

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 15, 1885

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Sunday, April 5, 1885.

Conference re-assembled at 2 o'clock.
The choir sang:

O say what is truth? 'Tis the fairest gem
That the riches of worlds can produce.
Prayer by President William Budge.
The choir sang:

Though deep'n'g trials throng your way,
Press on, press on, ye Saints of God.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
was administered.

The Clerk presented the general au-
thorities of the Church to be sustained
by the Conference as follows:

John Taylor, Prophet, Seer and Re-
vealer to, and President of the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in
all the world.

George Q. Cannon as First and Joseph
F. Smith as Second Counselor in the
First Presidency.

Wilford Woodruff, President of the
Twelve Apostles.

Members of the Council of the Apostles—
Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo
Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D.
Richards, Brigham Young, Albert Car-
rington, Moses Thatcher, Francis Mar-
ion Lyman, John Henry Smith, George
Teasdale, Heber J. Grant and John W.
Taylor.

Counselors to the Twelve Apostles—
John W. Young and Daniel H. Wells.

Patriarch of the Church—John
Smith.

The first Seven Presidents of Sev-
enties—Henry Herriman, Horace S.
Eldredge, Jacob Gates, Abram H.
Cannon, Seymour B. Young, Christian
D. Fjelsted and John Morgan.

William B. Preston as Presiding
Bishop, with Robert T. Burton as his
First and John Q. Cannon as his Sec-
ond Counselor.

John Taylor as Trustee-in-Trust for
the body of religious worshippers
known and recognized as the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
to hold the legal title to its property
and contract for it.

The Counselors to the President,
the Twelve Apostles, their Counselors,
and Bishop Wm. B. Preston, as Coun-
selsors to the Trustee-in-Trust.

Wilford Woodruff as Historian for
the Church, and General Church Re-
corder, and F. D. Richards as his as-
sistant.

Albert Carrington as President of the
Perpetual Emigration Fund Co. for the
Gathering of the Poor, and F. D. Rich-
ards, F. M. Lyman, H. S. Eldredge,
Joseph F. Smith, Angus M. Cannon,
Moses Thatcher, Wm. Jennings, John
R. Winder, Henry Dinwoodey, Robert
T. Burton, A. O. Smoot and H. B.
Clawson, as his assistants.

Truman O. Angell as General Archi-
tect of the Church, and T. O. Angell,
Jr., and W. H. Folsom as his assis-
tants.

As Auditing Committee—Wilford
Woodruff, Erastus Snow, Franklin D.
Richards, Joseph F. Smith, William
Jennings.

John Nicholson as Clerk of Con-
ference.

John Irvine and George F. Gibbs as
Church Reporters.

Every vote taken was unanimous.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

Said it was with pleasure that he had
to announce that although the brethren
of the First Presidency were unable to
be present at Conference, they had no
forgotten us, having forwarded an
epistle to be read to the Saints. The
epistle, which was published yesterday
in the News, was then read by Elder
B. F. Cummings, Jr.

Apostle Heber J. Grant introduced
the following

MOTION:

"In view of the statement in the
epistle that we have heard
read, that the proportion of the
male members of our Church who are
living in the practice of plural mar-
riage is but little, if any, more than
two per cent of the entire membership
of the church, and the injustice done
to the great majority of this commu-
nity by the action of the Federal officials,
I move that a committee be ap-
pointed by this Conference to draft
a series of resolutions, and a protest
to the President of the United States,
and to the nation, in which the wrongs
the people of this Territory have suf-
fered and are still suffering, from the
tyrannical conduct of Federal officials
shall be set forth specifically and in
detail, and asking in respectful
language for the same treatment to which
other citizens of the United States are
entitled, and report the same to a mass
meeting which shall be hereafter
called."

President Richards put the motion to
the Conference and it was carried
unanimously.

The following were submitted as the
committee provided for in the motion:

John T. Caine, William Jennings,
Feramor Little, James Sharp, Heber
J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Orson F.
Whitney, John Q. Cannon, J. F. Wells,
Chas. O. Card, Abram Hatch, Wm. W.
Cluff, Willard G. Smith, Lewis W.
Shurtliff, Oliver G. Snow, Thomas
G. Webber, Franklin S. Richards,
Samuel R. Thurman, Joel Grover, Rees
R. Llewellyn, B. H. Roberts, Joseph
Kimball.

