PART 2 DESERET EVENING NEWS. 9 TO 12

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1894. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

REMARKS

Made at the Salt Lake Stake Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, September 2nd, 1894, by

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

The angel Moroni said to the Prophet Joseph Smith, "Whatsoever enlargeth and buildeth to good and to do good is of God, and whatsoever doth not is of that wicked one." That is a true principle. I wish to make some remarks upon this, but before doing so I desire to refer to our meeting this forenoon. There was present a great many people, and I do not see all present this morning as those was are here this afternoon, and therefore many may not fully understand what I allude to. This is a Stake Conference, and there was a report made this morning of the tithings received from the various wards in the Stake and the amounts disbursed for the support of the poor. I think that the report showed that during the last six months this Stake alone received from the general tithing office funds for the support of the poor. I believe I am safe in saying that fifty per cent of all the tithing collected throughout the mountains of Israel is returned to the various Stakes for local expenses, among which is the support of the poor. I think myself that this is wrong. As Latter-day Saints, we should observe our fast meetings and our fast offerings. We should at least make a donation of that which we save by fasting, and give it to the Bishop for the support of the poor. It was remarked this morning that some people said they could not fast because it made their head ache. Well, I can look and so can any other man, and if it causes my head ache by keeping the commandments of God, let it ache. It we did our duty with regard to the poor among us the tithing would not be withheld from the Presiding Bishopric for the support of the poor. In time, brethren and sisters, I certainly think we should improve. There is nothing gained by our attempting to shirk any thing that God requires of us. We should be more diligent in attending our fast meetings. We should fast as the Lord requires. The Lord does not ask anything of any man that he cannot possess. Whenever the Lord gives a commandment to the children of men, He provides a way for the fulfillment of that commandment. Tithing is a commandment of God to the people, and should be observed. The report of what the Relief Society has done is certainly a great credit to them. The amount of means which they have donated for the support of the poor in the Stake are a large amount, considering the labors that there are upon that Society. I hope we will all reflect upon these things and not forget our duty with regard to the fast offerings and the fast meetings, as well as all other meetings that we are required to attend.

President Angus M. Cannon referred to the efforts of the Stake not being present at this Conference. I think it we all felt as we should, if we understood the signs of the times, we would take pleasure in attending meetings as far as possible. The Presidency of the Church and the Twelve Apostles have the conferences of the whole Church to attend, and when they are not here they are performing other duties.

Now, with regard to the statement I made in the beginning, "Whatsoever enlargeth and buildeth to good and to do good is of God, and whatsoever doth not is of that wicked one." While we as a people accord to every denomination the right to enjoy their religion, we claim the same privilege ourselves. I have often referred to this, because perhaps it has appeared somewhat as though we were encroaching upon others. This however, is not the case. Let us compare the good with the evil today. Where is there a man, no matter what sect he belongs to, who could see a great change in the world today? I remember very well over eighty years of my life, and I certainly have never seen such a time in my life in the United States as I have during the last year. The spirit of murder, or wanton, or blasphemy that is going like a flood over the land, and the increase of crime on every hand, is certainly alarming. Is it from God? Does it lead to good? Does it lead to evil? Let us look at it. When we look at these things we can see that there is a power manifest in our land and among the nations of the earth that is leading men to do evil. There is one thing very prominently before my mind, and that is the unpopularity of God himself, and of Jesus Christ, and of the Gospel of the Son of God. In the days of the Saviour there were a good many religious sects, and they were all at war with the Saviour and His Apostles. They fought against everything they did, and labored for their destruction until the Saviour and His Apostles were put to death. Were they led by the Spirit of God? They were not. They were not inspired to do right; they were seeking to do wrong. In this dispensation the Prophet Joseph was the unpopular man. He was opposed by the world, and to a great many men who professed to be ministers of the Gospel. They labored against him and to overthrow his doctrines. Now, if Joseph Smith was right, his persecutors were not right. Of course, every man must be his own judge with regard to that. If Jesus Christ and the Apostles were right, then those men who fought against them were not right.

We are informed by the revelation of St. John that in the last days there would be something like six hundred three score and six different religious sects and parties in the earth. Of course, there may be but one of them right; for there is but one right way. There is but one Gospel; there never was but one and never will be. That Gospel never deviates from one generation to another, for with the Holy Priesthood. The Priesthood is the same in every generation. Wherever God has had a people on the face of the earth, He has had the Priesthood among them. In fact, no man has the right to administer in one of the ordinances of the Gospel of the Son of God only by and through the power of the Holy Priesthood. The ancient apostles and prophets who administered in the ordinances of the Gospel held that Priesthood. Without that authority they would have had no right to administer in those ordinances. So in this day, this principle is the same.

