

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, May 25, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Come we that love the Lord,  
And let our joys be known.

Prayer by Elder George G. Bywater.

The choir sang:

Behold the Mount of Olives rend!  
And on its top Messiah stand.

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

## ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE

was called to address the congregation. He spoke of the exercise of faith, the first principle of revealed theology, and the necessity for the Saints uniting their faith, that in their assemblages they may receive instruction inspired by the Holy Ghost. Every Elder in Israel has a right to that inspiration, if he is in the line of his duty. It may be that he is left to contemplate upon principles generally known to the people, but the subject will be that best adapted to the circumstances of the congregation. We may become so extreme in our desires as to have no interest in that with which we are familiar. Such a habit is detrimental to the mind. It is unbecoming to always be seeking after the miraculous. There are lessons to be learned from the everyday events of life—lessons of incalculable value. We should not be oblivious to the miracles that go on around us. Is it not a wonder for us to witness the great accomplishments exhibited to us through the uses of steam and electricity? And may we not, in failing to observe such as these, neglect our true education? I do not consider it a calamity for men to die, after accomplishing their work; but I do think it a calamity for the spirit to become old. It frequently happens that men grow old in their spirits before they reach middle life, and become callous to the beauties of nature. They are unable to enjoy these beauties as they did when they were young. I regard this condition as a calamity. I think that man is a philosopher whose spirit is always fresh. He sees, and hears, and reads, as age comes on him, with a more serious mind, but with just as intense enjoyment as at any time in his past record.

It is to be regretted, but it is true that the Lord has become unpopular among men, who seem to consider it an evidence of shallowness to acknowledge the hand of God in all things. Yet there have been men who have not been backward in acknowledging the power of God in their great achievements. It was our Heavenly Father who inspired Columbus to go forth and discover this continent. This event was revealed to the Nephite Prophet by the Lord, hundreds of

years before it occurred. It was the same power of inspiration that impelled the great students of science in their wonderful discoveries. It was the power of inspiration that touched the tongues of all the great orators of antiquity. Whether they acknowledged it or not, their gift came from God. Because He endows one of His children with a talent, the possessor is not compelled to use it in any particular line. It may be used to oppose the purposes of God, but he who uses it thus must meet a just judgment. Great men of history have given praise to God for their success. The famous explorer of today, Stanley, relates an experience he had in the wilds of Africa. He was almost overcome, and called upon God to deliver him, covenanting that should he be delivered he would testify to His power. Stanley testifies that his deliverance came through the power of the Almighty.

The principles which our Father reveals are such that all who will can understand them. They all relate, however, to actions rather than to professions. Testimonies that consist of words are liable to fail, but the testimony of a man's actions cannot be destroyed. Our Father requires us to follow him in unmodified humility. The man who praises his own accomplishments is liable to be deprived of the attributes that gave him prestige. The man who rests on his own powers, or upon those of his fellow men, is weak indeed; but he who relies on his God, and shows by his actions that he means what he says, is a tower of strength. The great Prophet Enoch was weak among his fellows, but in doing the bidding of his Father, the wondrous power of God was with him. This power has not grown less, and we see it manifested in the experiences of the Elders of Israel. Power is given to man just as he learns how to use it rightly. God will not increase the power of those who use what they have for unrighteous purposes. When the Latter-day Saints have learned to use influence and power righteously, then they will receive it. I cannot say what the reasons are that brought the people to their present oppressed condition, but I think it necessary to teach them the great lesson of obedience to principles of truth.

The people here are the people of God. The Saints have much to learn before they exercise great power among their fellows. They have passed through terrible experiences. They have been driven from their homes, and witnessed the slaying of those nearest and dearest to them. If they had power today, would they raise their hands against those who have oppressed them? Do we realize the lesson that vengeance is the Lord's? When that lesson is thoroughly learned, then will the Saints be liberated from oppression. Why are our people thrown into dungeons when they have committed no crime? It is because they are the people of God. If they were not, there would be no necessity of marshaling the forces of the

world against them. But how foolish it is, if they are the people of God, for men to try to overcome them. Can man hope to measure arms with the great Jehovah?

It is written today by the highest tribunal of our land that the people of the United States are engaged in a battle with the Church of Jesus Christ. Is it any wonder that the eyes of the world are upon us? The people of this great nation, raised by the power of God, are engaged in a controversy with the Church of Christ. Was there ever such a record made before in the world's history? The completion of that record will be written in the triumph of the powers of truth and justice.

Latter day Saints, do we deserve this name—a Saint, a holy one? No Saint will stoop to an ungodly action. The Almighty has demonstrated that He is very jealous of holy things—of that which is consecrated by divine authority for a special purpose. When Belshazzar endeavored to use the vessels from the Temple, with His own finger the Almighty wrote the terrible edict on the wall. Mount Sinai was made holy for a purpose, and those who went beyond certain bounds were visited with death. The Sabbath also was made holy. When David was given an opportunity to slay Saul, when the latter was pursuing him, he did not do it, because Saul was the Lord's anointed. Many other instances could be cited to show that the Lord will not tolerate the desecration of holy things. His vengeance will come, sooner or later, upon those who engage in works of evil.

When the people of this nation seek to uproot the bulwarks of liberty, they know not what they are doing. But they will be taught the lesson. Our enemies know the Saints will not resent injuries, and they seem determined that our sufferings shall be complete. But they will learn that it is a dangerous experiment to raise their hands against the great Jehovah. May we as Saints so conduct ourselves that we will be worthy of the name, and have the power and favor of God to abide with us for ever.

The choir sang the anthem:

How beautiful upon the mountains.

The closing prayer was offered by Bishop Wm. B. Preston.

## STAKE CONFERENCES.

## MORGAN.

The quarterly conference of Morgan Stake convened in the Stake Tabernacle on Sunday and Monday, the 18th and 19th instant. Apostle John Henry Smith and Elder B. H. Roberts were present and together with the local brethren gave some valuable instruction. The remarks of Apostle Smith on fasting and prayer and the marriage covenant, and those of Elder Roberts on the first principles of the Gospel and the organization and government of the Church, were spirited and impressive, as were likewise those of the presidency of the Stake and others.