The committee were sustained by
unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT F. D. RICHARDS

Said he appreciated the sentiments
which had been expressed during the
Conference, and for the consideration
that had been manifested by our breth-
ren of the First Presidency. The people
of the world and the people of God
had always been in direct antagonism.
The conflict had followed down through
the ages. The people of the earth have
never been able to see the principles
of Christ correctly as a whole. The
principles of the Gospel as revealed
from God have been admitted to be the
most ennobling by the greatest moral
philosophers, aside from religious con-
siderations. Great moralists and
scientists have held them to be equal
in value to the greatest truths that
have been elucidated through them.
Repentance of sin is a first principle
of the Gospel of regeneration; then
comes the washing in the waters of re-
generation, followed by the realization
of the ministration of the Holy Spirit.
These principles were made known to
Adam. The first man was informed by
God that his offering of sacrifice was a
forecast of the coming of Christ and
His atonement. It was taught to him
that he must be born of the water and
of the Spirit. He was caught up by
the Spirit, immersed in and brought
out of the water, and he was born of
the Holy Ghost. He was also com-
manded to teach these things to his
children, and if they observed them
they would have the words of life in
the world and eternal life in
eternity. The very first practical step
to be taken after wickedness had ap-
peared on the earth, that men might rid
themselves of uncleanness, was to
comply with these principles. This is
the foundation that all men have to lay
in their hearts, that they may be re-
deemed. Those who are in this con-
gregation and have come from nations
far and near, know that it was obedience
to these things that enabled them to
reach their present position. That
same Priesthood which is after the
Order of Melchisedec, had descended
from Adam, who was ordained under
the hands of God. This is the same
authority that exists in this Church.
There will yet be other laws and prin-
ciples revealed for the observance of
the Priesthood besides those already
given. If the world are afraid of what
exists, what shall they do when still
more is manifested from God. The
Saints need not fear. The Lord will
sustain them in all times of trouble by
His grace, but He makes no promise in
regard to trouble that is borrowed. It
would be better if some of the more
inquisitive ones in the Church did not
ask quite so many questions. It is oc-
casionally safe to be able to say truth-
fully that you do not know some
things. People should not be quite so
anxious for certain kinds of informa-
tion. Obedience to the Gospel is not
only full of peace and blessing for the
life to come, but gives joy in the pres-
ent. No matter in what society a
man mingles, those who do their duty
and are pure and upright elicit the
largest degree of esteem. It may not
always be openly admitted, but it gen-
erally is inwardly. It is with nations
as with individuals: tendencies to cor-
ruption bring misery and ruin. The
fathers of this country who founded
the nation, came to this land to be
free. They framed and adopted the
glorious Constitution, which incorpo-
rates more of the real principles of
good government than any other in-
strument ever produced. It was given
by inspiration of the Almighty. But
men have become so degenerate, that
they are trampling all its safeguards
underfoot in order to crush the people
of God.

The First Presidency have counseled
the Saints to commit no evet act, no
matter how great may be the provoca-
tion. Remember the words of Christ
when his life's blood was oozing from
Him—"Father forgive them, they know
not what they do." It is painful to see
men trample the principles of the Con-
stitution into the dust, but let us pity
them awhile. The Saints have reason
to rejoice, because a voice pronounced
against them, when all men speak well
of them; but they have reason to re-
joice when men speak evil of them false-
ly. It is a time to bring our practical
religion into use, and, knowing the
purposes of God, we can follow in the
footsteps of Christ and exercise self
control. This opposition is just what
has been looked for. As the work of
God spreads, so will this antagonism
exist. It is an eternal consequence of
our faith. We are on the altar, with
everything we possess. The Saints
were told in early times that if they
would keep God's commandments
they would from that time begin to
prevail, and this promise had been ful-
filled. The opposition now developed
will go just so far as the Lord will per-
mit. The speaker prayed that the
blessings of the Almighty might rest
upon the people.

The choir sang:

The Song of the Redeemed.

Benediction by Elder Junius F.
Wells.

THIRD DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

April 6th.

Conference convened at 10 o'clock.
The choir sang:

The morning breaks, the shadows flee,
Lo! Zion's standard is unfurled.