Now, my friends, it does not pay any man to preach false doctrine or to practice false principles, because there is no salvation in it. It is for salvation that we labor. For this the Lord called Joseph Smith to organize the Church of Jesus Christ once more in the last time on the earth, so that a body of people would be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. The Gospel of Christ was with Joseph Smith. The Priesthood was given to him by the hands of those who held that Priesthood in the days of Jesus. He never pretended to administer in one ordinance until he received the commandment of God to do it. Those of you who have embraced the Gospel and have been your congregations for yourselves that the power of God has followed the work from the commencement until today. I know it has, and I know it will if we do our duty. All the ancient patriarchs and prophets looked far ahead for salvation, for the glory where God and Christ dwell, this after death, in their immortal bodies, they might occupy that position forever. It paid them to do it, and it will pay all men to do the same. We cannot spend our time fashioning in safety. We have a mission to fulfill. Some portion of the Holy Priesthood has been given to almost every man in the land of Zion, and to many of them at a very early age. It has been given to us that we may administer in the ordinances of the Gospel and in the things of the kingdom of God. Then let us try to magnify our callings and to do our duty. We know the principles we are practicing are true. The Lord has given us power to bless our tempts with. His holy name, that we may enter in as saviors on mount Zion and redeem our dead, that they who have never heard the Gospel may partake of eternal life. Jesus himself went to preach to the spirits in prison, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh. So do our apostles and elders of Israel at this pass away. We labor this side of the veil, and they labor the other side of the veil. These things are true. God has established the Church. He has raised up prophets and apostles, and has planted a work in these mountains of Israel, where this congregation have been gathered by the power of God. We have a labor to perform, and if we do as we do it we will be under condemnation. I know this is the work of God. I know the Priesthood is here, and I know the power which has followed this Priesthood since God established the Church was organized. Our elders have traveled in home and abroad. They have been taken from the various occupations of life and thrust into the vineyard. They have traveled without scrip of gold, and that, too, without purse and scrip, preaching without price. I never thought of taking any money with me on my mission. I have traveled in a good many cities and towns, and I always traveled without purse and scrip, and I preached without money and without price. The Lord always raised up friends for me in time of need. I was fed and clothed and had all the necessaries of life. That is the way the ancient Apostles preached. It was the way the Elders of Israel have had to preach in the day and generation in which we live.

Brethren and sisters, I hope we will look at the position we occupy from time to time, and we will see that we are far as we can go into these temples, I think God will have a temple upon this block, where the Latter-day Saints in this region can enter and redeem their dead—their fathers and mothers and their progenitors who have passed into the spirit world without the Gospel. They never heard the Gospel, and so most, or one in a century, will ever be saved in the celestial kingdom of God without the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, let us look upon these things as they are. Let us try to live our religion, that when we get through we may be satisfied with life. I prayed many an hour while a boy that the Lord would live long enough for me to be a preacher or an apostle, or some man who could teach me that Gospel which I read of in the New Testament. I have lived to see that day, and I think God is good. I have been to do what good I could in my weak way. I have tried to go into those temples and redeem my father's house. With the assistance of my friends I have been able to do that. When I go to the other side of the veil and meet with them, I think I shall be satisfied, and I think they will. They will find that those principles are true, and we will all demonstrate when they come in the presence of God. They will have then, if not before, that we are in the work of God. I pray God to bless all who are connected with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. May we magnify our calling and do our duty, that when we go through and go into the presence of God and tell our history in that great library in heaven, where the acts of all men are recorded, we may be satisfied. God give us wisdom and light and grace to do our duty, that we may overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, and inherit eternal life, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Kanab Stake conference.

The Kanab Stake conference was held in Kanab, September 1st and 2nd, 1894. Of the authorities present were Elders F. M. Lyman of the Twelve, the Kanab Stake presidency, a majority of the High Council and Bishops of the several wards, and other visiting brethren were Elders Jesse W. Crosby of Pangonia Stake, Reddick N. Allred of Spring City, Sanpete county, and Seth Johnson of Teasdale, Garfield county.

On Friday at 3 o'clock p.m., previous to our conference at Kanab, a general meeting was held in Orderville for the benefit of the Saints in Long Valley. Elder Lyman and the Kanab Stake presidency were present. Elders F. M. Lyman and Jesse W. Crosby were speakers and much good instruction was given.

