

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Oct. 20, 1889, commencing at 2 p.m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang:

O, Jesus, the Giver  
Of all we enjoy.

Prayer by Elder Lars Eggertson.  
The choir sang:

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,  
Uttered or unexpressed.

The Priesthood of the Thirteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

## ELDER LARS EGGERTSON

was called to address the congregation. He said he had just returned from Denmark, where he had been laboring as a missionary for the past two and a half years. He was glad to have that opportunity of bearing his testimony to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Although previous to going on his mission he might have been somewhat careless and negligent in regard to the duties which devolved upon him as a youth of Zion, yet since he went out into the world to bear his testimony to the Gospel, he had learned to realize the great responsibility which rested upon him as an ambassador and servant of God. From the time that he commenced his labors he had never for a moment doubted the power of the work in which he was engaged, and when he bore his testimony to the people abroad he did so full of sincerity, knowing this to be none other than the work of God. He felt proud that he was born in Utah, where the true principles of the Gospel are proclaimed, and that from his infancy he had been instructed in those principles which our Lord and Savior Himself taught while He wandered upon the earth. To him that Gospel had become plainer day by day.

Briefly recounting the missionary labors he had pursued while in Denmark, Elder Eggertson remarked that there remained much work for the honest in heart among the Latter-day Saints yet to do. Often the missionaries had much to encounter, much prejudice to fight against; but, nothing daunted, they felt proud to have the privilege of representing the people who dwelt in these valleys in the honorable light in which they should be placed before the world.

## PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

first read a portion of 11th chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews, on the subject of faith. I have listened, he continued, with much pleasure to the testimony of Brother Eggertson. It is the same as that of all the Elders of this Church who go forth as missionaries of life and salvation to the nations of the world. In his remarks are found the secret success and power which always attend the proclamation of

the Gospel of Christ. If there should be an inquirer desirous of knowing how it is that our Elders go forth and preach what is popularly called "Mormonism," but which we call the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the reason for the strength, endurance and patience manifested is found in the testimony which has been already borne this afternoon. It is because God gives unto His faithful servants a testimony concerning His truth. We can send our Elders out by hundreds with perfect confidence, to meet all the hardships, privations and afflictions which may lie before them because of their advocacy of so unpopular a religion as that which the Lord has given unto us to declare to the nations of the earth. Every parent who parts with his son feels perfect confidence upon his departure, though he may go forth without money to sustain him, without experience in the things of the world, and without friends when he reaches his destination at least only such as God will give unto him. That parent knows that if he will do right he will receive the blessing of God during his absence and return strengthened in the faith of the everlasting Gospel.

It is this feature which constitutes the strength of this Church, that makes it a power in the earth and develops our faith.

I have been led to think that some of the Latter-day Saints do not appreciate as they should the power of faith. I fear there is too much of a disposition growing up in our midst to walk by sight and not by faith. I have heard it remarked that some, at least, of our people occasionally feel discouraged and disheartened at the prospect before them and are disposed to look at the dark side of affairs, anticipating disaster and imagining that some fate awaits us which is very serious in its character, and from which it is useless to make any effort to escape. I do not know myself how general this feeling may be; but I will say to you now that the results of this whole work in which we are engaged, from the time of its inception, have been according to the mind and will of God and not to the judgment of man.

If the Latter-day Saints had believed in the beginning of this work that which was said by the people of the world, they would have sat down and resigned themselves to the fate which was predicted for it. But this was not the spirit of him whom God chose to lay the foundation of this great work—the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was not the spirit of those associated with him. They were filled with faith; and when this Church numbered not more than would occupy a small room, I have heard those who were present declare on many occasions since that they heard the Elders then predict in the plainest manner that which we now behold concerning the fruits of this work. They foresaw by the Spirit of God, by the spirit of prophecy which He poured out upon them, its development and advancement, and the mighty results which would be accomplished through the

preaching of the Gospel unto the inhabitants of the earth.

No greater evidence can be adduced of the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith, of his prophetic office, than the predictions which he uttered in early days concerning the future of the great latter-day work. Before such a principle as the gathering was known among men, much less taught as a doctrine, the Prophet Joseph foreshadowed the gathering of this people together from distant lands, and the building up of a great power called Zion in the earth. Those who had faith believed him. Though they were mobbed and driven, their property despoiled, their houses burned, their cattle shot down, their fields and gardens destroyed, and they themselves became homeless wanderers, they never lost sight of the great prophecies uttered in their hearing concerning the future. They were undaunted in the midst of their afflictions, unyielding in their faith through all the trials and vicissitudes which surrounded them. They never once lost sight of the promises of God unto this people, but believed as firmly as we can believe today with all our experience that the Church of God would roll forth in mighty power, that it would increase in numbers, in strength, and everything which would make it great in the midst of the nations of the earth, until it would accomplish all the purposes which God has predicted by the mouths of His holy Prophets.

There were some, it is true, who did not have this faith. They faltered, doubted, and fell by the wayside. They lost their faith, becoming alarmed at the seriousness of the position in which they seemed to be placed, and at the threats made against them. But those who kept their faith in God and in His promises did not falter. Mobs might surround them—as they did—armed to the teeth, threatening their lives, or endeavoring to exterminate them and their religion from the face of the earth, but they pursued unflinchingly the path marked out, putting their trust in the God who had created them and whose word they knew could not fail.

Dilating upon the sorrowful experiences of the Saints in Illinois and the seemingly insurmountable difficulties which persistently beset them, the speaker pointed out that through all these trials and afflictions the people steadfastly maintained their faith in God, confident that He who founded this work and had thus far cared for it would still continue to shield and protect it, and carry it forward until its highest destiny had been attained.

President Cannon next touched upon the wanderings of the Saints after their expulsion from Nauvoo in the depths of winter. At length the word was given to move: none knew whither; but California was talked of as the place of destination. California was then an immense area, extending from the Rocky Mountains clear to the Pacific, and of it but little was known. When the Saints left