Prayer by Elder Hugh S. Gowans.
The choir sang:

Ere long the veil will rend in twain,
The King descend with all His train.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

was the first speaker this morning. It
afforded him pleasure to once more be
in Zion and mingle with the people of
God in a General Conference. His
feelings regarding his mountain home
could not be expressed in language.
His heart was full and his joy was
great in again assembling with those
he had known from childhood and with
the Saints generally. In the last few
months he had been visiting and ex-
plaining the Gospel to his kindred, and
while he was received with kindness,
he had reason to believe that his ut-
terances had fallen upon stony ground.
In 1882 he was sent by the Church au-
thorities to Europe, to preside for a
time over the mission in that part of
the world. While on a previous mis-
sion to the same part of the world his
health had been exceedingly preca-
rious. On going to fill his more recent
appointment he had been promised by
the servants of God that he would be
prospered. This had been fully real-
ized, he having become free from all
deleterious effects that he had former-
ly incurred. There had been a great
deal of proselyting done by the liberal
distribution of the written word, and
many had been warned. The Elders
who had labored with him had been
efficient, humble and active, and he
had nothing but blessings for each and
all of them. He respected and hon-
ored them as his own brothers. The
friendship that springs up between
brethren in the midst of strangers and
adversity is of an enduring charac-
ter. Some baptizing had been
done and some new ground had
been broken in Great Britain,
or at least places that had been closed
for years had been re-opened. The
mission work had lapped over from
Scandinavia into Finland, to which
country Elder Fjelsted had sent a few
Elders some time before and gained a
foothold. Through the services of a
native Elder efforts were also being
made to open the Gospel door on the
borders of Prussia and Austria. An
opening was also being attempted in
Turkey. It is hoped by putting forth
such efforts that, under the blessing
of God, every son and daughter of our
Father will eventually be warned. In
Great Britain the work is closing up.
In Ireland, through the efforts of
Elders Wilson and Marshall, an opening
had been made, and a good number of
people had embraced the Gospel. The
speaker visited Italy in the hope that
the work could be introduced there.
Two Elders who had been laboring
there almost lost their lives. But little
could be done in that nation at pres-
ent, the people being so bound up by
Catholicism. Elder Bunot labored as-
siduously to spread the Gospel in
France, but with no apparent result,
except to warn the people so far as he
had opportunity. It is not only a day
of gleaning and gathering but of warn-
ing, to leave the people without excuse.
At the time our brethren were mur-
dered in cold blood in Tennessee, a
wave of hatred passed over Europe in
regard to the Saints. The press teemed
with false accusations, and anti-
"Mormon" lecturers were plenti-
ful. This feeling was more or
less intense up to the time the
speaker left for home. But as usual
a cooler condition will ensue, by the law
of re-action. Many people will in-
vestigate, and realize the truth of the
remark of Mr. Beecher, that in North-
west America is the most striking
phenomenon of the Nineteenth century.
They see a people who are irrepres-
sible. They see a conflict against the
evils of the world. The speaker re-
joiced to once more put his foot on the
soil of America—the land of freedom.
Men may seek to crush the principles
of liberty, but Divinity has decreed
that here those principles shall live
and extend over all the earth. The
law of God shall yet go forth from this
chosen land. All we need to do is to
keep our eye upon the truth, hating
no one, no matter how evil-disposed he
may be. No matter how corrupt men
are, we should look upon them as hav-
ing something in them we should make
an effort to save. The speaker wished
some things could be otherwise, but he
saw no other road to travel than
through trials without fear, that the
object in view might be gained. This
was the way in which he looked upon
the present opposition to the Church.
There was no other course but to ac-
cept the situation. Surely we can en-
dure imprisonment or hardship for the
gospel's sake. He had no personal
concern regarding the matter. It may
be that men may be imprisoned; they
may be hunted to death; men die, but
systems live and cannot be annihi-
lated. We are but the instruments to
accomplish the work of establishing
the Church of Christ, and while some
of the implements may be broken,
there are others ready to take up the
same labor and perpetuate it. The
judgments of God will visit the nations,
and that which divinity has established
will break in pieces all things that op-
pose it. The forces that are brought
to bear against the Saints are not con-
fined to the politicians of the country.

