

This much, however, might he said concerning those people of whom he had been speaking. There was a great deal of virtue among them. Indeed he had found more of this among the Turks, Armenians and Greeks than among the nations of Europe, or even the people of this their own dear land. True, in cities such as Constantinople, Smyrna and Beyrouth there prevailed a great deal of wickedness, but among the people in the heart of the country there existed much virtue and honesty of purpose.

They were, however, bowed down with priestcraft—the Greeks particularly so. They were in perfect bondage, enslaved by their old superstitions. They were afraid to move in any direction whatever for fear that some evil might befall them.

So far as concerned the Christian nations, perhaps less could be said for them than for the Turks or Mohammedans. Among the latter there were a great many good people; and when the Mohammedan religion was taken into consideration, it was not such a bad religion after all. He distinctly remembered the remark of President George Q. Cannon many years ago, in referring to the different denominations and religions. Speaking of the good that might be found among them, he then said we should not suppose for a moment that the Mohammedan religion was altogether false. What little he (Elder Hintze) had observed of the Mohammedans led him to say that although Mahomet might not have been one of the great Prophets, yet it was certain that God raised him up to be a great reformer, just as much as Luther or any other reformer in Europe. The doctrines which he left among his people were such as they could easily comprehend, and had brought millions out of idolatry to the truth of the living God. No people on earth could reverence God higher than the Mohammedans. Whenever the missionaries had had the privilege of explaining some parts of the gospel to the Turks they invariably made a very good impression upon them. The Mohammedans were not, at the present time, permitted to accept Christianity in any form. Although there was a law permitting various denominations to preach in Turkey, and giving perfect religious freedom so far as regards the changing of faith, yet the law was a dead letter, and was not accepted by the Mohammedans, and there were very few cases in which they had turned over to Christianity. Those who had, had done so at the peril of their lives.

The book of Mormon had been of great service to the missionaries in preaching the Gospel to the people, and he knew that the time would come when it would do yet greater service among the heathen nations, when it had been translated into their native tongue and scattered among them. Thereby they would obtain a new testimony in regard to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a thorough understanding as to His great mission. The Mohammedans

did not believe that Christ was a Redeemer; they did not understand Him as a Son of God; but argued "if Jesus Christ was the Son of God, that would be just as much as to say God Himself would be the Son of somebody else." Therefore the Prophet Mahomet said in the Koran, "God is not begotten, neither does he beget; but He is eternal." Having briefly touched upon several of the principles of the Mohammedan religion, the speaker turned his attention to Palestine, a land with which, he remarked, the Latter-day Saints had a great deal of sympathy. They were looking for the time when the Lord would bring back its fruitfulness, restore the Jews, and also the lost tribes of Israel to their inheritance. Any move in that direction was received with much satisfaction not only by the Latter-day Saints, but by a great many others in the world looking forward to the restoration of the house of Israel.

He himself was not so enthusiastic as many persons as to the class of Jews now located in Palestine. He looked upon the great majority of them as the most indolent people he had ever seen. They say it was once a good land, a land of prophets and of learning, and think that it ought to be so today; but they are doing nothing in particular towards building it up. Those who do the most in that way are the rich Jews, such as the Rothschilds and Baron Hirsch. It had appeared to him that the time would come when the Latter-day Saints would be called upon to do something by way of showing what could be done in that land. They, as a people, possessed all the qualities necessary for the rebuilding of the Kingdom of God in any part of the earth. They were receiving an experience in this land which would assist them greatly in performing any work that God might require of them hereafter for the salvation of the human race.

In conclusion, Elder Hintze earnestly exhorted the Saints to remain faithful and true to their covenants, and to keep strictly the commandments of God. Let them not take part in anything which they knew to be wrong. One of the greatest privileges they could possess was to be numbered with the Latter-day Saints. He knew that this was the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; that they had received commandments from the Heavenly Father through Joseph Smith and all the Prophets and Apostles whom God had called in these latter days. He had known this to be the work of God from his earliest childhood. That testimony was with him today, and he hoped it would always remain.

ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG

also addressed the congregation and said the day would come when all the nations of the earth would acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world. He bore his testimony that Joseph Smith, the Prophet of the last days, was a Prophet of the living God. The Latter-day Saints were the most despised of all people on the face of the

earth; but they possessed the one true Gospel which was saving in its nature, and if they would but keep the commandments of God they would be hereafter saved in His eternal Kingdom.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Joseph Horne.

2 p.m.

The choir sang:

Great God, attend while Zion sings
The joy that from Thy presence springs.

Prayer by Elder Milo Andrus.

The choir and congregation sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning;
The latter-day glory begins to come forth.

The Priesthood of the Tenth Ward officiated in administering the Sacrament.

BISHOP O. F. WRITNEY

addressed the congregation. He said:

I have but one feeling in responding to the call made upon me to speak this afternoon, and that feeling is best expressed in the language of Luther at the Diet of Worms: "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God, help me." Though not standing in his position nor asked to do what was required of him, I feel as if I needed the help of the Almighty.

I was interested in the remarks made by the brethren this morning, and rejoiced to hear the report of Elder Hintze, in relation to his mission to Turkey and the Holy Land. I was impressed by what he said of Mohammed, the Prophet of Islam, one of the great characters of the world's history. God inspires many men outside the pale of His Church to do works for Him, and I am thankful to stand among a people who are able to take this broad and philanthropic view.

Those who believe in "Mormonism" are supposed to be the bigoted and narrow, with little interest save for themselves, their kindred and fellow churchmen. But this is an incorrect view of the effects or the teachings of "Mormonism." If there are any in this church who have supposed, or suppose now, that God is only interested in the welfare of this little handful of people, they have not read Mormonism aright. They have listened in vain to the teachings of the Prophets and Apostles of this and all dispensations, for they have truly taught that all men are the children of God and the objects of His love and solicitude.

Mohammed was no doubt in some degree inspired of heaven. He did a great work, although he wrought with the sword in one hand and the Koran in the other. He elevated the religion of his countrymen from a debased system of idolatry—a worship of sticks and stones—to a worship of the God of heaven as he understood him. It is wise and proper for us to recognize the hand of the Lord in all things.

Sometimes we are so placed that it is difficult to do this—to see the