

Church of Christ had ever had were those who had not been educated at school. Some of the finest discourses he had ever listened to had been delivered by men of this class, but who yet spoke with power, intelligence and ability, and, above all, by the light and inspiration of the Spirit of God. Knowledge was of no particular value unless accompanied by that Spirit in speaking to the Saints. A man devoid of the Spirit of God could not warm the hearts of the people. He was delighted to witness the growth of education among the Latter-day Saints and also the increase of wealth; but all these things were of no avail unless they could retain the light and inspiration of God's Spirit and the desire to know the mind and will of our Heavenly Father and keep His commandments. "For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul."

The rich, the learned and the wise paid no attention to this "delusion" called "Mormonism;" but it occurred to him that if they would just stop and reflect upon the testimony borne to them by the history of the Latter-day Saints, it would, at least, lead them to study the principles which they were asked to investigate. The Latter-day Saints bore a testimony to the world that ought to cause all mankind to reflect.

It was said by some persons at the time that the killing of the Prophet Joseph Smith would mean the killing of "Mormonism." But instead of the Prophet's death retarding the progress of God's work it had exactly the opposite effect. He had heard it said, "Let Brigham Young die and 'Mormonism' will go to pieces; it depends upon his great ability;" and yet the death of Brigham Young had no particular effect in regard to hindering the progress of this work. It was the power of God which led it; the Priesthood of Almighty God once more restored to the earth had controlled it. The same power and the same authority which were upon the earth in the days of our Savior were upon the earth today. The same promises which He made in the ancient days were made today to the Latter-day Saints; and there were thousands among them who could now stand up, and in all humility bear testimony that they had seen the working of the Spirit and the fulfillment of the promises made to those who had embraced the Gospel.

The trials, the mobbings and the persecutions of the Latter-day Saints, the despoiling of their property, and the robbery which had been perpetrated by the great Government of the United States—all these things, through the inspiration of the Spirit of God, had no discouraging effect upon the people. They believed that if they lost everything here but gained eternal life, then they were richer than any other people on earth. The very troubles through which the Saints were passing today were a testimony to them of the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith. The speaker referred to many prophecies which had already been fulfilled. Even the government had seen fit to array itself against this handful of people; and this was simply a fulfillment of prophecy. No power on earth could weaken the faith of the Latter-day Saints; even the gates of hell

could not prevail against the work of God.

He prayed that they might grow and increase in the testimony of the Gospel, and that they would continue to employ all the talents they possessed for the honor and advancement of the glorious work in which they were engaged.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON also spoke. He said he had been much interested in the remarks of Brother Grant and the testimony which he had borne. He had explained very clearly the character of the bond that exists between the Latter-day Saints, and which held them together as a people—a bond that was of God and not of man. This, indeed, was the secret of the union and strength as exhibited by the Saints in their organization and dwelling together.

It was of the first importance that they, both as a people and individuals, should live their religion. They must be doers of the Word as well as listeners to it. No man or woman could long expect to retain the gift of the Spirit of God if he or she did not live a Godly life and keep pace with the onward progress of the work of God. The religion of the Latter-day Saints was not a holiday religion—not a religion for the Sabbath day alone; but one that should be with them in all their vocations, in all their associations, in all their business dealings. A religion which did not have any influence upon the daily life of a man or woman was not the religion of Jesus Christ. In this respect they were distinguished from many other people; because he believed there was a real disposition and strong desire on the part of the majority of the Latter-day Saints to live up to the principles which they professed.

The speaker made mention of an interesting discussion which he said recently took place in a popular magazine between an avowed infidel—a woman—and a priest on the subject of Christianity, and the leading features of which he briefly narrated. He could see there was truth on both sides; and while he could not, of course, sympathize with infidelity or infidels in their attacks upon religion, yet there were too many weaknesses connected with the practice of religion, as we saw it around us, to furnish a foundation for atheistic attacks against the so-called Gospel of Christ. On the other hand, he felt confident that there were thousands upon thousands of sincere believers in Jesus in the various denominations who were serving Him and striving to keep His commandments to the very utmost of their ability. These people according to their light, knowledge and sincerity, had a portion of His Holy Spirit with them.

No people on earth today made such professions and bore such testimonies as did the Latter-day Saints, and they would assuredly be judged according to their knowledge and testimonies. Having received knowledge from God they should live fully up to that knowledge, and if they failed to do so they were worse than the heathen, and their condition in the next world would be worse than theirs.

President Cannon pointed out many of the evils which beset the path of the Christian in the present age of the world, and the difficulty experi-

enced in avoiding them; and it was for this very reason, he said, that God, in His infinite mercy, in these last days, in revealing His everlasting Gospel, had inspired His people to gather together from the various nations of the earth. This was the reason why they were located here in these valleys. This was the reason why, in the early history of the Church, the spirit of gathering rested upon the Latter-day Saints. Wherever the Elders had gone the same spirit of gathering had accompanied their labors. Thus were the people separated from the world and enabled to carry out in their lives the principles of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having enumerated some of the duties of Christians, among others fair dealing in business and the loving of our neighbor as ourselves, the speaker said he prayed God to help them as a people so to live that the world, in looking at their actions, would see in them faithful examples of the principles of the Gospel of Christ.

Brother Grant had truthfully spoken of the vast amount of ignorance which existed concerning the Latter-day Saints; but for this they themselves were not altogether to blame. He had seen as many as five hundred strangers in that Tabernacle at one time; he had heard as eloquent discourses delivered there as he had ever listened to in his life—convincing proofs of the divinity of this work; yet those strangers had gone away and forgotten it all. The seed had not fallen on good ground.

It was the duty of every human being, after hearing this testimony borne, to warn his neighbor; but men did not care about doing this. Such things had no interest for them. Why, if a "Mormon" newspaper and an anti-"Mormon" newspaper were offered for sale on the cars at the same time, it would be seen that in almost every instance—where the difference was known to the purchaser—the anti-"Mormon" sheet was bought in preference. Men did not want to hear anything at all about "Mormonism;" it was offensive to them.

The Latter-day Saints had been dwelling in these valleys for over 40 years and the work accomplished by them was before the world; but their characters had been beclouded by falsehood—and a great many persons preferred falsehood to truth. Of course there were very many exceptions.

He believed they should circulate more printed matter than they did. Still, there were reasons why this had not been done, the chief difficulty having been the lack of means. The Latter-day Saints might themselves, however, do a great deal in this direction. When they bought a newspaper, instead of casting it aside when read let them put a stamp upon it and mail it to their friends at a distance. This would probably excite some interest in their work, and help to remove many of the erroneous impressions and much of the prejudice which at present existed concerning this people.

In conclusion, Brother Cannon prayed that the blessing of God would continue to rest upon the work of the Saints and that it would go on and prosper abundantly.

The choir sang the anthem:

Let God arise.

Benediction by Elder E. B. Tripp.