

tin Harris subsequently returned to it, David Whitmer being the only one of them who died outside of the fold. All of them were approached in various ways to induce them to "declare their testimony false," but not one of them ever did so, each making the declaration in regard to what they had seen and heard regarding the plates and their translation from the time of the manifestation to them till their latest breath.

David Whitmer, the one who did not return to the Church, wound up his earthly career by making a dying statement in relation to the Book of Mormon, solemnly asserting that he beheld the angel, saw the plates and heard the voice of God verifying the correctness of the record.

It is customary and popular in connection with those subjects to fix lion on a conclusion without examination and then hunt for subtleties and falsehoods to justify it.

This is the method of fools. The process adopted by people who are wise and fair is to investigate every phase of a subject with an unprejudiced mind and base a conclusion upon the evidence discovered.

It seems that in certain directions the prevalent bent among many people is to believe and sustain a lie that they may not be saved. They remind one of a jury which makes up its verdict before the case to be disposed of is tried.

#### LECTURES IN WALES.

ON March 14th Elder B. H. Roberts delivered a lecture in the Albert Minor Hall, Swansea, Wales, subject—"A new witness for God." His theme was the Book of Mormon. He described the nature of that record, its origin and purpose, furnishing strong evidence of its authenticity. He had a large audience, who listened with close attention, the only exception being an attempt on the part of a number of rowdy youths to create a disturbance. The bulk of the people soon signified their disapproval of the disorder, and the disturbers left the hall, after which quiet reigned to the close. A full and fair synopsis of the lecture appeared in the Swansea Herald.

#### GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty-eighth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a.m. on April 5th, 1888, Apostle Lorenzo Snow presiding.

There were on the stand, of the Twelve: Lorenzo Snow, Heber J. Grant and John W. Taylor; of the Counselors to the Twelve: Daniel H. Wells; Patriarch, John Smith; of the Presiding Council of the Seventies, Henry Herriman, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates, Abram H. Cannon, Seymour B. Young; of the Presiding Bishopric, John R. Winder. There were also present a large number of Presidents of Stakes and other leading brethren.

The choir sang the hymn on page 46, beginning,

Our God, we raise to Thee  
Thanks for thy blessings free  
We here enjoy.

Opening prayer by Apostle John W. Taylor.

Singing by the choir:

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives.

ELDER F. A. HAMMOND,

President of San Juan Stake, was the first speaker. He said, in substance: With the assistance of the Lord I will do the best I can to comfort the Saints and speak concerning those things which interest them today. In looking at the many aged people present with whom I am acquainted, I am reminded of an inquiry made by a poet in relation to the future life—"Shall we know each other there." I am assured that we will, and this understanding gives me energy, vigor and joy. I rejoice in this work and do not feel discouraged although it looks a little cloudy. But the ship Zion has not lost her headway. It had never done so. We are meeting with opposition, as we expected, and make our way inch by inch. Sometimes it has been smooth sailing, and then the crew were in the most danger, as they then became careless. Storms develop the energies and ability of all hands. I rejoice in the experiences we have passed through and that we are now meeting. The hand of the Lord is in it all. It teaches us that if the Lord is not with us we are in a sorry plight, as we have no hope from any other source. I have no fear but that those who have the light of the Lord with them will go through every ordeal unscathed. It will be otherwise with those who are unfaithful. It is my desire to know the mind of the Lord in reference to myself and the people to whom I minister. This is the privilege of each officer and member of the Church.

