

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 13th, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Charles W. Penrose presiding.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn commencing:

Redeemer of Israel, our only delight,  
On whom for a blessing we call.

Prayer by Elder John Morgan.  
The choir sang:

How dark and gloomy was the night  
When Satan did his powers array.

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

## ELDER WILLIAM SPRY

was called to address the congregation. He said it was a pleasure to him to again have the privilege of meeting with the Saints. It is the desire of my heart that the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon me, for I know that I cannot speak to your edification unless I am guided by that Spirit. I realize that that Spirit is in the midst of the Saints, and I rejoice in meeting with you—a privilege I do not have very often, for my calling takes me from among you. But I know I receive strength from assembling with the Saints.

We are often denominated a peculiar people. We are willing to admit that we are different from the world generally in our religious faith—we believe the words of the Lord Jesus that if we love Him we will keep His commandments. We are willing to prove to the world that we love Him, by keeping, so far as we have strength, the laws he has revealed. We understand there is a straight and narrow path in which we should walk for righteousness; but we also understand that God gives us strength to walk therein. My associations with the world have taught me that they do not view the Gospel as we do, and they speak all manner of evil against us falsely. Jesus said "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own, but inasmuch as ye are not of the world, the world hate you." The Saints are scorned by those who hold in derision the commandments of the Lord Jesus. The Latter-day Saints believe the word of God, and are willing to abide by the results of obedience to it. They believe that communication should exist between heaven and earth, through certain channels. The fact that this communication is not believed in by the world generally, does not shake the faith of the Saints, for they know whence they received their testimony of the truth. The time will come when the Saints will be known for what they are—a people who endeavor to serve God, and are being made to suffer for righteousness' sake.

The Almighty has promised that there will be a change from the present condition, and the Saints have an implicit confidence in His word. There may be some principles which we believe in that the world reject. But our belief

is in the principles set forth in the Bible—the book upon which professed Christian denominations base their faith. We also believe in revelation, and in the word of God contained in other records than the Bible. We understand that the Gospel is to the world; that it is for every nation, kindred, tongue and people. We hold no monopoly on the blessings of the Lord, but they are free to all who will obey His will. We have been made partakers of heavenly gifts, and are willing that all others should partake of the same. Therefore we are extending the Gospel to them, in harmony with the saying of the Lord, "Freely ye have received, freely give." The Gospel is to every one who will accept of it. The Lord is no respecter of persons, and offers the plan of salvation to all people. To every person is given his free agency, to choose the path he will pursue. It is left with men to say whether they will follow the paths of righteousness or not. There is no compulsion in the Gospel of Christ. I must alone take the responsibility of my own actions. Every one will be rewarded according to his merits. We respect the world in their rights, and we only ask that our rights be respected by them. They can accept or reject the Gospel, as they see fit; but they should not forget that the Elders who proclaim the word of God to them have been sent out by authority of the Lord of the earth, and those who reject their testimony will have to meet it at the judgment bar of God.

The Elders are warning the world to repent, and to turn unto God; they are warning mankind of impending judgments. They are held responsible for the faithful discharge of their duty, and if they perform their labor properly, their garments are free from the blood of this generation. There seems to be few who accept the Gospel now, compared with the experience of forty or fifty years ago. Then many heard the word and gladly received it, and have partaken of its blessings. Now, there are but few among the nations who will give heed to the plan of salvation, yet there is a great labor to perform in warning mankind of that which is to come. The Elders are sometimes called to suffer great indignities, but their testimony does not waver. They know they are engaged in a labor of love, in obedience to the call of the Divine Master. They know that His promises to those who follow Him are fulfilled.

The Gospel plan is that divine favors follow conformity to the law of God. If the law is not observed, the blessing is not received. Upon this principle the Elders promise that those who do the will of the Lord will know of the divinity of the message, and in no instance does this promise fail when the conditions are complied with. This knowledge has been given to the Latter-day Saints, and they bear witness to it. I bear my testimony, given to me by the Spirit of God, that this is

His work, and will triumph. The Gospel has been restored, never to be taken away. It will stand though the powers of earth and hell combine against it. It is the truth from heaven, and will be established. This I know, and this testimony can be obtained by all who do the will of the Father. May His blessing rest upon us that we may keep His commandments and receive a salvation in His presence.

## APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

next addressed the congregation. He stated that the testimony of Elder Spry was true. I know that this Gospel is the truth, and will bring salvation to all who live according to the light contained therein. I also know that it will condemn those who reject it. Not that it will consign people to eternal perdition; but they will meet the reward of their deeds, and according to the light which has been shed on them, will they be judged. It will not condemn those who are ignorant. The heathen will not be judged by the law until they have heard it. But the time will come when all people will hear the testimony of the Gospel, that they may be judged according to the same. The Lord will work many wonderful things in this age in connection with the testimony of the Elders. Today the door is closed in many nations, but the day will come when the way will be opened. We look for a time when Christ will reign over all nations. We alone are not the subjects of His care. He is overruling the actions of men to bring to pass His great designs. He is working among the nations, by bringing about great changes. In North America, for instance, recently, the great empire of Brazil was changed to a republic. This was brought about in a day, and without bloodshed. In Europe, also, there are strange workings for the emancipation of mankind. The Lord is not pleased with His children being in bondage one to another.

In this land He has established the greatest and best government of human framing. And these same divine principles are causing thrones to totter. This is the work of God, who is preparing the way in the earth for men to accept and practice the principles of righteousness. It would seem that it would take a long time to change long-established governments in Europe; but nothing is impossible to God, and He may bring such events about in a day, as He did in Brazil. The history of ancient nations gives us examples of His great power. Belshazzar ridiculed the great God, and thought he could not be overthrown. But in the midst of his revelry came the handwriting on the wall, and in one night his power had vanished. In this age the Lord will bring judgment to those who reject Him. He will convince the nations that He rules the universe. He does not desire the destruction of His children, but is calling them to partake freely of the bread of life. But cities and nations are few in number who turn