

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 12.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1896.

VOL. LIII.

REMARKS

Delivered at the Cache Stake Conference, Logan, Sunday, August 2nd, 1896, by

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

It is some time since I had the privilege of meeting with the Latter-day Saints in Logan, various circumstances having interfered to prevent my coming to conference; but I am pleased that I have this opportunity to meet with you. I only regret that I did not reach here in time for the morning services. I truly hope that while we are together in conference we shall have the presence of the Spirit of God, that it may enlighten our minds, and remove from us every thought and feeling that is not of God, and that we may in truth be baptized with the Spirit and our hearts be cleansed and sanctified by its presence and power. I would have little inclination to attend meeting if I thought the Lord would not be with us. I could never have taken pleasure in my ministerial labors if, in meeting with congregations, I myself had not felt benefitted and edified by the services. I think we should come to meeting with this desire in our hearts, and exercise faith that the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon us, so that we may go from the meeting feeling that it has been most profitable to us. I am sure the Lord is willing to grant this blessing unto every one of us, and according to our faith so it will be done unto us. The Lord knows our hearts; He knows our wants; He knows where we need strength and comfort, and warning and reproof; and when He pours out His Holy Spirit upon the people and upon the speaker every man and woman receives that which is suited to his or her condition. It is for this reason that the Lord has commanded His servants not to prepare their discourses, but to ponder upon His word, and in the very moment they needed to speak He would give unto them that which they should say. In this way all are fed, all are benefitted, all are reproofed, all are warned, as the need may be.

In this respect our Church differs from every other church that I know of on the earth. And there is a necessity for this, because the circumstances in which we are placed are entirely different, it may be said, from those which surround other peoples. The object that we have in view, and which God has revealed unto us, is different to anything found among men. God in His mercy has revealed unto us His purposes concerning the last days. He has told us with great plainness the designs

He has in view, and He has assigned unto us the labors we must perform to help bring to pass these purposes and designs. Clearly defined duties are assigned to every one of us. The lines are marked out; the pathway that we are to pursue is made plain before us. The one great object, overshadowing every other, is the building up of Zion in the earth. This is the great mission that has been assigned to the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is the grandest labor ever assigned to mortal man. Every one of us should keep constantly in view the great fact that Zion is to be built up, that the spirit of Zion is to become dominant in the earth.

We have been accused in days that are past of having certain designs in view that were not consistent with our duties as citizens. These charges have been made repeatedly against us. They formed the basis of the actions of the people who drove us out of Missouri. They were seized as the reason for treating the Latter-day Saints so cruelly in Illinois. After the people reached these valleys the same allegations were made and twisted into such shape as to justify before the country the perpetration of great wrongs against us. These acts were considered justifiable on the ground that the Latter-day Saints entertained views and harbored designs which were alleged to be contrary to the spirit and genius of American institutions. Need I recount the details of these attacks upon the people, or give illustrations to sustain the truth of what I say? They are familiar to every one, for this has been the case, I may say, from the beginning of the Church until quite recently.

Now, what has been the aim of the Latter-day Saints? Is there a man or a woman in this church that has ever fostered any evil designs against the government under which we live, or that has sought in any manner to subvert the Constitution and to trample upon it? We all know that there are no such people among us. It has been our aim from the beginning to preach peace and good will to men; to endeavor to the extent of our ability to live in peace and quietness with ourselves and with our neighbors. We have never, by any acts of ours, been a disturbing force in any township, county or state, from the time of the organization of our Church until this present hour. We have not harbored evil designs. We have not sought to destroy the Republic, or to weaken its foundation. But we have endeavored to build it up, and to strengthen it to the extent of our power and influence.

It is true we have sought to build up Zion; but in doing that we have not

sought to tear down anything else, much less our government. God revealed in the very beginning of this work that this government had been established by Him; that He had inspired the founders of it; that he had defended the patriots who fought its battles, and had crowned their labors with success. He revealed further, that this government was a chosen instrument in His hands to effect a tremendous revolution in the earth, and that if the people of the nation would receive the Gospel, they should be His people, and this government should be His government; He would put His seal of approbation and blessing upon the government and upon its administrators, if they would do His will and keep His commandments. In this manner He signified in the most distinct language that these were His designs.

We also were taught that it was from God; that He was the founder of it, and that He had sustained it, and would sustain it to the very uttermost, if the people themselves would obey His commandments and work righteousness. Hence, there could be no conflict between the Latter-day Saints on this point and any of the officers of the government.

But this mission to which I have referred had been assigned to us; and in building up Zion was there anything required of us that would come in conflict with the government or with its righteous administration? I say to you, No, there was nothing. There could be no conflict between the building up of Zion and of the government under which we live; for the aims to be accomplished in each were the same—to give liberty to all, to promote the welfare of all, to uplift all, and to cause such a condition of things to exist that peace might reign throughout the land. What is meant by building up Zion? It is to promote righteousness in the earth, and to cause men and women to dwell together in peace and love and live virtuous and upright lives. When we obey the Gospel and carry out its principles, then it may be said that Zion begins to reign.

The Lord intends to make this people an example to the nations of the earth. He has chosen us for that purpose. He has poured out His Holy Spirit in power upon those who embraced the gospel in lands far distant. He has given unto them an irrepressible desire to leave those lands and to gather here. Thousands and thousands are here as witnesses of the truth of this. All of you who have come from foreign lands know how you have been moved upon by the Spirit of God to come to this land. God has given unto each one of you a mission, and He has borne testi-