

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The conference and Priesthood meeting of the Stake was held June 11, commencing at 10 a. m., Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, and his counselors, Elders Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose, presiding. There were also present Patriarch John Smith; Presiding Bishop William B. Preston; four High Councilors; four Patriarchs; Elders George B. Wallace, William C. Dunbar and Nathaniel V. Jones of the Presidency of the High Priests' quorum; twelve presidents of Seventies, eleven home missionaries, representatives of all the wards of the Stake, and of the Elders' quorums except the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Seventeenth, Nineteenth and Twenty-third; and presiding officers of the Relief Societies, Sunday schools, Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A. and Primary associations.

The conference opened with singing by the choir and congregation,

Redeemer of Israel.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Samuel A. Woolley.

Singing by the choir:

On the mountain tops appearing.

On the recommendation of their Bishops, fifteen brethren were authorized to be ordained to the office of Elder.

Bishop William B. Preston was the first speaker. He referred to his early experience in Cache Valley when it was first settled and the organization of the Stake was being effected. He spoke of the united community life which was led there in temporal and spiritual matters necessitated by the responsibilities of settling a new country, looking after immigrants and the families of foreign missionaries, etc. The same responsibilities were still upon the Bishops of the various wards, and it was to be hoped that those responsibilities were discharged at least as faithfully as before. In these duties they should be assisted by the Priests, who were to officiate as the missionaries of the wards, and to carry the Gospel into every home. The speaker recommended the study of the duties of the various offices of the Priesthood, and the careful reading of all Scripture bearing on the duties of membership in the Church. He thought the revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith were not studied carefully enough by the people, and that the Priests were not sedulous enough in carrying Scripture and instruction into the various homes. All were warned against the sins of omission, as well as sins of commission.

Elder James N. Lambert, lately returned from a three years' mission to New Zealand, was the next speaker. He had labored exclusively among the Maories, speaking in their native language. He had gained great profit from his labors, in a testimony of the truth of the Gospel and in the fulfillment of the promises made to him before his departure. Out of a total population of not quite 40,000 Maories, some 4,000 are now members of the Church. Elder Lambert spoke a few sentences of exhortation and praise in the Maori tongue, which were interpreted by Elder Jos. A. M. Jacobsen. He had also returned from New Zealand, where he had enjoyed his mission greatly. The Maories were usually faithful to the Gospel and steadfast in its testimony, although some were not able to live up to its principles, on account of weakness and sins.

Elder Joseph E. Taylor was the closing speaker. He referred to a revelation given in 1831, bearing on the observance of the Sabbath, which had been called forth by the peculiar conditions surrounding the Church at that

time. That year was full of the revelations of the Lord to the people, the occasion being the establishment of Zion in western Missouri. This commandment was renewed through President Young when the Pioneers entered these valleys, and it was to be regretted that so many attractions were offered for the people to break the Sabbath. The speaker warned the Saints to resist such temptations, that the land of Zion may be sanctified to them.

The choir sang the hymn,

High on the mountain top.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder A. H. Raleigh.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing by the choir:

May we who know the Gospel sound Still practice what we know.

Prayer by Elder N. V. Jones.

Singing by the choir:

Earth with her ten thousand flowers,

Patriarch Henry Lunt, of Mexico, was the first speaker. He referred to his early experiences in the Church, which had been of great pleasure and value to him, and had increased his faith in the Gospel and his love for his brethren and sisters. He had great joy in contemplating the great destiny of the people of God, and in hearing testimony to the truth. He reported the Saints in Mexico as prospering, and exerting an influence for good upon the other people there.

Elder Charles W. Penrose followed. He referred with pleasure to those who had remained faithful through long and useful lives, "enduring to the end." Anything less than this life-availing faithfulness would not avail for complete salvation. Only through sin and stubbornness would one fall from his position of faith in God. The speaker emphasized the law of the Lord, regarding our undivided love for Him, and the giving up of time, labor and substance to His service. With such a feeling the people would be willing to serve the Lord fully and without reserve. Even trials would be sanctified to the benefit of those who were called to endure them.