ELDER HENRY HERRIMAN, of the presiding council of the Seventies, aged 84, was the next speaker; he said:

I am thankful to my Heavenly Father that He has preserved our bodies in health and strength, and has given us the privilege of assembling together in the Fifty-eighth Conference of the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I thank God that I have lived to behold this day. I have been in the Church fifty-five years, and thanks be unto our Eternal Father that he has filled my soul with joy and rejoicing, and opened the eyes of my understanding to understand His purposes, and to dwell here upon the earth in the fulness of times. I know by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, and by what my eyes have seen and my heart has felt, that God has raised up a Prophet to lay the foundations of His Church and Kingdom, and has revealed the principles of eternal life and redemption to prepare a people for the great day that is to come, when Jesus our Redeemer will come upon the earth to reign a thousand years with the Saints, when nothing shall hurt or destroy upon the face of the earth, and when His Kingdom will be built up, and when we shall see eye to eye, and the Saints become of one heart and one mind and when all shall behold the eternal purposes of God. Now I will say, through the grace of God, if there are persons within the sound of my voice who do not know that God has spoken from the heavens, humble yourselves as little children and call upon His holy name, and He will pour out His spirit upon you in such a way that will be calculated to raise you up and fill your souls with truth, and you will get the blessings of the fulness of the Everlasting Gospel of Christ, and you will make your calling and election sure. Thanks be unto God for His kindness and tender mercies unto us. Thanks be unto Him for opening the eyes of our understanding to comprehend, through the manifestations of the Holy Spirit that which has been made manifest unto us in years past and all His blessings unto us.

Now, my brethren and sisters, I feel in my heart to exhort every person within the sound of my voice to attend upon the Lord Jesus Christ, to do His will, to do those things which are right and just before him; and they will be built up in listening to the still small voice. It will open the eyes of their understanding and prepare them for the things to come and which the God of heaven will bring upon the face of the earth, until the earth becomes a place for the doing of the will of God as in heaven. The Saints are looking forward with the eye of faith to obtain the blessings which Jesus prepared for the world for all that overcome and endure unto the end. When our bodies will become cleansed and purified, when we shall see as we are seen and know as we are known, and when we shall become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, with tabernacles incorruptible and immortal, May we obtain these blessings in my desire in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG

next addressed the congregation. Substantially he spoke as follows: I desire to be inspired to say something beneficial. We have assembled for the purpose of being instructed and to treasure up what we hear. When we go hence may we feel that we have been blessed. The Gospel consists of ordinances, blessings and covenants and embraces good works. Brother Hammond stated that his testimony had grown brighter by experience in the Church. Brother Herriman also bore a similar witness. I have known these brethren a long time, and rejoice to hear them speak as they do. The latter is the senior president of the Seventies. I have seen him pull a handcart in a company with which I traveled, he being the president of the company. I have never seen him commit a wrong act, and congratulate myself at the opportunity of associating with such men.

We have gone into the waters of baptism to have our sins remitted. We did this because we had become convinced of our sinfulness. By this act of obedience the debt of the creature to the Creator was cancelled. We were thus forgiven of all sinful acts up to that point. Then we desired the testimony of Jesus, through the imposition of hands, through which ordinance we received the Holy Ghost. The Apostles assembled together at Jerusalem, as related in the second chapter of the Acts, to be induced with power, so that the people who congregated on the occasion marvelled. Peter preached to them Christ and him crucified, and they were convinced of the truth of what he said. When asked by them what they should do, Peter replied that they must repent, be baptized for the remission of sins and they should receive the Holy Ghost. The Scriptures throughout declare the necessity of baptism, the Savior Himself setting an example by rendering obedience to that ordinance. Notwithstanding that it is believed only who should receive it is customary in the world to sprinkle infants, who are incapable of belief and have no sin of which they could repent, even if they could comprehend anything about these things. These things are a reversal of the doctrine of Christ as taught by Himself. The Lord is not the author of confusion, but of order. The principles of truth are laid down in plainness, and there is a proper authority for the administration of the Gospel.