Behind them are the people. There
are first the clergymen of the different
religious denominations. They are in-
cited by false statements that are for-
mulated by those who reside here.
These awful stories are believed, and
thus an influence is brought to bear
upon the politicians that moves them
to inimical action against the Saints.
The mass of the people of New Eng-
land appear to imagine it to be their
special mission to extirpate "Mor-
monism," and the speaker, on his late
visit there, had been warned that the
end of the system was near. His
friends there had referred him to Mrs.
Stenhouse's book, but he had informed
those drawing his attention to its fab-
rications that he could, if he were a
bookmaker, write a work in a short
time of occurrences in New England
that would throw the one referred to
into the shade. The laws of God were
being outraged in New England, by
women refusing to answer the end of
their beings, preferring to be childless,
or nearly so. Satan himself recognizes
the growing power among the people of
Utah, who answer the design of God in
the relations of the sexes, rearing
children like flocks to honor God.
But all were not depraved in
these relations in New England,
there being many honorable exceptions.
The Saints have wronged no one by
peopling these valleys. Faith, repen-
tance, baptism by immersion for the
remission of sins, and the imposition
of hands for the imparting of the Holy
Ghost are principles of the Gospel,
and in obeying them we have injured
no people. We have sworn allegiance
to the institutions of the country and
we sustain them. The man who seeks
to enchain his fellows is the one who
needs to tremble. All the doctrines we
have obeyed may be enumerated, and
our works in redeeming the desert
may be cited and they all go to show
that we have interfered with nobody.
We have not raised a standard against
the country. If, on religious convic-
tion, a woman makes a sacrifice and
consents for her husband to take an-
other wife into the family, and the man
is willing to take upon himself the ad-
ditional responsibility, no outside
party is injured. The principle was
revealed for the salvation of both men
and women. Millions of the fair sex
are going to ruin, and the Almighty
never interposed the interdict against
that which would prevent so great an
abomination and calamity. We shall
not tremble while we confront this
great problem in fighting the battle
which Deity has outlined. Let us bless
all, curse none; feed the hungry and
clothe the naked. And if we live godly
it must needs be that we suffer perse-
cution. Let us sustain each other and
betray none. The speaker proposed to
continue to labor among the people.
He had been treated as an alien by his
countrymen, yet American blood of
generations flowed in his veins. He
had never lifted his voice or hand
against an institution of the country,
and he never expected to do anything
in that line. He intended to observe
every constitutional law of the land.
He considered it the greatest foolish-
ness to sustain those who were engaged
in or sympathized with the present
crusade against the Saints. The peo-
ple should confine their support to
their friends, and not put a knife into
the hands of their enemies to be used
by them in cutting their throats.

PRESIDENT OLIVER G. SNOW,

of Box Elder Stake, was the next speak-
er. No people have so much cause to
rejoice as have the Latter-day Saints.
Their history shows that the blessings
of God have attended them, and He
has preserved and delivered them from
every power of the foe. They are more
united now than at any time in their
career. This oneness is a most essen-
tial condition. This is exemplified in
all of the teaching of the Savior and
His Apostles. This unity has caused
the people to accomplish the gratifying
work they had performed. In visiting
the settlements of this section the
speaker had been gratified with the
material advancement attained by the
Saints, in making homes, orchards and
farms. The same could be said regard-
ing nearly every part of this country
to which the Saints have gathered.
The people generally appeared to ap-
preciate the fact that these blessings
had come from God. It did not ap-
pear that there was much fear and
trembling among them regarding the
present persecutions. Their trust is in
the Lord. There is no dubiety among
them regarding the ultimate victory
that awaits them in keeping the com-
mandments of the Almighty. They
were built, as were the Saints in olden
times, upon the rock of revelation.
The darkest and most forbidding as-
pect cannot obliterate that intelligent
testimony. The organization of the
Church is the most perfect and
thorough in existence. It is so com-
plete that none are left on the outside
of it. The young people are becoming a
strong lever for good in the commu-
nity. He prayed that the blessings of
God might rest upon all who were en-
gaged in seeking to establish truth in
the earth.

PRESIDENT F. D. RICHARDS

Stated that under existing conditions
it was not deemed prudent to call the
names of missionaries to various parts
of the earth, who had already gone to
their fields of labor since the last Gen-
eral Conference, or who might be called
during this. It would be proper, how-
ever, for the Saints to say whether they
were willing to confide the matter of
sending Elders out to preach the Gospel
to the missionary committee, of which
he was a member. One thing was cer-
tain the work of proclaiming the truth
was being actively prosecuted.

