

His brief absence caused him all the more to appreciate the beauties of his mountain home. It delighted him to once more behold the grand mountains which surrounded us. He spoke of some of the religious observances he had seen in cathedrals of the Old World, and commented upon them, and remarked upon the general conditions which prevailed in Great Britain, with special reference to the deplorable situation of many of the poor. He made a comparison between the condition of the people of Utah and the masses in other parts of the world, showing what great blessings God had bestowed upon the Saints.

The speaker alluded to the great musical gathering in this city. He said the Saints were worthy of the best music in the world, and there was no building on earth to which the sweet singers from abroad would be more welcome than to this great Tabernacle.

He continued for some time and made remarks on a variety of subjects.

The choir sang the anthem:

Let the mountains shout for joy.

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

#### Afternoon Session.

Singing by the choir.

Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell  
By faith and love, in every breast;  
Then shall we know and taste and feel  
The joys that cannot be expressed.

Prayer by Elder Edward Partridge, of Utah Stake.

The choir and congregation sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning,  
The latter-day glory begins to come forth;  
The visions and blessings of old are returning;  
And angels are coming to visit the earth.

#### ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE

addressed the Conference. This assemblage was a representation of the Church of Jesus Christ, the organization the establishment of which in the latter days had been foreseen and foretold by the ancient Prophets. This was the marvelous and wondrous work they had predicted. The people had been gathered, according to the words of prophecy, from the four quarters of the earth, and the "mountain of the Lord's house" had been "established in the tops of the mountains." We had been brought into the light of the everlasting Gospel, and we could shout "peace on earth, good will to men." We had reason to rejoice before the Lord. This work had been inaugurated by simple means—through the instrumentality of an untutored youth who possessed faith in the Almighty. The speaker then dwelt upon the power and efficacy of faith, through the exercise of which we could approach and hold communion with God. It was through the power of faith that Joseph Smith gained access to the Almighty. He asked and, according to the divine promise, he received a knowledge that God and Christ lived; they manifested themselves to him, and selected him to be their medium in restoring the ancient Gospel, with all its powers, gifts and blessings.

No one could officiate in the ordinances of the Gospel unless he had been commissioned by Jesus Christ. He who was not thus divinely called could

not administer the sacred ordinance of baptism for the remission of sins. Through obedience to the laws of the Gospel, salvation could be attained. The speaker bore testimony to the effect that the power of the Priesthood was in the Church; that Jesus was the Christ and that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet. This understanding had come to him through his being identified with the people of God. He exhorted the Saints to be just, upright and pure and as a light to the world. He directed attention to the Temples which had been erected to the name of the Lord, stating that they were built for sacred and holy purposes, that those who entered thereon might be instructed in the ways of the Lord, that they might ultimately return to His presence, from whence they came. He prayed for the grace of God to be with the Saints forever.

#### ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH

was the next speaker. He referred to the necessity of greater care and zeal in bringing about unity and love among the people. He thought, with President Lorenzo Snow, that this sympathy should extend also to all the creations of God, that cruelty might be banished from the world through the kindness and manifested through the Priesthood of God. The mission of the latter-day Saints implied great responsibility, in warning all the people of the world of evils to come, that as many as would might escape these calamities. Handicapped by the unbelief of the world, the servants of God had not been able to make such progress as might be desired in spreading the message of peace, reconciliation, and salvation. Without examination or research the message had been rejected by a vast majority of the inhabitants of the earth, as of no more worth than those systems into which they had been indoctrinated. Some, however, breaking away from the traditions of the past, had shown a willingness to investigate independently, and, if convinced, to accept the truth. Considering the proneness of man to follow in beaten paths, the frequency of such conversions was a matter of wonder and for congratulation. And it was to be hoped that prejudices would be removed and the investigation of the truth become more general and honest. This might be accomplished by a greater liberality, wisdom and tact, in the presentation of the work of God to the world resulting in winning souls unto Christ.

He bore testimony that God had given him a witness that Christ is the Redeemer of the world, and that he was identified with the work of God.

#### ELDER MARRINER W. MERRILL

of the same quorum, followed. He spoke of the importance of the labor for the dead, this importance consisting in the fact that two of a family, and one of a city, had been gathered to Zion, where they might perform the work of salvation for all their kindred dead, who in the spirit world are awaiting this work. The Prophet Joseph Smith felt the importance of this work, and advised the Saints to do all in their power for the benefit of their kindred dead, his sayings were quoted as follows: "But how are the Saints to be-

come Saviors on Mount Zion? By building their temples, erecting their baptismal fonts, and going forth and receiving all the ordinances, their baptisms, confirmations, washings, anointings, ordinations and sealing powers, in behalf of their progenitors, and redeem them, that they may come forth in the first resurrection, and be exalted to thrones of glory with them. And herein is the chain which binds the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers, which fulfills the mission of Elijah. The Saints have not too much time to redeem their dead, and gather together their living relatives, that they may be saved also, before the earth will be smitten and the consumption decreed come upon the world. The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us, it to seek after our dead, for the Apostle says that without us they cannot be made perfect, nor we without them, for it is necessary that sealing power should be in our hands for the dispensation of the fulness of times, to meet the promises made to Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world.

The speaker went on to urge the necessity of the Saints performing ordinance work for their dead kindred. It was one of the most important departments of the labor undertaken by the Saints. The Lord had placed this responsibility upon us. There was only a portion of the people of the Church who took a real interest in the redemption of the dead, that they might receive the full benefit of the plan of salvation; although they were now in the spirit world. If those who had limited information about their dead kindred would act upon what they had the Lord would open up the way so they would obtain more, and thus be enabled to extend their labors for their departed relatives.

#### PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

spoke briefly on the subject treated by Elder Merrill.

The choir sang the anthem:

Jesus, I my cross have taken.

Benediction by Elder Jonathan G. Kimball.

#### SECOND DAY.

Oct. 5th, 10 a.m.

The choir and congregation sang:

The time is far spent, there is little remaining,  
To publish glad tidings by sea and by land.  
Then hasten ye heralds, go forward proclaiming  
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Prayer by Elder John W. Hess, of Davis Stake.

The choir sang:

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

#### ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN

was the first speaker of this session. Following is a brief outline of his remarks: General conferences were instituted for the transaction of business and the imparting of instructions of a general character, applicable to the Church at large. It was here that the Saints obtained the keynote, so to speak. As to business affairs the people were entitled to a voice in relation to them. It was in this way that the authorities were sustained—by common consent. The Saints possessed