

glad in all the paraphernalia of their office, would have sat and listened patiently to explanations of Mormonism? A long time. How long before you could have got the President and his cabinet, to have given any attention to the testimony of these humble Elders? A good long time. In fact, I know not how we ever could have reached them by preaching the Gospel without purse and scrip. But all these men composing the cabinet of the President, the President himself, the senators, members of the House of Representatives, and the supreme judges have been reached, and they have abundantly heard of the truth; and I believe, further, that they have not only heard of the truth, but the Spirit of God hath borne testimony to their spirits that this work called "Mormonism" is true, and thereby will be their condemnation; not for fighting against us; not that they have passed laws and imprisoned a few of our brethren; not that they work inconvenience to the Latter-day Saints by driving hundreds of women and children into exile; but because they stiffen in their own hearts the whisperings of the God's Spirit. That is where the condemnation of this world will come in. Seeing the light they refuse to come to it. They love darkness rather than light, and that for the reason given by One of old, because their deeds are evil.

Well, viewed in this light, what of the sufferings of the Saints in the past few years? What if eleven hundred men and more have been imprisoned behind iron bars? Is there a man of them that would begrudge the little he has contributed in bearing this testimony to the great ones of the earth? No. Rather would one be sorry that he has contributed so little to the accomplishment of so great a work as that. Our sisters, too, have participated in it, and may rejoice in it; for they have given force and effect to the testimony that has been borne. In that, it seems to me, I can see the hand of the Lord; for the sisters as well as the brethren ought to be and are identified with this great testimony. By Mormonism becoming a national question in the United States, the attention of kings and princes and statesmen in foreign lands has been brought to the work, and they have made its acquaintance. Everywhere these sufferings, if you call them such, to which we have submitted, have merely raised a standard for the work of God, and the attention of the world has been called to it. I do not believe it has been without a purpose.

Again, we have been bearing testimony in another way. While the Elders have been traveling to and fro, preaching the Gospel, and thinking perhaps that they were the only ones who were bearing testimony to the work of God, the entire people of the Lord, men, women and children, have been silently building a testimony—preaching a sermon in granite; a sermon more far-reaching than all the testimony of all the Elders laboring abroad. It is erected in Salt Lake City, and the sermon in stone was dedicated to the Most High at our last April conference. I mean of course the Salt Lake Temple. What a wonderful effort that work has had! In the remarks of Brother Flygare this morn-

ing, I notice that he attributes your increase of righteousness and unity in this stake of Zion to the completion and dedication of that holy house. Why, it has preached a better sermon among the people than the Apostles and Elders could preach. It has united the people together. It has brought them to repentance. It has had that effect right among the Saints of God in all the Stakes of Zion, and has reached the remotest wards where our people are organized. Then what think you of the testimony it is bearing to the world? Why, every tourist that comes to Salt Lake City takes an imprint of this sermon of ours back to his home. They stamp its image upon silver spoons, and they are being distributed everywhere. So with the pictures of it. And those who look upon it say: "Well, what did the Mormons build this Temple for, anyway?" "They built it for the administration of ordinances for the living and for the dead?" They administer baptism and other ordinances in it for those who died when a knowledge of the Gospel was not to the earth; and they not only believe that men can repent in the spirit world but that acceptance of these Temple ordinances are necessary to their salvation. There goes with these engravings of the Temple an explanation of the doctrines and principles that that Temple represents; and by that means explanation of the Gospel is made. Furthermore, something is learned about the Lord "suddenly coming to His temple." "These Mormons out there anticipate the actual return of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are looking for it; they are preparing for it—preparing themselves to meet the kingdom of God when it shall come in power upon the earth; and they are preparing to meet their ancestors by performing ordinances in these Temples for them, that there may be a complete welding together of all the families of the earth. These explanations carry the Gospel and more or less of the spirit of the Gospel to the inhabitants of the earth. How widespread is that testimony which the Temple bears!"

After your testimony comes the testimony of earthquakes, of cyclones of the sea heaving itself beyond its bounds, saith the Lord; and the hearts of men shall fall them for fear of the things that shall come upon the inhabitants of the earth. We must look upon the testimony we have been bearing during the past few years not as consisting of the feeble voices of the Elders preaching the Gospel here and there in the world, but as including the testimony which the entire people have been bearing of the truth, backed up by their suffering by exile and imprisonment. That has been a testimony which has reached the ears and hearts of the high and the great ones of our land. And now comes the testimony of this sermon of ours in stone; the testimony of the entire people represented in the Temple. Almost every man, woman and child in the Church has a voice in that sermon. Looking at it from these points of view we have been accomplishing a great work during the past few years. And since we have been getting such a volume of testimony before the world, think ye not it will hasten the accomplishment of the decrees of God?

I believe it with all my heart. This is the work that the Lord intended His Church should accomplish, that is, warn the peoples of the earth of coming judgments, and call them to repentance. That is our mission, our chief business.

Brethren and sisters, let us have no tears. The purposes of the Lord are ripening. His decrees will be accomplished; and instead of retreating during the past few years, I believe we have been going forward with accelerated pace, with leaps and bounds. There is no such thing as retreat. The work of the Lord did not come here to retreat; it came here to accomplish the designs and purposes of Jehovah; and our enemies might just as well think of blowing out the sun with their breath as to destroy the work that the Lord has founded and has decreed shall stand. The world will not get rid of its difficulties, its perplexities and troubles; these will increase. The wisdom of Congress will not be sufficient to cope with the evils that exist in our land; and if they patch up a sore in one place, I tell you it will break out in another; for the whole body is sick and the head faint; our troubles are organic; the whole body must be cleansed of its corruption before health will return. The inhabitants of the earth must learn that prosperity, that peace, and those things which make for the good and happiness of mankind are bottomed on the principles of righteousness; and they must repent of their sins even though it be brought about by the judgments of God; for without that repentance there is no salvation, no end to their troubles. The Latter-day Saints also, individually and collectively, are just as dependent upon the application of this principle as are other peoples in the earth.

May the Lord bless us and help us to comprehend this great truth is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BANNOCK STAKE CONFERENCE.

The regular quarterly conference of this Stake convened in the bowery at Iona, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 13 and 14, 1893. There were present Elders Brigham Young of the Council of the Twelve Apostles; C. D. Fieldsted and Geo. Reynolds of the First Presidency of Seventies; Geo. Goddard and Thos. C. Griggs of the general Sunday School superintendency; T. E. Ricks, W. F. Rigby and Jos. E. Steele, Stake Presidency, and other leading brethren.

Sunday, 10 a.m.—Elder T. E. Ricks called conference to order. He thanked God for the favorable circumstances under which the people met and gave a brief account of the Stake which was prosperous.

The meeting was then turned over to Elder Geo. Goddard, Stake Sunday School Supt., F. S. Brammell being the first speaker. He gave a very encouraging report.

Elder Thos. C. Griggs gave a short history of the Sunday School Institution and its operations wherever Latter-day Saints are found and spoke of the importance of educating our children, for the knowledge of parents will not benefit their children unless imparted to them. Elder Geo. Reynolds treated upon the necessity