

THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

JUNE 1850.

NO. 17.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1892.]

VOL. XLV.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The sixty-third semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a. m., on Thursday, Oct. 6, 1892.

There were on the stand, of the First Presidency, Wilford Woodruff and Joseph F. Smith; of the Council of the Twelve Apostles: Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Moses Thatcher, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill and Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch John Smith; of the presiding Council of Seventies: Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjelsted, B. H. Roberts and George Reynolds; of the Presiding Bishopric: Wm. B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder.

There were also many other leading officers of the Church from various parts of Utah and surrounding states and territories.

Conference was called to order by President Joseph F. Smith.

The choir and congregation sang:

Come let us anew our journey pursue
Roll round with the year
And never stand still till the Master appear.
His adorable will let us gladly fulfil.

Opening prayer by President August M. Cannon.

Singing by the choir:

Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning,
Joy to the lands that in darkness have lain.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

said that through the mercy and providence of God those present this morning had been preserved to again attend the semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Quite a number of our brethren and sisters had passed from this state of existence into the spirit world since we last met in Conference. In turn we should also pass away. While we had the privilege of meeting together in this capacity, he trusted that our hearts would be united in prayer before the Lord, that we might enjoy the inspiration of Almighty God, the gift of the Holy Ghost, the spirit of light and truth, so that we might edify one another in our teachings, counsels, testimonies and administrations. We needed this blessing day by day, that we might understand and comprehend the responsibilities which we were under to God our Heavenly Father.

When he reflected that this comparatively little band of men and wo-

men had been gathered into the valleys of these mountains, from all nations under heaven, by the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of carrying out the mind and will of God in the age and dispensation in which we lived, he realized indeed, as all the Saints must, that the responsibility resting upon us, as upon the Saints of God in every age of the world, was very great.

Like all other dispensations and generations of men, we were placed here on a mission. We lived in the spirit world before we came here; we dwelt in the presence of God; and it had been our fortune, or our destiny—call it which you please—to be born in the present generation when the God of Israel had set His hand for the last time to build up His kingdom upon the earth, to prepare His people for the great event which awaits us.

There had been no dispensation fraught with greater importance than this, and his desire while we were together in this Conference was that the Apostles and Elders who might address us should have the spirit of the Priesthood upon them.

He thanked God that he still lived—that his life had been spared until now. When he looked back upon the past, he realized that the majority of his former companions—those with whom he had been associated from the foundation of this Church—had gone into the spirit world; and he expected shortly to follow them there.

From the time we were first led into these mountain valleys by a prophet, seer and revelator, who was clothed with the spirit and power of God, until now, the hand of God had been manifested among the people, and that in fulfillment of the revelations and prophecies recorded in every book handed down to us as the word of God to the children of men.

He sincerely hoped that while we lived in the flesh we would fully realize all our responsibilities and the work which is required at our hands. He desired that the Saints would, as far as possible during this conference, lay aside all business cares, and pay strict attention to the work now before us—that we might be of one heart and mind, and be filled with light, truth and power to receive the teachings of our brethren.

ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG

addressed the conference, in substance

as follows: It was a great blessing to come together in general Conference, and to listen to our venerated President, who has been faithful for so many years. He rejoiced in having a standing with the people of God. The Saints had made progress since the organization of the Church, which had a small beginning. The Gospel had spread to nearly all the civilized nations of the globe. The Elders had been endowed with power and authority. They had gone into the world; the honest in heart had received their testimony, and the Spirit of God had given them ability to face the opposition of the world. Notwithstanding the forces that had been operated to impede the progress of the work of God, it had rolled on. The instructions that would be given in this general gathering would be carried to the uttermost bounds of the Church on the earth, and the same spirit present here would accompany them. Every person attending conference should pray that we might have a time of profit and instruction, that all might be edified. When prayer was offered here there should be a harmonious response from every heart, that the petition might be an aggregate one, and the Lord would be induced to pour out His blessing upon us. May God bless the speakers of this Conference and all the people.

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW

said in substance: President Woodruff, in his opening remarks, stated that the people in these valleys came from the various nations of the earth for an especial purpose. This idea is worthy of serious consideration. We came here because the Lord, through His servants, had told us that it was His will that we should here carry out certain purposes.

It is not the first time that the Lord has called out a people to come together from their various localities, to a certain place, for a certain purpose. He has done this because the circumstances surrounding the people in their various abiding places were such as to demand this call. It was so in reference to Abraham. The conditions that surrounded him and bore upon him were of that nature that he could not carry out the wishes of God under existing circumstances; and therefore he was called away.

When the children of Israel were in the Egyptian bondage their circumstances were such that in order that