

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THIRD DAY.

MONDAY, April 8th, 2 p.m.

The choir sang:

"Mortals awake! with angels join,
And chant the solemn lay."

Prayer by Elder FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS.

The choir sang:

"Sweet is the work, my God, my King."

President JOSEPH YOUNG addressed the Conference. He had listened with great pleasure to the testimonies and preaching of the brethren who had preceded him in speaking. We lived in a world whose history furnished many problems, which could only be solved by revelation from God. God himself could see it all, and could we but do so we would be more willing than we were to extend charity toward our brethren and sisters who had sprung from the same parent source as ourselves. Mankind had become fallen, and consequently generally unbelieving and dark, but God had at different periods of the history of the world sent messengers to the human race and proclamations of mercy had been published, yet those proclamations had almost invariably been rejected by those unto whom they were sent.

The speaker continued at some length, dwelling especially upon the different gospel dispensations of God to man, and the consequences which invariably attended the rejection by man of heavenly messages.

We did not believe in coercion, and it was the speaker's belief that we could exist as a religious organization under a republican form of government without infringing upon anybody's privileges. We were willing all other people should enjoy their rights.

Brother Young concluded by exhorting the Saints to be faithful to their religion.

Elder ALBERT CARRINGTON presented the authorities of the Church in the following order, the vote to sustain them in their various positions being unanimous:

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; George A. Smith his first, and Daniel H. Wells his second counselor.

Orson Hyde, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, Sen., John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Jun., Joseph F. Smith, and Albert Carrington, members of said Quorum.

John Smith, Patriarch of the Church. John W. Young, President of this Stake of Zion, and George B. Wallace and John T. Caine his counselors.

William Eddington, John L. Blythe, Howard O. Spencer, John Squires, Wm. H. Folsom, Thomas E. Jeremy, Joseph L. Barfoot, John H. Rumell, Miner G. Attwood, Wm. Thorn, Dimick B. Huntington, Theodore McKean and Hosea Stout, members of the High Council.

Elias Smith, President of the High Priests' Quorum, and Edward Snellgrove and Elias Morris, his counselors.

Joseph Young, President of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Harriman, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and John Van Cott, members of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies.

President GEORGE A. SMITH made a motion that the presentation of the name of Jacob Gates to the Conference, as one of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies, be deferred until certain matters of business were investigated and an understanding arrived at, which was carried unanimously.

Benjamin L. Peart, President of the Elders' Quorum; Edward Davis and Abinadi Pratt, his counselors.

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop; Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, his counselors.

Samuel G. Ladd, President of the Priests' Quorum; Wm. McLachlan and James Latham his counselors.

Adam Spears, President of the Teachers' Quorum; Martin Lenzi and Henry I. Doremus, his counselors.

James Leach, President of the Deacons' Quorum; Peter Johnson and Chas. S. Cram his counselors.

Brigham Young, Trustee-in-Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Truman O. Angell, Architect for the Church.

Horace S. Eldredge, President of the

Perpetual Emigration Fund to Gather the Poor.

Albert Carrington, Historian and General Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff, his assistant.

The names of the following brethren were then presented, and unanimously sustained, to go on missions—

TO EUROPE.

N. P. Lindelof, Plain City.
John Mendenhall, Springville.
Joseph Wadley, Pleasant Grove.

TO THE UNITED STATES.

James S. Brown, Salt Lake City.
Moroni Brown, Ogden.

President GEORGE A. SMITH said he hoped the brethren and sisters were prepared to remain in Conference a few more days.

The choir and congregation sang:
"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

Adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
Prayer by President DANIEL H. WELLS.

FOURTH DAY.

TUESDAY, April 9th, 10 a. m.

The choir sang:

"The morning breaks, the shadows flee."

The opening prayer was offered by Elder LORENZO D. YOUNG.

"Once more, my soul, the rising day,
Salutes thy waking eyes."

was sung by the choir.

Bishop E. F. SHEETS said he had had the privilege of meeting with the Saints in every General Conference that had been held in this city. Whenever God had a people upon the earth he always required them to do a certain work, and his revelations differed at various times according to the nature of the work to be accomplished. The work committed to us is that of building up Zion, to prepare for the second coming of Christ. When we gathered together we had to open up farms, make roads, build towns, cities and temples, &c. We had accomplished considerable in this direction and we had been directed in what we had done by the servants of God. These things constituted the foundation for the building up of Zion in its glory and beauty. We could all do something towards building Temples, for although we could not all quarry rock or prepare and lay it, yet we could pay our tithes and our offerings to help on this good work.