In the ordinances, blessings and covenants we have received, the Lord has manifested the plan of redemption, not only for the living, but also the dead who have not had Gospel privileges in this life. The Jews were

familiar with this doctrine of preaching the Gospel to departed spirits and obeying outward ordinances, by proxy, in their behalf. Paul exhibited this fact when he asked the Corinthians, in his argument in favor of the resurrection of the dead, "Else what shall they do that are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all; why then are they baptized for the dead?" When Christ was crucified and his body lay in the tomb, his spirit entered the world of spirits and he preached to them, as declared by Peter. This glorious phase of the Gospel was revealed anew through Joseph Smith the Prophet, and he, together with all the faithful Elders who have laid their bodies down in this dispensation, are now engaged in a similar labor among the spirits of the dead. They are turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, as exemplified by the conduct in that regard, of the Latter-day Saints, in being turned to the fathers. Inspired with that disposition, they build temples in which ordinances in behalf of those who have died without the full benefits of the Gospel in this life are administered.

For the furtherance of this work the Lord revealed the law of tithing, that houses of worship may be erected, the poor gathered, fed and clothed, and other similar objects attained. We should appreciate the privilege of complying with this necessary law.

Continuous revelation is another feature of the Church of Christ. The necessity of divine communication was as clearly a fact now as it ever was in any dispensation or age. It was through this principle that Joseph Smith, who was raised up for the purpose, was enabled to organize the Church, give the design of temples, communicate the nature and character of the ordinances of the Gospel, the gathering of the Saints, and all other principles in which we so greatly rejoice. These things came through Joseph the Prophet, and "no man taketh this honor unto himself except he be called of God, as was Aaron." Joseph was told by the Lord that he should be the instrument in His hands of bringing about the divine purposes. He fulfilled his glorious mission under the most formidable obstacles, and finally was martyred, sealing his testimony with his blood. And he now is working in the same great cause of redemption.

I bear testimony that the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed through Joseph Smith is true, including all the principles enunciated by him, without exception.

ELDER ANDREW JENSEN:

I have had the opportunity of attending a great many conferences of the Church during the last twenty-one years, and since my first arrival in these mountains; but this is the first time that I have been called upon to speak in any of these conferences. In arising before this large congregation this morning I feel my inability to say anything that could edify this congregation unless the Spirit of God shall sustain me.

I need hardly say the call was unexpected. I had, however, no excuse in this, for an Elder in this Church ought to be prepared for anything, and any kind of surprises, as it were; and holding a position in the Priesthood, I consider myself in duty bound to respond to any call that is made upon me. I feel, this morning, that I have a testimony to bear, in connection with my brethren who have spoken before me. I have rejoiced exceedingly not only today, but in times past, in listening to our gray-haired men, who have been for years and years in this Church and Kingdom, and who have proven themselves faithful and true to the cause of God, in the midst of tribulation and persecutions.

When I see such men as Brother Herriman, and others who are present with us today, and hear their testimonies, it makes my heart rejoice. There are so many who have been blessed by the spirit of God with the testimony of Jesus Christ, with this knowledge, that they know, and can bear testimony that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the living God. I look upon this as of great importance indeed; and every man and every woman in the midst of the Latter-day Saints should know for a surety that this is so.

We are very numerous at the present time. In reading the history of the Church we have reason to be thankful to God for all the Stakes of Zion that are now organized, when we consider the small beginning that took place in the year 1839, when the Church was first organized in the little village of Fayette, Seneca County, New York, and that we have 34 Stakes of Zion organized in these mountain regions. We are numerous today as a people. We find, however, that there are in the midst of this multitude of people, called Latter-day Saints, a great many perhaps that do not have the testimony that has been borne by our brethren here this morning. There are a great many young men and women in the midst of this people, who up to the present time, have felt calm and at ease in their minds, and have relied upon the testimony of their fathers and mothers instead of praying for and receiving a testimony of the truth of this Gospel for themselves. They have done this for years, instead of seeking for the voice of inspiration.

The Apostles and Prophets have borne their testimonies in regard to the divine mission of Joseph Smith, and have exhorted others to "acquire a knowledge of this matter for

themselves; but they have thought perhaps that it was not necessary.

