

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

Address Delivered at the Annual Conference
Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake
City, April 4, 1903.

BY ELDER B. H. ROBERTS.

With you, my brethren and sisters, I rejoice in the privileges and blessings of this conference. The presence of so many upon the opening day of conference speaks the widespread interest that exists among the Latter-day Saints in the work of God. I like to see you all interested in all the affairs of the Church. In all phases of the work, both the work within the stakes of Zion and the work abroad among the nations of the earth. But while we have this general interest in all departments of the great works of our Father, it is but natural that we should have a particular interest in that department of it in which more especially we are called to labor. I make this remark in order that you may understand why it is that I address a few words to the conference in relation to that body of Priesthood over which, in connection with the other presidents of the First Council of Seventy, I am called to preside.

We have in the church 143 quorums of Seventy. There would be over 10,000 men in that body if all the quorums were active. Others, however, have members awaiting admission. So that the number of Seventies today in the Church is not far from 10,000. They are a body of men set apart and especially ordained to engage in the foreign ministry of the Church. When you take into account the very extended area of country in which these quorums are scattered, you can readily understand that it requires considerable labor to reach these organizations and keep them fully organized and the vacancies in the respective councils filled.

Why I refer to this subject is for the purpose of making a suggestion or two to the Presidents of stakes and to the Bishops of wards who are gathered on this occasion. I think a little careful attention to the great amount of work that is required at the hands of the First Council of Seventy in keeping these quorums of Seventies fully organized would make the presiding brethren a little cautious about taking on the quorums, for local positions. Of course, I understand that there are very important officers to fill in the Church, and when the right man is found among the Seventies it is proper that he should be ordained to the position; but if one equally fitted could be found among the Elders or High Priests I think it would be wisdom on the part of presidents of stakes and Bishops to find men for local positions in these quorums and not disturb the presidencies of the Seventies. Of late, when thinking upon this subject, and the inconvenience that we are frequently put to, I have been much impressed with a principle that is named in the Book of Mormon. The passage gives a description of the manner in which the Apostles among the Nephites, upon this continent ordained men to office. It is as follows:

"The manner which the disciples who were called the Elders of the church, ordained Priests and Teachers. After they had prayed unto the Father in the name of Christ, they laid their hands upon the head, and said, 'In the name of Jesus Christ, I ordain you to be a Priest; (or, if he be a Teacher,) I ordain you to be a Teacher, to preach repentance and mission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Amen.'"

This is the point more especially, however, to which I direct your attention.

"And after this manner did they ordain Priests and Teachers, according to the gifts and callings of God unto men." If those who in the first instance direct the footstep of one youth into the quorums of the Priesthood, would take into account more the gifts and callings of God unto these young men, I think it would be possible to overcome some of our difficulties. The young men should be directed into those quorums that their natural gifts—the gifts and callings of God—unto them—qualify them for. If it is observed in a young man as he develops under the eye of the Bishop, that he is possessed of executive ability, then that fact should be remembered, and he should be directed into that quorum where his special training could develop the qualities he possesses for a career of usefulness in the Church. Or when a young man is found who is possessed of that combination of qualities that go to the making of the judicial mind, if he has the rare faculty of balancing one statement against another; the ability to look at both sides of a question, and justly weigh the evidence; then he should be directed to the "Elders" or High Priests' quorums, whose business it is to preserve men for presiding and judicial callings in the Church; and sometime in the future, when a High Council, or some presiding officer is required he might be remembered and found in that quorum where it would create no disturbance to take him, and place him in the presiding or judicial position. On the other hand, where men are observed to possess the ability to teach, and the spirit of testimony is strong upon them, and they have in them the making of a good witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, let such be directed into the quorums of the Seventies. Thus, if we stand down the line where we begin to divide men off in the direction of their life's labors in the Church, and consider "the gifts and callings of God unto them," I think we can help the conditions of which I am now speaking. In any event, while present conditions exist, local presiding officers, I am sure, would confer a great favor upon the First Council of Seventy, if they took more into account the convenience and the increase of labor they make us when they choose men from among the presidencies of the quorums of Seventy, when others could be found who would fill the positions equally well.

While speaking on the subject of the Seventy, I wish to call attention to one of the great things laid before us in the opening remarks of President Smith. There is no body of men in the Church to whom his remarks on the matter of freeing themselves from debt apply with so much force, as to the Seventy. The direct coming of the most constant communication with the Seventies in all parts of the Church territory. We are continually on the lookout for men who can go on missions. All the time we are responding with men who are recommended to us as worthy to go upon missions, but we find so many of them involved in debt that when this glorious opportunity is presented to them of going upon a mission, to discharge the high duties of their calling in the Priesthood, they are barred from accepting that appointment by reason of being financially involved. If I could say a word that would emphasize the teachings of the President upon this subject, I most certainly would do it, and urge upon our Seventies, above all men in the

world, to free themselves from financial obligations, that they may be at liberty to exercise the powers of the Priesthood in preaching righteousness to the world, and in standing before it as witnesses of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

MECHANIC ARTS AND TRADE UNIONS.

