder Charles C. Rich bore testimony to the saving nature of the gospel we have to advocate and testified that it will impart a present salvation to all those who obey it through life. He urged upon the people the necessity of considering their religion one of a practical character and of living by its principles, that we may attain all the blessings promised to the faithful; contended that we have no evils only those that spring out of our actions, and therefore if we strive to put away our follies and continue to practice our religion, we shall be saved with an eternal salvation. Bore testimony to the restoration of the gospel, with that authority which binds on earth and seals in heaven.

Elder Lorenzo Snow adverted to the varied and trying scenes through which the church of Christ has passed during its thirty years existence on the earth; said that if we seek to do right, everything around us and that we put our hands unto will prove a benefit and a blessing and increase happiness within us. Reasoned on the propriety of doing as we are told by those having authority to instruct us in the ways of life.

Choir sung, "O ye mountains high."

Benediction by Pres. Joseph Young.

2 o'clock, P.M.

Choir sung, "I'll praise my Maker while I've breath."

Prayer by Ezra T. Benson.

Singing: "Come ye that love the Lord."

Elder Erastus Snow addressed the congregation on the evidence and testimony that have been gradually developed in this Church; bore testimony to the divine mission of Joseph Smith; that he had received the personal administrations of holy angels and by revelation had laid the foundation of this latter day work; that he holds the keys of the dispensation of the fulness of times. Rejoiced that he had been favored with the privilege of believing and obeying the doctrines of this Church, which he received twenty-eight years ago. Related some incidents connected with his experience since he became acquainted with the gospel. He could not say that he had comprehended all things at once; but, as his understanding increased, his mind became enlarged, so that he had grown in the knowledge of the truth.

Elder Franklin D. Richards gave an account of his receiving the gospel in the State of Massachusetts; since that time his only theme had been to mingle with the members of the kingdom of God, and he would not wish to live upon the earth except in their society, and in the enjoyment of the Holy Spirit. He bore testimony that this is in deed the gospel of Jesus Christ and that we are members of the kingdom of God. Recommended to the Saints that personal and individual chastisement that will make them submissive to the will of heaven and one with the Presidency in all things. Alluded to the merciless frowardness of the wicked in causing the Saints to suffer torture and every kind of physical and mental affliction; also to the workings of God's power in the controlling of all events for the salvation of Israel. Advised the people so to live that they might dwell in the light of truth continually; for his own part he was determined to walk hand in hand with the Saints of the Most High.

Pres. Joseph Young observed that his brother Brigham was the first man who preached the gospel to him; at that time he was traveling in Canada preaching for the Methodists. He became acquainted with the Book of Mormon about two months after its publication, but he never investigated the subject of its coming forth for two years, when his brother came two hundred miles to preach it to him; he received it with joy and went forth testifying to the truth; from that time to this he always has had a testimony to bear that Joseph Smith was a Prophet and that the Book of Mormon was a divine revelation, and he could bear testimony that the keys of power were now committed to Joseph's successors.

Elder Zera Pulsipher told of his having been in this church over twenty-eight years; that he had previously been looking for something strange to come upon the earth in the last dispensation; spoke of the marvelous works that had been performed in this generation and of the increase of disunion in the sectarian world. When he first heard of the Book of Mormon he experienced a shock that was very much like electricity, and when he saw it he felt well satisfied and enjoyed the good spirit while listening to the account of its coming forth. He recited his experience in the church, alluded to the apostacies that had taken place at various times and the designs of the wicked in trying to injure the Saints.

Elder Albert P. Rockwood bore testimony to the truth of the gospel he had received; spoke of having first received the truth from Presidents Brigham and Joseph Young in 1836; recited interesting items concerning his reading the Book of Mormon and investigating the doctrines of the church; said that he traveled to Kirtland to see the Prophet Joseph and that, the very day he was baptized, Joseph was arrested six times while traveling from Kirtland

to the Lake. Made remarks relative to his ordination to the priesthood, and testified that he had been instantaneously healed from lameness in his limbs that had afflicted him for years.

