

with this position, we would probably have to meet with bitter prejudice inside and out of Congress. This would act injuriously upon our political interests, which, in our estimation, stand first, our duty to an honest and deserving people being but a secondary consideration." An out and out adverse report would not have been less acceptable than the one it has been proposed to make.

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Feb. 3, 1889, commencing at 2 p. m., High Councilor Elias Morris, presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

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

Prayer by Bishop Samuel A. Woolley.

The choir sang:

Ye children of our God,
Ye Saints of latter days.

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

ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE

was called to address the congregation. He said we have assembled ourselves today to deal with the things of God. The Saints are denominated a peculiar people. The many peculiarities which distinguish them are perhaps too numerous to mention, yet they are all included in the question, "What do we mean when we say we come together to deal with the things of God?" It is true that all Christian denominations acknowledge the almighty power of God. The Saints believe that all things pertaining to their welfare are Godlike. When we have met in prayer we feel an influence of peace, a sensation of sincerity that is Godlike. If we were governed in life by the feeling we experience here, very few would be lost. The powers of evil are measurably checked here among those who have assembled to worship God.

But it is not here alone that we are called to act. During the week secular matters attract our attention. But should we not regard these meetings as places of refreshment, to give us strength to meet the duties of the week, that all our actions may be inspired by the Spirit of Truth? In our very labor we would then be doing the things of God. This is what is meant when our Lord said, "Pray ye without ceasing." It was not intended that a man should neglect his work, should be idle, and spend his time in formal prayer. He should watch, and work, and pray. Our Father is a practical God. Our Lord overcame the temptations of the Evil One, and His example shows us that the work of our lives should be a constant prayer to Him.

When we assemble as we have

done today, the singing of hymns and the music of the grand organ are pleasing to our Father. Yet these are not the only things that are music to Him: The clang of the hammer, the busy workshop, and all else of the nature of honest labor are alike sweet to His ear. The man who does his duty with all his might, and craves the sanction of his Maker, is in harmony with the divine will. As the poet says, "All the world's a stage." This life is not a mere farce or drama, for amusement, but all have a character to fill. There are some who engage in the pursuits of the mental; others strut upon the worldly stage, with the title of kings to their name. But I have been led to believe that there are "stars" to whom the great parts are given. These are they whom the Lord has tried and can trust. This is not the first of our existence. We have lived, and will live, our mortal tabernacle being but as a garment to our spiritual tabernacles.

Sometimes "star" actors are called to take a mental part; in such cases the part of the king could be easily dispensed with. Is it not so in life? Do we not see some of the noblest spirits living in poverty, while those who are less noble stand above them in the world? Let us profit by the lesson thus taught, and work to honor God by our own exaltation.

Our Maker is always willing to reward sincerity. The man who stands before the people and offers a sincere prayer is entitled to a blessing, and if he asks in faith he will receive the reward. So it is with prayer in other capacities; the faithful, sincere prayer is not passed unheeded. It is for Latter-day Saints to make the Lord their familiar Friend, that He may know our sincerity.

I believe we have been placed here to be tested. We are not all tested alike; but there comes a time in life when we must meet our trials alone, when our friends are unable to assist, and we must rest upon our own foundation. Even as the Prophet Job was, so will the Saints be tried, according to their capabilities. The Almighty gave Satan power to afflict Job to a terrible extent. But the Prophet maintained his integrity, and blessed the name of the Lord. Satan had to confess that his labor was vain, and Job's blessings were restored to him. We will be like Job in some respects, in having to bear our burdens without assistance. That man is safe who is earnest and can say in all circumstances, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." Let us trust implicitly in Him. The angel of death was sent throughout Egypt. That angel is a servant of God, and when the blow comes into our midst let us acknowledge the hand of God.

We have no time for grumbling, but should meet the circumstances of life as they are. There is a fable about a wise man who fell into the spirit of complaining. He saw the burdens carried by mankind, and thought he could carry any other burden than that which he was bearing, with greater ease. But

when in his vision he had a choice of burdens he was sorry for the change, and learned the lesson not to complain. If we were to change, we might discover that there is no burden that so well suits us as the one we have. Let us satisfy ourselves in the place where we are, and bring into more active use the principle of faith. If we do not, it is apt to fall when we need it most.

The Israelites in the wilderness had to exercise but little faith to feel thankful to the Lord when He sent Moses to them as a deliverer. They had been praying for just such a blessing, and they received Moses joyfully. But Pharaoh did not accept him so kindly, for he acknowledged not the God of Israel. When Moses asked for Israel to be released, Pharaoh was angry and increased the burden of Israel. This caused the latter to complain against Moses, and charge him with being responsible for their greater trouble. Their faith seemed to wane when persecution increased. After a time they were led out of Egypt, but when they reached the Red Sea, and saw the armies of Egypt approaching and threatening them, they again showed their lack of faith and confidence in God. Again they upbraided Moses.

I have sometimes been led to believe that some of the Saints have exercised a faith that is strong in times of prosperity, but when we see dangers approach we tremble and ask why the Lord has forsaken us. But the mercy of the Lord came to the children of Israel and they were led out of bondage. The history of the past should teach us to trust in Him. He does not always bare His arm just when we think He ought to. The proper time is with Him. We should cultivate in our souls patience to await the due time of the Lord. Many of us are not prepared for the consummation of all things to be hastened. Let us pray that the will of the Lord shall not be thwarted.

The younger portion of the people sometimes become agitated when they see the afflictions of their parents. Let these remember that vengeance is the Lord's. Let us see that our lives are pure, and leave all else with Him. If others wish to worship strange gods, let them have the right to do so; but let us worship the true God. It will take all our power to live up to that. This land has been redeemed by those who faced death to obey the behests of the Creator. He has given us commands to go on with the gorgeous edifice which is being built for the Grand Architect. He called his best men for the foundation. It had to be strong and proper, that the walls should not fall. We are called to work on the upper part. If we work with the same earnestness that our parents did, the building will rapidly near completion. Let us not stand in the way of the work, but let us do our part earnestly and well. Let our acts be such that the Lord can approve of them. There is no time to waste. The Master Workman is calling for laborers. The wages are ample for the work required. No