

abroad to enter immediately upon their ministerial duties. We were not able at present, however, to maintain an extensive Church school system, and this made the religion classes all the more necessary. The closing portion of the discourse was devoted to showing that education, in order to be full and well balanced, must include moral, physical and theological as well as the usual intellectual training.

The choir sang the anthem,

Let the mountains shout for joy.

Benediction by Elder Angus M. Cannon.

Afternoon Session.

Singing by the choir of the hymn which commences,

What was witnessed in the heavens?

Why, an angel, earthward bound.

Had he something with him bringing?

Yes—the Gospel-joyful sound.

Opening prayer by Elder John W. Hees.

The choir sang the hymn which begins,

O my Father, Thou that dwellest

In the high and glorious place!

When shall I regain Thy presence

And again behold Thy face?

President Joseph F. Smith read the following reports for 1896, which made the following exhibit:

Relief societies, membership, 24,473; meetings held, 5,119; increase, 3,700.

Y. L. M. I. A., membership, 15,567; associations, 423; increase, 683; meetings held, 15,200.

Primary Associations. Number of associations, 484.

Officers and members, 36,500.

Meetings held, 14,500.

Brigham Young Academy board:

Geo. Q. Cannon, Salt Lake City.

Davis John, Provo.

Reed Smoot, Provo.

W. H. Dusenberry, Provo.

Brigham Young, Salt Lake City.

Don Carlos Young, Salt Lake City.

Buea Y. Gates, Provo.

Stephen L. Chipman, American Fork.

Wm. H. Seegmiller, Richfield.

Karl G. Maeser, Salt Lake City.

Thos. R. Cutler, Lehi.

Edwin Partridge, Provo.

These members of the Brigham

Young Academy board were sustained

by unanimous vote of the Conference,

a provision of the new charter of the

institution requiring that the names

of the members be presented to the

General Conference.

THE GENERAL AUTHORITIES

were presented to the Conference by President Joseph F. Smith, as follows:

Wilford Woodruff, as Prophet, Seer and Revelator, and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world.

George Q. Cannon as First Counselor in the First Presidency.

Joseph F. Smith as Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

Lorenzo Snow as President of the Twelve Apostles.

As members of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francois M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill and Anthon H. Lund.

The Counselors in the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

Patriarch to the Church—John Smith.

First Seven Presidents of the Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fieldsted, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, Jonathan G. Kimball and Rulon S. Wells.

William B. Preston as Presiding Bishop, with Robert T. Burton as his first and John R. Winder as his second counselor.

Franklin D. Richards as Church historian and general Church recorder, with John Jaques and Charles W. Penrose as his assistants.

As the General Church Board of Education—Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, George Q. Cannon, Karl G. Maeser, Willard Young, Anthon H. Lund, James Sharp, Joseph F. Smith and John Nicholson.

As Trustee-in-Trust for the body of religious worshippers known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Wilford Woodruff.

John Nicholson as Clerk of the General Conference.

All of the voting to sustain the authorities was unanimous.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS.

of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies, addressed the Conference. He said he did not recollect having attended a general assembly of the Saints when his joy was as full as it was now. He rejoiced that he was a Latter-day Saint. Such a privilege as that now enjoyed was intensified by a sojourn in the world, in the midst of conflicting opinions, religious and otherwise. It had been his privilege to travel and preach the Gospel in some of the leading cities of the United States. He had been accompanied by Elders Geo. D. Pyper Melven Ballard and Edward J. Midgley. He wished to bear testimony to the statements made regarding the Lord softening the hearts of the people causing them to receive the servants of God and ministering to their wants. The Almighty was doing this to a great extent, the opposition so manifest in the past being removed from the hearts of men. In times past the speaker had witnessed the vain efforts of faithful and efficient Elders to impress the truths of the Gospel upon the minds of the people; now equally efficient labors were meeting with success and approbation, not only among the people, but also in the commendation of the press. The change manifested in the attitude of the press toward the work was most striking, reporters being sent to the meetings during Elder Roberts' recent missionary work, and fairly accurate reports of meetings, articles of faith, etc., being published. This situation was referred to as an occasion for joy, not only on account of the new opportunities offered, but also because of the hand of God being so manifest in it. While in many respects this lay in opposition to the Church was promising, the speaker thought that fresh opposition might arise in the future attempts being made to overthrow the doctrines of the Gospel by arguments. But the present widening of opportunities showed the necessity of sending more laborers into the field now opened.

Brother Roberts spoke with reference to the mission in the cities he had visited, stating that while conditions in the

Southern States were improving, in comparison with the violence shown to the Elders there in years past, this improved condition being due to the faithful labors of the Elders who accompanied and succeeded that father of the Southern States mission, Elder John Morgan, yet the labor in other portions of the United States was opening up just as faithfully. Elders Samuel Spencer and Samuel W. Richards had done much, under God, to bring about this improved condition. The speaker believed there was no better mission than the ones referred to. The speaker closed with an expression of gratitude for these improved conditions and a prayer for a continuance of advancement.

ELDER SAMUEL W. RICHARDS,

lately president of the Eastern States mission, was the next speaker. He was called from his labors in the Temple two years and four months ago to fill the appointment to the Eastern States, and though he arrived there a stranger to the people, he soon found friends, their hearts being opened to the acceptance of the truth. Much was done through the papers and by personal visits to the people. By the various jubilee journals, his labors had been spread in many languages throughout the world, even Jewish and Greek editors manifesting interest in the work. The liberality of the Brooklyn press was spoken of in terms of praise, and Brother Richards expressed gratitude for the inspiration and success that had attended him in his missionary labors. He anticipated a great harvest in that mission in the early spring, and hoped a greater number of Elders would be sent to assist in gathering it. Elder Richards had done much also in the way of correspondence, etc., in answering questions and expounding doctrine, a work which he expected to continue.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

made some remarks in relation to the Brigham Young statue. Additional funds were needed to forward it as far as practicable by the time of the approaching semi-centennial Pioneer jubilee. The statue association was anxious upon this subject, and it was desirable that contributions be forthcoming to carry out this project. The leading officers of the Church in every locality were requested to bring this subject to the attention of the people.

President Cannon then spoke upon the numerous delusive influences that were being multiplied by Satan for the purpose of deceiving the Saints and drawing them away from the Gospel of the Son of God. He warned the people as they valued the salvation of their souls, to avoid them. He classed among these false doctrines, those of what is called Christian science; also the fallacious theory of reincarnation.

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF

spoke briefly on the subject treated by President Cannon, regarding seducing spirits and delusive doctrines and characterized them as false, deceptive and of a nature to lead those who imbibed them to destruction.

The choir sang the anthem,

Glory be to the Lord, our Deliverer.

Conference adjourned for six months.

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.