Pres. John Young expressed himself grateful for the privilege of meeting with the brethren and hearing them speak of their experience, and if it were not so late in the afternoon he could tell some incidents of his experience of a singular character, that transpired before Joseph got the plates, and also many others that had occurred since; he always rejoiced in the society of Apostles and Prophets; he knew their testimony was true, and it afforded him great pleasure to be a witness to it. Many things had been said that were measurably his experience, but he wished in addition to that to testify to the signal interposition of the Almighty, and the manifestation of his goodness and power during our sojourn in these valleys, but in a particular manner during the last two years; still he knew there were grumblers in our midst. This, however, he knew to be in consequence of those individuals having a bad spirit within them. For his own part he could always receive with pleasure every doctrine that had been revealed in the church and, if it were proper, he could speak till twelve o'clock at night and tell of the great and glorious visions that had been opened to his mind, exhibiting in unmistakable plainness the truths of the everlasting gospel. Admonished the Saints to be faithful, to abstain from every appearance of evil and in all things to do right. As a Patriarch in Israel he blessed the people in the name of Israel's God.

Pres. Brigham Young felt well satisfied with our Birthday Party; alluded to the great variety in the testimony of the brethren, although they had all spoken upon the same subject. He desired the Elders to try and understand men and women as they are, for there is a great variety of judgment, talents and of power to explain the things that are in their minds; therefore we should never judge only from the intentions and the act. He felt extremely happy in the good spirit that prevailed, and in many of the reminiscences of the past that had been brought vividly to his mind. It was twenty-eight years since he went to Canada to tell his brother Joseph of the restoration of the gospel; Joseph was a spiritually minded man, and he had more confidence in his discretion than he had in his own. Though he had been brought up in the midst of those flaming, fiery reformations from his childhood, he had kept aloof from them and had prayed the Lord to keep him till he had good, common sense. Spoke of his acquaintance with the Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Quakers, and Shakers, but their extremes were nonsense to him; he always looked to see if the preachers had good, common sense to place with the Bible. Exhorted the Saints to trust in God and keep their own hearts clean. He blessed the people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Choir sung, "Ye Elders of Israel come join now with me."

Dismissed by Patriarch John Young.

SATURDAY, April 7,—10 A. M.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

Choir sung, "Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning."

Prayer by Elder W. W. Phelps.

Singing by the choir.

President Daniel Spencer related his experience before and since he embraced the gospel; bore testimony that God has spoken from the heavens in this generation and communicated his mind and will to man; gave a brief account of the manner in which the gospel was brought into that part of Massachusetts where he resided; also related a somewhat singular vision that had been opened to his mind.

Pres. Brigham Young said: We shall now proceed to transact the little business that we have to do. I have not heard of any difficulties existing that should be presented to this general conference, therefore, I have none to present, neither do I expect there are any such matters of business to attend to. We will present the authorities first, and I sincerely request the members of this church to act freely and independently. You cannot call to mind whenever a person was injured in the least, either by word or deed, for speaking his honest sentiments; there has been no such case in this church. If a man has honest sentiments and thinks he has been injured, and his outward conduct shows that he is partially honest we regard his honesty.

He was aware that some complained that they dare not tell their feelings, but if they would examine themselves, they would find that it was because their feelings were vindictive. If the brethren present thought that any person whom he might present should not be in office, say so and at a proper time we will hear the case.

Brigham Young was sustained as President of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; also Heber C. Kimball his first, and Daniel H. Wells, his second Counselors.

Orson Hyde, was sustained as the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards, as members of said Quorum.

Pres. B. Young then said: There is a vacancy in the Quorum of the Twelve, and the First Presidency and Twelve have made choice of George Q. Cannon. Many of the brethren are acquainted with him, and some are not. He is a young man, well known to us; he has been raised

in the church, and has been known to a great many as one of our chief men upon the Pacific, or Sandwich Islands. He went there when he was a youth, and no man has ever done better. Again, he has been known by many as the editor of the 'Western Standard,' a paper published in California. He is now in the States taking charge of the emigration. I will present his name to this congregation to have him become a member of this Quorum and should it be pleasing to you, you will give us your vote. He will fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Parley P. Pratt.

