

SECOND DAY.

Morning Session.

MONDAY, April 4th, 10 a. m.

How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can be said than to you he hath said,
You who unto Jesus for refuge hath fled.
was sung by the choir and congregation.

Prayer by Elder Charles O. Card.
Singing by the choir and congregation:

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

Dr. James E. Talmage

read circular Number Eight issued by the

CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The paper gives detailed explanations as to the nature of the Church educational system, and furnishes specific definitions of the relationships the various institutions and officers bear toward each other, and clear directions as to how each establishment should be organized and conducted.

The following was, by request of President Willard Young, of

YOUNG UNIVERSITY,

read by Apostle Heber J. Grant:

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTION.

Believing that the time is now fully ripe and in every way propitious for the establishment of the Church University mentioned in the circular of the General Board of Education which has just been read, and that no better time than the present, when the Latter-day Saints are assembled in General Conference, can ever be found for taking those preliminary steps which may be proper and right for the carrying out of such a purpose, I therefore respectfully ask that the following motion be put to this congregation, viz:

I move that this congregation unite in requesting the First Presidency to appoint a committee of five persons to consider a general plan for the proper founding and endowing of a Church University by, or in behalf of the whole body of religious worshippers known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I suggest that the report of the committee be submitted to this Conference at the earliest time practicable.

WILLARD YOUNG.

The motion of Brother Willard Young being seconded by Apostle F. M. Lyman, it was put to the Conference and carried unanimously. Speaking to his motion

Elder Willard Young

said: He believed that it was the right of every member of the Church to unite in the action here proposed, looking to the founding of the one Church University. Therefore as it had been stated that steps were being taken for the formation of the university, he wished as a member of the Church to have a voice in this action, in which he hoped every one present that morning would join.

President Cannon announced that the First Presidency would take the resolution into consideration and, at a subsequent meeting, probably name the members of the committee for the acceptance of the Conference.

Apostle Lorenzo Snow

was the next speaker. He said the position which the Latter-day Saints occupied in relation to God and the duties resting upon them were such as required aid which could not be secured naturally; they must be maintained by the Spirit of God. The circumstances in which the Saints were placed and the scenes through which they must necessarily pass in the future were briefly touched upon by the speaker. The Lord had done a great deal for the Latter-day Saints during the last sixty-two years, both as a Church and as individuals. When they looked back upon their past history, both individually and collectively, they were astonished at the great progress which had been made, and the blessings which had been bestowed upon them. When this Gospel first reached them in the different nations from whence they came they knew very little in regard to the things of God, in comparison with their present knowledge; they knew nothing in reference to the relationship in which they stood to our Father in Heaven—that they were his offspring, that they lived before coming into existence here, moved and had an understanding. Apostle Snow touched upon the subject of revelation, and made reference to the book of Doctrine and Covenants, wherein he said many important things were plainly exhibited to us in regard to having a present knowledge as to our condition and relationship to God. The blessings which He had bestowed upon this people were simply marvelous. When the Gospel reached them in the different nations to which they belonged, their condition and circumstances were very different from what they are now. The speaker illustrated his remarks on this head by showing how thousands of the Saints since coming to the valleys of these mountains had enhanced their condition not only spiritually but from a worldly or temporal point of view. It was God who, through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, had brought this great latter-day work to its present degree of perfection. Let them look at the beautiful cities and towns in this Territory at this time. All these things were to be attributed to God and not to the shrewdness or the ability of men, who were only the instruments in His hands. There were thousands of persons now dwelling in the midst of these mountains who before gathering with the Saints here did not know even how to handle a pick-axe, hoe or shovel, and many of whom were now in comparatively affluent circumstances. This was a good deal, but it was nothing in comparison with what the Lord had done for this people spiritually.

As a people we must be perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect. We might not be able to fulfil all the duties pointed out yesterday; still it was incumbent upon us to do our utmost to reach the highest possible state of perfection, having regard to the peculiar conditions by which we are surrounded. God bless the Latter-day Saints. How firm a foundation had the Lord laid for the exercise of their faith. In the time of trial—trials such as probably they never anticipated and might naturally wish to escape—let

them not be discouraged, but stand firm, endure the ordeal steadfastly, and the outcome would be much better than had been expected.

Apostle Moses Thatcher

Was next called upon. The circular just read in reference to the Church schools, he said, was a very important document, and he desired to call the attention of those present to the fact that, in this respect, the Latter-day Saints were not unlike the Roman Catholics throughout this nation. They paid taxes which the State legislature appropriated to various States of the Union for the support of the State universities and schools, and yet they were unwilling to entrust the education of their children to the schools which they sustained under this system of government. Therefore while their substance was used for the education of the children of others, not of their faith, their loyalty to their religion caused them to comply, not always, however, without finding some fault with the system of the country, and then they educated their children in their own schools. This would seem, to an extent, an injustice, yet the Latter-day Saints were not able, nor were the Roman Catholics, to prevent this, even if they had the disposition to do so.

The theory of the government under which we lived was founded on the idea that sovereignty was in the people. In laying the foundation broad and deep our fathers undertook, in order to secure religious freedom, a complete separation of Church and State. The free schools that had recently been established in this Territory, did not under the law permit the teaching of religion. The Latter-day Saints, like the Catholics, realizing the importance of our children receiving a religious education, that belief in and devotion to God were the very foundation of true education, were placed in the position in which they now found themselves in this matter.

Our Territorial legislature appropriated money freely to sustain the University of Deseret, or the University of Utah as it was called, for it was in conformity with the spirit of the time that we must change the name and, as far as possible, obliterate the memory of the past, even as the Roman Catholics sought to do when they introduced their doctrines among the aboriginal inhabitants of this continent. The funds, therefore, that were appropriated by the Territorial legislature from the taxes of the people went to support the University of Utah and the Agricultural College in the north; and while we were no doubt willing that our taxes should be thus used, as those schools in some degree harmonized with the wishes of the nation, yet when we turn our eyes inward and searched the foundation upon which we were building, we were desirous that our children should be educated in the Church schools. But in order to do this we must not forget that the competition would be very severe.

The building and the appointments of these schools would be as perfect as the means within their reach could make them. On the other hand, we were comparatively poor, so far as the means to educate our children were