I believe and know that we as a people are passing through severe and trying scenes which are absolutely necessary to make us stronger in the faith. Every man and every woman should have a testimony within themselves; should seek for the spirit of revelation and obtain it direct from heaven, and know for themselves that the Lord has revealed His mind and will to the children of men in these the last days; that He has restored the fulness of His Gospel and that Joseph Smith was His Prophet, and commanded of Him to bring about the great plan of salvation. I have found in considering the situation we are in today, that we are in the hand of God.

We may look upon the members of the different religious sects as being sincere and honest in their belief, as no doubt thousands and millions of them are; but we claim in regard to the Latter-day Saints that it is necessary for them today to know of the mission of Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and others, to know whether Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of God or not, and whether or not he did receive the manifestations and power of God; to know if he did see the Father and the Son when he went to the woods to pray; that he did find the plates in the Hill Cumorah; did translate the same by the aid of the Urim and Thummim. Did he receive the Priesthood through the administration of the Apostles Peter, James and John? Did Moses confer upon him the keys of gathering the Israel of the latter days or did Elijah appear to him in the Kirtland Temple and reveal to him the keys whereby the hearts of the fathers were to be turned to their children, and the hearts of the children turned to their fathers?

It is made necessary for us as a people today to be diligent in building these temples in these mountain regions. I say of these things that they are either true or false. If they are true the great majority of the children of men have not the truth, and if they are not true the Latter-day Saints are in a deplorable condition today. Joseph Smith did not come forward as a man have done to spread his views.

Joseph Smith claimed nothing but what was revealed to him from on high. When he made the declaration that all were going astray that none of the sects of the day were right and that the Lord acknowledged none of them, he only repeated what was told him. It was very presumptuous for a boy of his standing in society to make such sweeping declarations as these, especially when that boy lived in the wilderness of New York. He had never crossed the borders of the United States, was without unlearned in the things of this world, a mere youth, and yet he made the declaration that all the Christian world had gone astray, that none of the sects were right, and that he had heard the voice of Jehovah; that he received his authority from Jesus Christ and all that he had to do was to repeat what he had heard from Jesus, and that is what he did do.

Now in following the history of Joseph Smith to June 27, 1844, when his blood was shed in Carthage jail, we see that he was a great man. We find in him a man that is to be looked upon—and should be looked upon by all living creatures as above ordinary importance. He spoke the truth and his testimony is before the world today. I see here in this congregation today that there is no possibility of the Latter-day Saints being deceived. These gray-haired men we have among us testify that there is no possibility of us being deceived. They are honest in heart; for they have lived long in the Church and have found joy in living up to what the prophet taught them. Joseph Smith came forward and had to face a scornful and unbelieving world—who did not believe in apostles, prophets, gifts and the blessings of the Gospel—for, say they, these things are all done away with and no longer needed. Joseph Smith did not profess to be learned—he prayed to God and received an answer to his prayer, and the Lord blessed him and made him the instrument in whose hands the Book of Mormon came forth. He testified of its divinity and that it came from the Lord, and we who have come from distant lands, and from the north country, listened to the American Elders who came to teach us the word of God, and we believed what they taught. We did not believe they were impostors. They told us to search the Scriptures and pray to God for light and intelligence, which we did, and the result was that we believed and knew these things were true. Thousands are in possession of the truth today, who have done as God commanded through His servants; and they have enjoyed the gifts and blessings of the Gospel. Now, I say it would be impossible for these men whom we have heard today bear such powerful testimonies to be imposed upon these many years; it would be impossible for them to be deceived, for they would have discovered this work to be wrong or false if it were so. Joseph Smith could not have called down angels from above, he could not have called down the power of the Holy Ghost to rest upon a single individual—he could not cause the Spirit of Truth to enter the heart of any man or woman who came to receive the ordinances of baptism from his hands, if he were not a Prophet of the living God. Such things cannot be done by an impostor. He might tell the three witnesses that he had seen an angel,

that an angel should come from heaven and reveal unto them the Book of Mormon; but if it was not fulfilled he would have indeed imposed upon them.