The vote was called, and the congregation were unanimous in sanctioning the selection.

John Smith was sustained as Presiding Patriarch; Joseph Young, as President and Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and Levi W. Hancock were sustained as presiding council of the Seventies.

President Brigham Young remarked: The first Presidency and Twelve Apostles have made a selection to fill a vacancy in this last named Quorum, and I will now present to you Jacob Gates to take the place of Benj. L. Clapp.

He was unanimously sustained by the conference.

John Young was sustained as President of the High Priests' Quorum; Daniel Spencer, President of this Stake of Zion, and David Fullmer and George B. Wallace his Counselors; William Eddington, James A. Little, Claudius V. Spencer, Samuel W. Richards, George Nebeker, John T. Caine, Joseph W. Young, Gilbert Clements, Edward Partridge, Franklin B. Woolley, Orson Pratt, jun., and Joseph F. Smith, members of the High Council; John Nebeker, President of the Elders' Quorum, Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop, and Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little his Counselors; Lewis Wright, President of the Priests' Quorum; McGee Harris, President of the Teachers' Quorum.

On the testimony of three brethren, Alexander Herron was dropped from the Presidency of the Deacons' Quorum, and from the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; and on motion of Bishop Hunter, John S. Carpenter was elected President of said Quorum.

Brigham Young was sustained as Trustee in Trust for the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works; Truman O. Angel, Architect for the church; Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor, Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells and Edward Hunter, his assistants and agents for said fund; George A. Smith, Historian and general Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff his assistant; who were all sustained by the conference.

A few names of persons going east on missions and on business were then read, and the Conference sustained the appointments.

Pres. Brigham Young made some remarks on the subject of missionaries, and gave good counsel to those that are going the present season; he would like to have the elders go forth and preach the gospel instead of begging the last penny from the poor; he wished to have them hunt up the broken hearted, and bring them home to Zion. If the Elders did not stop the game they had been carrying on he would expose them, for he was determined not to bear it any longer; when he went forth to preach the gospel his policy was to save the people and not to gouge them; it was his general practice while he was in the office in England to take money with him in his pockets to give to the poor that he met in the streets; this everlasting begging, squeezing and extorting money from the people he despised, and all who follow that practice will become poor, but if they want to be rich, let them go and preach the gospel and trust in the Lord for their reward. Every time the Elders come home now they must have a new carriage, bring on goods and turn merchants, and they think they ought to be petted by everybody; but let them beware or the devil will pet them to their sorrow.

Bishop Edwin D. Woolley made remarks on the age of the church, and as he looked at it, the beginning of a new era; he had belonged to the church 23 years, and had striven to do the best he could; he was perfectly satisfied with the official members of the church that had been sustained by the conference that day. If there were things that he could not understand occasionally he let them rest until he could, being fully satisfied in his own mind that as the light of truth became developed all would come right, he felt first rate and was in good spirits, and wished to encourage the brethren to hold fast the beginning of their confidence, and continue unto the end. He bore testimony to the restoration of the priesthood with all the gifts, graces and powers pertaining thereunto.

Elder Levi W. Hancock related some incidents of his experience and acquaintance with the Prophet Joseph, bore testimony that he knew him to be a servant of God, and the principles he taught to have emanated from the source of all light and truth. Said he was trying to acquire that patience that was necessary for the Saints to have in them continually; desired that his home might be with the Saints in time and throughout eternity.

Elder Phineas H. Young dismissed the meeting.

2 p. m.

Choir sung: "All hail the power of Jesus' name."

Prayer by Bishop Lorenzo D. Young.

Choir sung: "The Fall of Babylon."

Elder William W. Phelps made remarks on the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, a

CONCLUDED ON LAST PAGE.