

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, March 23rd, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Charles W. Penrose presiding.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Inspirer of the Ancient Seers,
Who wrote from Thee the sacred page.

Prayer by Elder Elias Morris.

The choir sang the hymn:

Glory to God on high;
Let heaven and earth reply,
Praise ye His name.

The Priesthood of the Thirteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS

was the speaker. After a few prefatory remarks, he said that the work in which the Latter-day Saints are engaged is truly a noble one, calculated to inspire great thoughts within men and to fill their lives with noble deeds. It is a great work—in the eyes of all those who become acquainted with it it is a marvellous work. It was so styled by the Almighty before the Church was organized. In a number of the early revelations that were given to the Prophet Joseph previous to its organization you will find this sentence: "A great and marvelous work is about to go forth among the children of men," and somewhere in those revelations is added this other expression: "How great ye know not." The angel Moroni had visited Joseph Smith a number of times and finally committed to him the ancient record of the Nephites, which he was then engaged in translating. To the Prophet Joseph and a few others who were intimate with him at this time—among them Hyrum Smith, David Whitmer and Martin Harris—these revelations were given. A short time after this, we are informed John the Baptist, acting under the presidency of Peter, James and John, visited Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, and placing his hands upon their heads he conferred upon them the Aaronic Priesthood, which gave them the right to preach repentance to this generation and baptize those who would repent for the remission of their sins.

In the same year the three ancient apostles, Peter, James, and John, who held the keys of the presidency of the priesthood when they were upon the earth, visited the great prophet of this dispensation and bestowed upon him the apostleship, which gave him the right not only to administer in preaching repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, but which made him a minister of the spirit also. He had now the authority to lay on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost; he had received the right to ordain men to the higher priesthood, to ordain them High Priests and Elders, Seventies and Apostles, to organize and build up the church on the earth. They went forth declaring these glad

tidings, administering in these ordinances, and their hearts were so inspired that they not only felt the influence of the Spirit of God within themselves, but others likewise felt its power operating upon them, until their hearts were touched with belief, conviction entered their souls and they obeyed the message of God. Yet after all this—which was more than even the advanced thinkers of that day had dared hope for—the work which the Lord had promised to establish was still in its infancy and had not begun to unfold its wonders, its height or its depth.

In the year 1835 the Prophet began to speak to the Church about organizing and ordaining Apostles and Seventies, and to fill these quorums men who had demonstrated their faith by their works were called. It seems to me that from the time these quorums were organized the missionary spirit in the Church received an increased impetus. They succeeded in preaching the Gospel in nearly all the States of the American Union; a number of them went into Canada, and from there the work spread to England and the surrounding countries. Missions have visited almost all the nations of the earth. Neither the frozen north nor the burning south was too much for their faith and zeal. Everywhere they went they received souls for their hire, and the Church rapidly increased in numbers as it increased in faith. Still the greatness of the work was not wholly unfolded, after the Church was thus so completely officered with an inspired Priesthood.

When the Kirtland Temple was completed and there was a place where heavenly messengers might visit the Church of Christ on the earth, they came with the keys of their various dispensations. Elijah came, Esaias came, the Savior himself visited them and told them of His acceptance of the house they had erected to His holy name; and yet for a season it would seem that the mission which these angels had come to fulfil was not apparent; but by and bye it became so; for a great light burst in upon the understanding of men, and through the keys of power and Priesthood restored by the Prophet Elijah we became aware of the fact that the Gospel of Christ was not confined to the brief period of time in which this earth should continue its temporal existence, but that in succeeding ages, and eternities, if God will, the strength and power of the Gospel of Christ and its saving influences would be operating among the children of our Father and our God.

We suddenly became aware of the fact that there was no longer need for us to have any particular anxiety concerning the fathers who had perished on the earth when the Gospel was not here—that the arm of God's justice was long enough to reach the Pagan nations that had been bowing down to images of wood and stone; for through the keys of the Priesthood revealed by that heavenly messenger we learned that the spirit of men who had passed behind the veil were taught the principles of eternal truth, were

there instructed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After the ancient Prophets and Apostles and men of God had passed behind the veil they did not sit down supinely and do nothing more for the salvation of the children of our father. We learn that the keys and authority of the priesthood which they held here they still held there, and were ministering for the salvation of their fellow men. We learn to be co-laborers with them, that we could build temples to the name of God, and that here we could attend to the temporal work of being baptized for those who had passed away without the knowledge of the gospel. I want to know if these grand principles did not throw aside the veil that separates us from the eternal world and bring us into closer union with them? It seems to me as I contemplate how great and how grand the work is that is going on behind the veil that our conception of this work is something like our conception of the size of an iceberg. It is estimated that nine tenths of a piece of floating ice lies below the surface hidden from our view and those of us who have seen those huge mountains of ice floating down the ocean must remember that the part which is above the surface is but one-tenth of the great mass. So it is with this work in which we are engaged. The little that we do here is as the pinnacle of the iceberg that may be seen; by far the greater portion is hidden from our view.

Through the visitation of those ministering angels in the Kirtland Temple we received further knowledge, and the work of the Lord was more exposed to our gaze. Our fathers and their fathers before them, for generations and generations, when united through our mothers and their mothers, for generations and generations preceding them, seemed contented to be united in the bonds of matrimony until death did them part. But through the light and knowledge that the Lord revealed through His chosen servant, we tell that the principle is made known and has become common to us that we are not united any longer to our wives until death shall snap the cord of life, but we are united to them for time and for all eternity. We have learned that the family associations, that the ties of love which exist between a man and wife, between parents and their offspring, are not limited to time alone, but that they continue to contribute to our happiness throughout all the ages of eternity; that the privilege of multiplying and increasing is not confined to a few short years of wedlock in this life, but as one of our writers so beautifully expresses it—so long as there is element in the great storehouse of nature, so long as there is room in infinite space, so long as the bosom of the daughter shall glow with affection, just so long shall the sons and daughters of God be multiplied, and their kingdoms added to the kingdoms of our God, constantly increasing His power, His dominion.