In the opening remarks of our President texts were given to the Elders of Israel which they can expound and teach with very great profit to the people; and I believe that among those various subjects in this conference there will be words spoken that will throw great light and intelligence upon those subjects. The matter of encouraging our young men to engage in mechanical arts and trades is a matter that calls for most earnest attention and wisest consideration on the part of the leading brethren in Israel, and from fathers and mothers everywhere. The fact that it becomes necessary to call attention to such a matter is an indication that circumstances are undergoing a great change with us. Heretofore, occupying as we do a new country, young men when they came to manhood and found a place inconveniently narrow for them, had but to remove a few miles where lands could be obtained, and out of those lands make themselves homes and establish themselves in a community where they would furnish themselves with employment; and doubtless for some time to come there will be an outlet for our young people. But that outlet may be required to remove to greater distances than in the years that are past. But as our communities increase in number and our centers of population become more and more crowded, we shall find those among us—in fact, we do now—who have no taste, no desire, no energy in the kind of life incident to opening new lands and establishing new communities, and who must turn their attention to the acquiring of skill in some kind of useful labor. It will be impossible for all to engage in the professions; for the cry already is that the professions are overcrowded. But in connection with turning our attention to the acquirement of skill in mechanical arts and trades, there is a question which we must needs reflect upon and provide for. This is an age of organization, both of capital and labor. The hosts of men that are engaged in the several trades have found it necessary in some way or other to protect themselves, that they may command a reasonable price for their labor. In other words, they have combined to control wages, just as far as it is possible to control them. It is beyond question that these organizations, in some way, have succeeded in securing some measure of control. But something had to be done in order to make it possible for labor to hold its own against the greater force and greed and power of combined capital; and whatever the excesses may be, and however much we may regret them, nevertheless organization and union on the part of labor become an absolute necessity to a very great extent dictate the number that shall be permitted to enter into the various crafts and trades. They say that men and apprentices shall be allowed in the respective trades. They attempt to control the supply of labor in that way, because they do not desire that the supply shall be greater than the demand; because the greater the demand the better the price that may be asked for the labor. I do not in the few words that can be said on this occasion undertake to discuss this question at length. I merely call attention to its existence. And it will become necessary for the Latter-day Saints in our centers of population to determine what shall be the relation of those entering into these trades to the unions that are controlling the trades. I merely bring it before you, that the wise men in Israel may take it into account; for it is one of the facts that we shall necessarily be brought in contact with when we undertake to encourage our youth, as perforce we must, to enter into mechanical arts and trades as the means of sustaining themselves by their labor.

FORCES THAT AID GOSPEL WORK.

The work of the Lord, President Smith tells us, is growing; and further greater than today. I rejoice in that he says there never was a period of time in his history when interest in it was greater. I sometimes wonder if we comprehend or even apprehend the facts that enter into that growth, and that enlargement of interest. If time would permit it, I should only be too glad to attempt, not only to the direct evidences of growth and of interest in the work of God, but also to the indirect means that God is employing in the matter of enlarging His work and preparing the way for nations to be born within it in a day. It does seem to me that the whole world is fermenting with the heaven that God planted when He brought this work into the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. To the Church has been assigned the honor of the title role in God's great drama of the last days. But as in the drama the actor bearing the title role does not develop the thought of the poet's mind, so we as the Church of Latter-day Saints, though bearing the honor of the position assigned to us, do not contribute the only force that God is using in bringing to pass His great and mighty purposes. In his day, Paul said that some men preached Christ of envy and strife, and some of good will; but he gloried in this fact, that whether preached out of envy and strife or of good will, the Lord would so overrule their actions as to bring to pass His purposes. I sometimes feel amused when I reflect upon what the surprise of many of our enemies will be when they discover that the Lord has overruled their actions, made even of their instruments to accomplish His ends, and had so controlled their wrath as to make it praise Him.

The theology of the world has changed since the introduction of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You can find no minister today to voice from his pulpit the doctrine of infant damnation.

Light Bread
Light Cares
Light Heart
If You Use
Husler's Flour

Duties of the Seventies—Their Special Gifts and Calling to Preach the Gospel—Should be Free from Debt, to Exercise the Powers of the Priesthood—Mechanic Arts and Trades Unions—All Things Conduce to the Growth of the Lord's Work.

You can get no minister today to deny the possibility of continued revelation from God. You can get no minister today to undertake to defend the position that God, by a mere caprice of His sovereign will, "sends one to heaven and ten to hell"—not for any good or ill they have done before Him, but just for His glory. The doctrine which the poet Burns satirizes in substantially that language is a thing of the past in the pulpits of men. These modifications in the Christian world's theology—and a hundred other modifications—have been due chiefly to the truths and revelations through Joseph Smith the prophet; and thousands of eloquent tongues and pens have been employed teaching these truths which have led to the correction of many errors in religion, without knowing the origin of their doctrine.