To take the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants and read them and the promises made unto those who will obey the teachings therein contained, it must certainly have been a deception if they could not be fulfilled. But the witness is before us that they are true; for thousands and tens of thousands have testified they have received the promises made by receiving the principles in honest hearts.

My brethren and sisters, I have a testimony to bear to you this morning. I have a testimony that Joseph Smith was a great Prophet of God; that God has revealed Himself in these the last days, that the Priesthood is revealed again as it was in ancient times in all its purity. And that I have received the gifts and blessings of the Gospel, and that to get these blessings a person has but to live up to what has been revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith and to keep in the path of duty.

May the Lord help us to concentrate our efforts, even in the midst of this great storm that is now going over this people, that when the sun shall shine again upon this people we may look back upon the past with gratitude to God. May we be able to withstand the surging tide of slander and opposition, and may we appreciate as sons and daughters of Zion the merited blessings which are sure to follow the examples of noble men and women. May we follow in that path and keep that testimony burning within us which will exalt us in the Kingdom of God, in my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

The choir sang an anthem:

The Lord will comfort Zion.

Adjourned till two p. m.

Benediction by Elder George Goddard.

#### Star Valley, Wyoming.

M. D. Yeaman writes from Star Valley, Uintah County, Wyo., March 27, as follows:

The snow has not been very deep the past winter, the average depth being about one foot. Horses have wintered well and some cattle have been out on the hills most of the winter and look well. We are looking for a rush of people here next summer, as there is plenty of land, water and timber, all of which is of good quality and easily made available. Prospects are favorable for good crops this season.

Meetings are well attended and a good spirit prevails. Our district school is also in a flourishing condition and is taught by S. I. Bartlett, Esq. The number of pupils enrolled during the winter was 104.

#### THE SCHOOL LAW

of Wyoming is very liberal and the county school funds are sufficient for about nine months out of the year.

I regret that I have to record the death of one of our long standing friends, James Hendrickson. He was a soldier in the "Mormon" Battalion under Captain James Brown and Colonel Allen in company C, and departed this life about 4:30 p. m. March 24th, 1888, aged 65 years and 4 months. He leaves an aged wife and 7 sons and one daughter. Six of the sons live in this valley.

Sister Hendrickson has been very ill but is at the present improving. The funeral services were held in Afton Meeting House March 26, and were well attended. A large number followed the remains to their last resting place.

#### Commissioner's Court.

John Lee and Lizzie Morgan were yesterday arrested at the depot on the charge of adultery, by Deputy Marshal Corey and Officer Moroni F. Brown. They were taken before Commissioner L. R. Rogers. It appears that the couple came down on the Central Pacific from Lucin, Box Elder County, on Tuesday night, about 10 o'clock. They went to the Chamberlin Hotel, where they hired one room, which they used in common. Mrs. Morgan had two children with her. It appeared from the evidence that Mr. Lee had come down in order to draw his pay for work performed on the railway, and that he would furnish Mrs. Morgan with money to go south as soon as he received his money. They had taken the same room for the sake of economy, and no improper had taken place. The evidence not being sufficient to sustain the charge, the defendants were discharged.—Ogden Standard, April 5.

#### A SURE CURE FOR THE PILES.

—You need not suffer from this most distressing disease again in all your life. Email's Balm acts as a poultice and lubricator, absorbs the tumors and allays the intense itching at once. No caustic, no acid, no pain. A. McGibbon Esq., 19 Poplar street, Allegheny, Pa., writes: "I had itching and bleeding piles so bad I could not sit, stand or walk without intense suffering. I doctored with many physicians, and tried all the (so called) cures that I ever heard of, in vain (paying out hundreds of dollars), until I used Email's Magic Balm, or Ointment. After the first application I enjoyed the best night's sleep I had for ten years, and two boxes have cured me completely." Whenever introduced Dr. Email's Balm takes the lead, and has the largest sale of any Pile remedy in the world. Sold by druggists everywhere or sent by mail, 50 cent boxes. Address Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution, Salt Lake City. d&w (8)