A motion was made by Apostle
Francis M. Lyman, to the effect that
the action of the missionary commit-
tee in selecting and sending out Elders
to the nations be endorsed, and that
the whole matter be left in their hands
to be conducted according to their best
judgment, under the blessings of God.
The motion was carried unanimously.
The choir sang the anthem:

Oh! Father, Almighty.

Benediction by Elder George C.
Parkinson.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met at 2 o'clock.
The choir sang:

All hail the glorious day,
By prophets long foretold.

Prayer by Apostle John W. Taylor.
Singing by the choir:

O give me back my Prophet dear,
And Patriarch, O give them back.

APOSTLE FRANCIS MARION LYMAN

Addressed the Conference. He con-
sidered that there had been an excel-
lent Conference. The spirit of the
Lord had been poured out upon the
brethren who had spoken. Besides,
we have been addressed, by epistle, by
the brethren of the First Presidency.
It is necessary to be collected and
avoid extremes that might have a bad
effect. Troubles that accrue to the
Latter-day Saints for righteousness
sake will soon end. As related in the
second chapter of Daniel, it was made
known to Nebuchadnezzar what would
transpire in the latter days. The
speaker read the passage relating to
the setting up, in the latter days of a
kingdom, which was to break in pieces
and supersede all others. The Lord
has begun to establish that work. In
order to do so He had conferred upon
man the right to officiate in His name,
so that He should be bound to ac-
knowledge their ministrations. It was
necessary that men should be informed
in regard to God the Father and His
Son Jesus Christ. For this reason they
revealed themselves to Joseph Smith.
Faith, repentance that produces
reformation, baptism by immer-
sion for the remission of sins,
and the reception of the Holy
Ghost, imparted by the imposi-
tion of the hands by the authorized
servants of God, were doctrines of the
Gospel. On the base thus formed, we
go forward in knowledge and obedience
unto salvation. Latter-day Saints
have no license to do any wrong of any
character, but must work righteous-
ness before the Lord. The Priesthood
has been given, and it is not confined
to those who reside in the Church, but
every good man is entitled to it. Those
who are unholly have no claim to that
authority. Every woman is entitled to
have at her head a man bearing the
Melchisedec Priesthood. So has every
child born into the Church a right to
have a man thus endowed for a father.
Every family should have a head of
that character. The heads of families
are entitled to be governed by the
Spirit of God, and in turn they should,
under that influence, preside over those
entrusted to their care. The speaker
here read the revelation regarding the
obligation upon parents to teach their
children the doctrines of the Gospel,
and to see that they are bap-
tized when eight years old, and
to teach them to pray and walk up-
rightly. When these things are not
done, the sins of the children are vis-
ited upon the parents. This injunction
had, in the speaker's opinion, been
more or less neglected. The Priesthood
is organized into quorums, and there
are presidencies and appointments,
from the presiding officers of the
Church downward through all the ram-
ifications of the system. This compact
organization enabled all to be taught
in relation to their duties. There are
also associations in the nature of aids
to the Priesthood in carrying on the
work of advancement and regenera-
tion. But of all others parents are the
most deeply interested in their chil-
dren. God has provided that Satan has
no power to tempt little children, so
that they are already redeemed if they
die before they reach a condition of
personal responsibility. A spirit of
opposition is developing all over the
world against the Latter-day Saints.
Apostates are in many instances in-
clined to disturb the peace of their old
friends. But the Saints cannot be
robbed of their right to the king-
dom of God. Nebuchadnezzar was
shown that it would never be given to
another people. In this day prophets
and others of God's servants had been
slain, but these things have driven us
closer together, and have made us
stronger. All neglect of duty will pass
away, and we will draw closer to the
Lord. Parents will be more diligent
in teaching their children. The Saints
need to reform, and repent of their
lack of wisdom, and no longer strew
their ways to strangers. No reason-
able person will find fault with them for
supporting their friends and letting
their enemies alone. The world are
united in matters in which they are in-
terested; so should the Saints be. Those
who are engaged in the present crusade
are not making efforts against any
crimes among us. It is for things that
are good we do that we are pursued. A
law has been enacted against one of
our religious institutions, but it would
just be as consistent to make a law to
prohibit us from baptizing for the re-
mission of sins, or attending to any
other religious ceremony of the Church.
There is no principle of the Gospel
that is more sacred to Latter-day
Saints than the marriage covenant. It
enables a man to secure the relation-