The speaker commented at some length on the inseparability of temporal and spiritual things, and urged the Saints to be faithful in the performance of their duties. He bore testimony that he knew the work he was engaged in to be the work of God.

Elder F. A. MITCHELL said that it afforded him inexpressible satisfaction to have a testimony to bear to the truthfulness of the work of God with which he was identified. It was by the blessings and power of God that we had been enabled to gather together and work unitedly in his cause. We knew that God would justify his cause and that of his people. He had been called on a mission to the Western Islands and with the help of God he purposed going forth to fulfil it, for he knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the living God, and that Brigham Young was his legal successor. He desired nothing more than to be able to do whatever God through his servants required of him.

Elder Wm. C. STAINES addressed the Conference. Twenty five years ago the general Conference of the Saints assembled on the warmest side of a haystack, which covered an area not larger than that of our large organ. What an evidence was this that the progress of this work was onward and upward. The first time he heard the sound of the gospel he believed it. He was informed by the person whom he first heard preach, that if he obeyed the first principles of that gospel he would know the truth for himself. He responded to the invitation of the servant of God and he received the promised testimony and had retained that knowledge till the present moment. He regretted that President Young was not permitted to be present with us. We all knew the reason of his absence. He knew, however, that God would ultimately bear him off victorious. During the past ten years he had assisted in gathering thousands of the poor, and he always rejoiced in doing any public service connected with the work of God. He predicted that President Young would be again among us before long, that the Saints would not only see the Temple built in this city, but temples would be reared in other places and ultimately all over the land.

Bishop SAMUEL A. WOOLLEY said he had been a member of the church thirty-one years, six months, and two days. He had in his time circumnavigated the globe, preaching the gospel in distant lands without purse or scrip, and he had done so because he knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that it was indeed he gospel of Christ which he had to deliver to mankind. He knew Brigham Young was the legal successor of Joseph Smith. He was in Nauvoo when President Young returned from Boston, after Joseph and Hyrum were murdered, and attended a meeting in a grove. When President Young walked upon the stand and commenced to speak, his appearance and his voice were like unto Joseph's. He knew by these things and by the power of God which then rested upon President Young, that he was the legal successor of Joseph.

The speaker adverted to the work which had been accomplished by the Saints in these valleys, and thought we should remain here, at least as long as the Lord wished us to.

Elder ROBERT L. CAMPBELL was the next speaker. He testified that the gospel introduced by Joseph Smith and which was being taught by President Brigham Young and the present authorities of the church was true. No power would ever succeed in destroying this work, for it was of God. He exhorted the Saints to live for the salvation of the living and the dead, and to be charitable to the children of men. To be charitable was Godlike. Many would be brought under the auspices saving power and benign influences of the gospel of salvation.

Elder JESSE N. SMITH bore testimony that he knew this to be the work of God. There was no point in our earthly career when we should not need to exercise faith in God. Faith in the Almighty was something much lacked by the people of the world. It was difficult for people to give up ideas in which they had been traditionated from their childhood. It required divine assistance to enable them to do so. It had required the blessing and power of God to enable him, the speaker, to do some things in which he had engaged connected with the work of God.

Bishop W. W. CLUFF referred to the inestimable blessings and privileges enjoyed by the Latter-day Saints, and especially to the improvement of the circumstances of the people who had come from the countries and gathered here. He, the speaker, in fulfillment of the mission to which he was called last conference to preach to the Scandinavians in the Territory, had visited many of those people in their new homes and he knew their temporal condition was greatly improved, and did we accomplish no more than this we should do a good work among the poor. Notwithstanding the apparent cloud that had been hanging over the Saints lately, he had seen more unity among them within the last few months.

The speaker referred to the statement of Bishop S. A. Woolley that when President Young was upon the stand at Nauvoo after the death of Joseph, he resembled the latter, and Elder Cluff testified that he too was the same way impressed. He was a boy at the time and he could well remember that it actually seemed to be Joseph whom he saw and heard speak.

The choir sang:

"Arise, shine, for thy light is come."

Adjourned till 2 p.m.

Prayer by President DANIEL H. WELLS.

TUESDAY, April 9th, 2 p.m.

The choir sang:

"Though nations rise and men conspire,
Their efforts will be vain."

