

Sahara. It was in keeping with the name it bore—the Great American Desert. How is it today? There is a city here, and we are building a temple. We go into temples to attend to ordinances for the living and the dead, as has been told us today. These Elders of Israel have been called by the power of God to go forth into the world and preach to their fellowmen, and they have promised them in the name of Jesus Christ that all who received this Gospel should receive the Holy Ghost. If this were not true, and the men and women they baptized received not the Holy Ghost, could they not have found it out before this time? Had not the Lord Almighty backed up this testimony of His humble servants, Utah today would be as barren as we found it in 1847, so far as the Latter-day Saints are concerned. But by the power of God men have received this, and by His power they have been gathered here.

I will say another thing. The prophecies of Isaiah would have fallen unfulfilled, as well as the prophecies of many other prophets, had not these things taken place. Since the creation of man the Lord has never brought judgment upon any generation upon any city, town or country, that I have ever read of, whenever they have been ripened in iniquity, until He has fully warned them by men raised up for that purpose, and they have rejected those men. Take those ancient cities, when they became ripened in iniquity the Lord raised up humble, honest men to warn kings, rulers, and those that inhabited those cities, that the judgments of God would overtake them if they did not repent. Read the history of Thebes, of Tyre, of Sidon, of Nineveh, of Memphis, and of Babylon the Great, built to defy all power but God Himself. All that the Prophets prophesied unto them came to pass to the very letter. There is not a Christian, a Jew, a Mormon, or an infidel, or anybody else can point to a prophecy or a revelation contained in the Bible by any man of God sent to any of these cities but what has had its fulfillment. Babylon itself was overthrown, and in fact it has been so covered by the drifting sands of the desert that man can hardly find its foundations today.

I wish to say to the Church and to the gentlemen and ladies who visit us, that we believe that we are living in one of the most important generations God ever gave to man. Read the revelations of St. John. Read the revelations of Isaiah and the other Prophets. Are they going to fall unfulfilled? I tell you nay; they will come to pass. I will say as one man who has lived a considerable length of time, as men count time, that the great change I see taking place in the world has an effect upon my mind, because in it I see the fulfillment of these revelations of God. I lived in Farmington, Conn. I received my first teachings under Dr. Porter, and under Dr. Haws, of Hartford. They were two reverend gentlemen, learned men, and they taught according to the light and knowledge of their day and generation. I used to have peculiar feelings, and I would ask these gentlemen questions. Said I, "Why is it that you don't contend for the faith once delivered to the saints? How is it that you don't have

those gifts and graces that were manifest in the days of Christ and His apostles?" They told me that these things were given in the dark ages of the world, to convince the children of men that Jesus was the Christ. But, said they, we are now living in the blaze of the glorious gospel light and we don't need them. Now, I did not believe that then, I don't believe it now. That kind of argument I could not comprehend. I agree with Brother Penrose that whenever the Lord has a church upon the earth, and that church receives the Gospel of Christ, and they enjoy the Holy Ghost, every gift and grace that ever did belong to the Church of God belongs to that Church, no matter who they are nor in what age of the world they live. These things are true today and have been manifest since the organization of this Church. We have been called and commanded of God to preach the Gospel of Christ, or be under condemnation. The Gospel of Christ does not injure anybody. But there is one strange thing with regard to the inhabitants of the earth and the Church of Christ. The Apostles, Prophets and leading men in every age of the world, if they tried to live Godly in Christ Jesus, became unpopular. Even Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to redeem the world, follow Him from the manger to the cross, through suffering mingled with blood, to the throne of grace, and was He popular? No, He was not. Were the Apostles popular? They were not. The Jews and Gentiles not only crucified the Savior, but put to death every Apostle and every man that bore the Priesthood in that day and time, excepting John the Revelator. So in all ages they have been unpopular. So was Joseph Smith. He laid down his life for the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ. He has gone into the spirit world, and he will receive his reward there. He was a prophet of God. He laid the foundation of a great work. It is by that same power that we are here today, and the hand of God is in all these matters. We wish to do all the good we can what little time we spend in the flesh, and I feel in my heart to say, God bless you, God bless my friends and those who visit us, and bless all men that try to do what is right. As long as we do what is right we will receive the blessings of God. As has been said here today, every man, except the sons of perdition, we believe will receive some kind of salvation. There is one glory of the sun, there is another glory of the moon, there is another glory of the stars, and as one star differs from another star in glory, so also will it be in the resurrection. All of us will be judged according to the deeds done in the body. We have but a little time to live upon the earth. If we live to be a hundred years old, it is a very short span when compared with eternity. We are here upon a mission, and a few of us have been called to labor in preaching the Gospel. We have done what we could in this matter, that our garments might be clean from the blood of all men.

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord may guide and direct us and give us wisdom in all that we do, that when we go into the presence of God we may

be counted worthy to receive salvation and eternal life, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The choir sang the anthem:

Hallelujah, the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Benediction by Bishop William B. Preston.

OUR PRESBYTERIAN GUESTS.

Between the hours of 2 and 6 Sunday, May 15th, nearly seven hundred more or less distinguished Presbyterians arrived in this city, from the East over the Union Pacific en route to Portland, Oregon, to attend the one hundred and fourth general assembly of their church, which opens at that place on the 19th inst.

The excursion is one of the largest that ever crossed the Rocky Mountains. It consists of twenty-four passenger coaches and Pullman Palace sleepers, equally divided into three sections. So far the journey has not been marred by any accident, protracted delay or serious misunderstanding, and the delegates speak in terms of highest praise regarding the remarkably successful manner in which the Union Pacific has conducted so large a party over its system. Among the excursionists are some of the brightest and most eminent men of the Presbyterian faith.

At the Theatre.

In the evening, beginning at 8 o'clock, the visitors and local members of the Presbyterian and other denominational churches of the city held a union missionary meeting in the Theatre, presided over by the Rev. Dr. Cleveland, of Philadelphia, a former moderator of the general assembly. The stage was occupied by the combined choirs of the Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregationalist and Baptist churches, led by A. H. Peabody. The auditorium and galleries were packed to overflowing, and an extra meeting was accordingly held in the First Methodist Episcopal church, on Third South street.

Rev. Dr. Kelney, of New Jersey, read a chapter from the book of Deuteronomy, after which, the Rev. Mr. Harkins, superintendent of the Congregational work in Utah, led in prayer.

Mr. McKelvey made a few introductory remarks. He said the gathering was strictly a union meeting, held for the purpose of introducing a renewed stimulus and strength into the evangelization of the West. It was important that the church should carry out the commands of Jesus Christ. That is what they were endeavoring to do. The particular injunction of Jesus that they were now trying to fulfil was: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." It was fitting to hold such a meeting at this time and place. It was to be hoped that there would be many go forth with such feelings as they never had experienced before and be washed clean in the blood of the Lamb.

THE REV. DR. ROBERTS,

a member of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions of New York, said the subject that had been allotted to him was the "Evangelization of the West."