Strict honesty in the relationships of the people, was strongly commended, as well as purity and righteousness of action in all respects. The progress of the people through labor and tribulation to the presence of God, would be secured only through righteousness and diligence.

Elder Penrose urged the people to observe the Sabbath, the first day of the week, which had been set apart for the service of the Lord. This should be done in the way directed in the revelations. Pleasure-seeking on this day should be discouraged by precept and example. A proper use of the elements surrounding us was urged, judgment and skill being commended in all cases. Health and soundness of mind and body were necessary to a proper service of God, and should be secured by all proper means. It was lawful for us to seek after physical and mental pleasures, excess being avoided. By faithfulness we should be able to gain the fulness of the earth in this life, and untold blessings hereafter. By showing these principles to the boys and girls and inculcating obedience to them, much of the sin now prevalent in the world could be avoided. The speaker portrayed the reward which should be gained by those who live lives of purity and obedience keeping unspotted from the sins of the world.

The Priests and Teachers were especially urged to make themselves acquainted with the laws of God, so as to be able to teach and expound them to the people whom they were called to visit. This teaching should be given in the spirit of kindness and love, characteristic of the Gospel of Christ.

Elder Angus M. Cannon was the last

speaker. He stated that the curse now holding sway over the earth and its inhabitants was to be overcome through the Gospel, the faithful ones being made partakers of the glory of God through the celestial law. All should be faithful to the law of stewardship, as manifested in the law of tithing, Sabbath-keeping, etc., in order that they might have their accounts in perfect order at the end of life. Interference with sacrament meetings should not be allowed, and strictness should be enjoined regarding all sins against God, one of the most important of these being the keeping of the Sabbath. Brother Cannon deprecated every tendency to fail in this proper observance. It would surely result in disaster to those who were guilty of it, and would tend to abrogate the benefits sought for by those who had sacrificed all for the sake of the Gospel.

As the servants of God, we should recognize our earthly possessions as a heritage from Him. Else He would repudiate us for serving Him with our lips and not in our actions.

The choir sang:

How are Thy servants blest, O Lord, and benediction was pronounced by Elder Geo. B. Wallace.

It was announced that the morning session tomorrow would be held in the Assembly Hall, and the afternoon meeting in the Tabernacle.

SUNDAY MORNING.

The choir sang the hymn,

Praise ye the Lord, my heart shall join, In work so pleasant, so divine.

Prayer was offered by Elder Geo. B. Margetts.

Singing by the choir.

Softly beams the sacred dawning, Of the great Millennium morn.

Patriarch John Smith was the first speaker. He bore testimony to the truth of the Gospel, and to the blessings to be gained through obedience to it. He had seen a great tendency of late among the people to do their duty in relation to the work, and this was particularly noticeable among the youth. In his official duties he had been blessed with many evidences of the saving power of the Spirit of God, in keeping men in the line of a calm performance of duty.

He had often been led to think of the magnitude of the work to be done by the Latter-day Saints in carrying the truth to the nations and the necessity of the young people preparing themselves for the work by the gaining of a testimony and an understanding of the Gospel. Many young missionaries, in reaching their fields of labor, found themselves unprepared for their duties, and under the necessity of spending valuable time in reaching necessary efficiency.

Elder George M. Cannon spoke with reference to the Elders' circle, which had been found for the accommodation of representatives of the twenty-five quorums of Elders throughout the Stake. Notwithstanding provisions had been made for their convenience in this matter, not quite half of the quorums had sent representatives. Elder Cannon testified that he had witnessed many instances of healing through the prayers through the circle, and he did not understand why men holding the Priesthood should value it so lightly, especially in view of the fact that each one had made a covenant to serve God faithfully before the Priesthood had been conferred upon him.

The speaker strongly urged the cultivation of peace and harmony among the people, through the proper teaching of the youth. He thought the Gos-