Conference at Kanab, Saturday forenoon—reports were heard from President E. D. Woolley of Kanab Stake, Bishops Joel H. Johnson of Kanab and G. D. Macdonald of Orderville ward. Elder R. N. Allred was the first speaker, followed by Elder F. M. Lyman, in speaking on the necessity of all religious institutions, organizations, etc., being recorded and received worldwide, properly seen. He spoke of the difference between ordinances and blessings in the Church. Ordinances in the Priesthood are eternal, but callings such as High Councilors, presidency of Stakes, Presidents of quorums, patriarchs, etc., are only temporary of for the time being. He also spoke the necessity of fasting and prayer and paying fast-offerings, tithing, etc.

The afternoon was occupied by Elders Teasdale Cunningham of the Kanab Stake presidency, Seth Johnson, of Tropic, and Elder F. M. Lyman. The subjects spoken on were Word of Wisdom, obedience of our leaders, the importance of the Priesthood, the nature of man, authority, repentance, humility, economy of our Priesthood attending to our conferences, etc.

At 8 o'clock p.m. a Priesthood meeting was held, in which the Johnson and Fredonia branches were represented, now Moroni, and the branch in Kanab was to join the Deseret ward in the Pangonia Stake, providing they agree to it. Elder Lyman desired to know the status of the High Council in regard to the Word of Wisdom. Some valuable instructions were given.

Sunday morning was occupied by remarks from Bishop H. W. Eaton, Stake Counselor Daniel Bergessler, Elders J. W. Crosby of Pangonia Stake and F. M. Lyman. The latter spoke on the subject of how to deal with transgressors.

After the close of the morning services another Priesthood meeting was held and considerable business transacted of an ecclesiastical character.

Afternoon session.—After the opening exercises the sacrament was administered, after which a few remarks were made by President E. D. Woolley. The general and local authorities were presented by Elder F. M. Lyman, and all were unanimously sustained. Some changes having been made in the President's quorum, explanations were made by Brother Lyman: "The Zaloms's were first been organized with John W. Glover as Bishop, Nephi Johnson Jr. and Joseph H. Johnson as counselors. Fredonia ward organized with Don P. Johnson Bishop his counselors not set apart yet. Moses David Harris has been set apart as Bishop of Orderville ward to take as Hyrel J. Cutler, counselor; John R. Carpenter and Edwin Cutler have been sustained as the counselors (the latter is set apart); Wm. T. Stewart and Benjamin S. Carter were sustained as members in the High Council, and Benjamin Hamblin as an alternate member of the High Council. On account of illness Elders Reuben Broadbent and Cuba S. Dunn had resigned as presidents in the Eighty-fifth quorum of Seventies and had been received into the High Priests quorum; also Nathan Adams and Jeremiah Richardson had been received into the High Priest quorum and some others. Brothers Benjamin F. Brown and Oscar A. Robinson have been set apart as presidents in the Eighty-fifth quorum of Seventies, Brother George Mace having resigned his position as president in the Eighty-fifth quorum, the vacancy caused thereby can then left vacant for the present time.

Brother Lyman then changed his remarks to the subject of statehood, encouraging all to be alives to their duties and pray, are Elders to be on hand to vote for statehood and the Constitution; hoped there were none who did not want statehood. He desired the presiding officers to teach the Word of Wisdom, especially by example.

At this conference the Saints truly have been fed spiritually, and all seemed well impressed.

F. M. LYMAN,
Stake Clerk.

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AN OPEN LETTER.

Recently Mr. J. D. Thomas, of North Dakota, visited the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and after carefully examining the country located in Winchester, he writes to Mr. V. Richards, Land and Immigration Agent, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Baltimore, Maryland, as follows: "I have been in nearly every state and territory of the United States, and I think in my opinion that this valley surpasses all other sections in the Union. The lands are low in price, and produce profitable crops. I thank you for directing me here, and solicit those seeking pleasant and profitable homes to come in this country."

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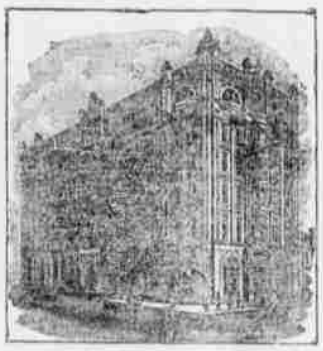

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