The advancement made in all the arts and sciences is also very materially helping to bring to pass God's mighty purposes. We overlook, it seems to me sometimes, the moral force that goes with some of our great inventions. It is now about three-quarters of a century since the electric telegraph flashed from Washington to Baltimore the first intelligible message by that means of communication. Since then all parts of the world have been brought into instant communication with one another. It seemed to dawn upon the mind of some that if a message could be transmitted over wires, by means of sounds in dots and dashes there was no reason why the tones of the human voice could not be so communicated; and now, though separated by hundreds of miles, we can converse familiarly with our friends by means of this great invention. Recently another step has been taken in the progress of this means of communication, which gives us substantially that before long the wires may be dispensed with, the ocean cables may be abandoned, and out on the sensitive, trembling atmosphere, that touches all parts of the world, messages may be sent forth, and safely carried even across the great expanse of ocean, so that the whole round world can be through this means in constant communication. The moral force—the force that makes for faith—in these things is this: The idea is dispelled that it is impossible for God, at His home, to be in immediate communication with the whole world. These mighty inventions, this progress in art and in science, are constantly developing the powers that are in man and the great things that he can accomplish, narrow as are his limitations at present. The result is that men reason after this fashion: If man with his limited knowledge and intellectual powers can accomplish so much, it is difficult to believe that God has accomplished all that is accredited to Him in the revelations of the prophets. So there is in the development of these arts and sciences that which makes for faith in the power of God; and these indirect means are accomplishing very much in preparing the minds of men for the great truths that are being found in the revelations brought forth by the Prophet Joseph Smith. The heaven is working; and some of these days it will only be necessary to strike the keynote and there shall be a grand and broad carrying out of the things that God has revealed through the great latter-day prophet.

I rejoice in these indirect means, as well as in the direct means, that the Lord is using for the accomplishment of His purposes. In preparing the way for the coming of His kingdom, which I pray may come quickly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIS TOWN IS IN LUCK.

How Henry H. Rogers Has Enriched Fairhaven, Mass.

Many Fine Edifices Erected at His Expense—His Latest Gift a Group of Church Buildings.

Special Correspondence.

Fairhaven, Mass., April 27.—This town, the birthplace of Henry H. Rogers, vice-president of the Standard Oil company, is greatly interested in the erection of Mr. Rogers' latest tribute to his birthplace. This is a group of church buildings now in process of construction which includes a church, a parish house and a parsonage. The parish house is already completed, but the others are still in course of erection. The buildings will be fine examples of Tudor architecture and will be notable additions to Mr. Rogers' gifts to the town, which include a brick school-house, a library and a town hall.

The parish house is built of stone out from a ledge at Port Phoenix, within 20 yards of the Rogers mansion. The trimmings are of blue limestone, and the scheme of exterior embellishment includes arched heads and gargoyles and other things found on Ely cathedral, in England, ornamental tracery windows of white limestone, turrets, pinnacles and chimneys of terra cotta.

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the cost of all these improvements could be estimated with any degree of accuracy. It would total far beyond \$2,000,000 and might easily reach \$3,000,000.

Another of the interesting buildings of Fairhaven which owe their existence to Mr. Rogers' munificence is the Masonic hall at the "Four Corners," a fine business block. It contains a lodge room finished in quartered oak, and when Mr. Rogers gave it to the Masons he stipulated that the name of their lodge should be changed from Concordia to the George H. Taber lodge. This was a signal tribute to "Uncle" Taber who was then still alive and one of the most picturesque figures of the town. In his boyhood days Mr. Rogers and the old man, who went on to be a captain for whales and in many merchant vessels as captain, were great comrades.

In the last years of his life Captain Taber was a frequent visitor to the hall that bore his name, and these visits helped to make happy his declining days. At the death of their lodge should be named after him. The Standard Oil magazine.

THE PRICE OF RADIUM.

In view of the many absurd statements that have appeared respecting the price of the newly discovered metal radium, it may be well to mention that in Prof. and Madame Curie's laboratory in Paris at the Ecole de Physique et de Chimie Industrielle there is a tiny cube

of chemically pure chloride of radium. This, M. Curie declares, is the only sample of it in a pure state that exists in the whole world. It is about the size of a buckshot, and contains less than 3-100ths of a gramme. M. Curie told an interviewer that it had any value that one wishes to give it, but that \$5,000 would not buy it. It was with this sample that radium proved itself to be a new element, for it showed no lines in the spectroscopic other than those characteristic of the element. Many London medical men are anxious to try the effects of radium radiations on pathogenic micro-organisms. The present market price, however, of fairly pure radium is \$200 a pound, and during the past three years only between 500 and 600 grammes of the new element have been manufactured.—Westminster Gazette.

BEST SELLING BOOKS.

April Record.

According to the records of all book-sellers, the six books which have sold best in the order of demand during the month are:

1. Lovey Mary—Hegan \$1.00
2. Lady Rose's Daughter—Ward .. 1.50
3. The Pit-Norris 1.50
4. The Virginian—Wister 1.50
5. The Right Princess—Burnham .. 1.50
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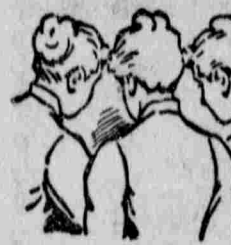
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