Prayer by Elder A. M. MUSSER.

"Hark! the song of jubilee,
Loud as mighty thunders roar."

was sung by the choir.

Bishop HENRY MOON said:

I was one of the missionaries who were called to go to the United States last fall. In my travels I met with Mr. David Whitmer, one of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon. What made me visit him was, I was reading the testimony of the witnesses to some people on Shoal Creek, in Caldwell County. One of them, Mr. John Lefler, was very anxious to see one of these witnesses, and to hear his testimony. I went down to Richmond with him. We got to Mr. David Whitmer's a little after dark. I told Mr. Whitmer that I was from Utah. "From Utah?" said he. "Yes, Sir." "Well, you have a good deal of trouble, I suppose, in Utah?" Oh, not very much, I told him. He got up from

his supper and went out of the house, and I followed him. I told him I wanted to have a few moments' talk with him. He said he had not time, he wanted to see after some horses, and his son was sick. But I hung to him, and followed him in the street, and told him that this gentleman, Mr. Lefler, who was with me, had come from Caldwell county, to see if that which was written in the Book of Mormon—the testimony of the witnesses—was true. Mr. Whitmer turned round to the gentleman and said: "God Almighty requires at my hands to bear record of the truth of the Book of Mormon. That book is a true record; it is the pure gospel of Jesus Christ, translated by the gift and power of God through Joseph Smith." He then talked to Mr. Lefler, who also asked him a few questions. Then Mr. Whitmer talked a little to me about Utah. I asked the gentleman if he wanted any more conversation with Mr. Whitmer? He said, "No," he was quite satisfied, and we got on to the cars and went back to Caldwell county the same evening.

I am glad that I, with my brethren, can also bear witness with regard to the truth of the Book of Mormon and the establishment of the kingdom of God upon the earth, and that this is the kingdom established through Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. I am as satisfied of it, and I know it as well as I know that I am talking to this large congregation. Amen.

Elder ISAAC GROOM addressed the conference. He bore testimony to the divine authenticity of the work he was connected with. No people living had so much cause for thankfulness as the Latter-day Saints, for they were identified with a kingdom that would stand forever. The church of Christ, since the date of its organization forty-two years ago, had met with the most virulent opposition, but instead of staying this had accelerated its progress. This gospel was still being preached and would continue to spread until all living people would have an opportunity of embracing it. Some who had embraced the gospel had turned away therefrom, after having borne testimony to its truthfulness.

The speaker had obeyed the gospel while President Young was leader of the Saints, and had received a sure testimony under that administration. It was the individual knowledge enjoyed by the Elders of Israel that caused them to go forth into the world and preach the gospel. It was falsely reported that we were held in bondage by one man. What we did we conformed to because we knew it to be the will of God. Those who fought against us fought against God, for it was his work they opposed.

Elder WILFORD WOODRUFF delivered a very interesting and instructive discourse, being of a very practical character. He urged upon the Saints the necessity of attending to the development of the agricultural and manufacturing resources of the Territory, showing that our prosperity and comfort greatly depended upon the counsel we took in that direction. His remarks included wool-growing, cattle raising, farming, cotton and woolen manufacturing and kindred matters. He showed that our attention to those matters would enable us to be measurably self-sustaining and consequently independent.

President GEORGE A. SMITH said the Lord had blessed us in a most remarkable manner, considering the efforts of the father of lies to hinder our progress. He did not believe it possible to find on the earth a more law-abiding, temperate and orderly people than the people of Utah. They had especially vindicated their character in those respects during the last few months. We did not propose to relinquish any of the principles of morality and virtue which were so dearly prized. The wicked have introduced a few places of immorality, but we should keep ourselves uncontaminated. We should keep the Word of Wisdom. To its observance were attached great promises. We should observe it strictly, not only for our own sakes, but also for the sake of our children. He urged those who were engaged in working mines to be careful not to fall into the vicious practices so often prevalent in mining camps. We could not be placed in any position where we could not serve God.

The speaker again drew the attention of the Elders and Saints to the importance of supporting the Perpetual Emigrating Fund and urged those indebted to it to make payments. He spoke of the necessity of home missionary labor being vigorously prosecuted, and gave some excellent advice to all who had difficulties to settle to avoid law suits, and to settle disagreements by arbitration. He said that fears were entertained by some people that some great trouble was coming upon the Saints, but there