

complished. The love of God for His people will continue and abide and they will triumph in His might.

Well, my brethren and sisters, I desire to encourage you in the work of righteousness. I feel to bless you. It is the desire of the First Presidency that you may be blessed. We wish to bear with the people in their weaknesses and frailties. We also desire that you will bear with our weaknesses and infirmities. We want to be forgiving and kind towards the Latter-day Saints. We ask them to be lenient and charitable towards us. The Lord wishes to show leniency towards His children on earth, but he requires of them true repentance when they transgress or fall in any duty. He expects their obedience and that they will endeavor to cast aside all sin, to purify themselves and become indeed His people, His Saints, so that they may be prepared to come into His presence, be made like unto Him in all things and reign with Him in His glory. To accomplish this they must walk in the strait and narrow way, making their lives brighter and better, being filled with faith and charity, which is the pure love of Christ, and attending faithfully to every duty in the Gospel. Well, God bless you all, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

REMARKS

Made in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday afternoon, September 18th, 1898.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON.

I feel highly gratified, as all of you must have been, and I have no doubt you were, at the remarks by President Lorenzo Snow, to which we have had the privilege of listening. They were made by a man of God who has spent the greater part of his life in the service of the Lord and whose character is beyond reproach. His whole course has been undeviating and unshaken in the service of the Lord. We should all be grateful for the mercy which God has shown to us in raising up such men as He has called to preside over us and over His Church; men in whose mouths has been found no guile; who have pursued the path of duty without turning to the right hand or to the left; who have been true and faithful to every trust reposed in them and who have never flinched in the hour of trial. President Snow is and has been, like his predecessors in office, a servant of the Most High God, and if the people will hearken to his counsels, they will be guided aright and be blessed of the Lord in all things.

Referring to the organization of the First Presidency, I may say that there never was a more united, spontaneous and hearty co-operation of a body of men than the action of the Apostles a few days ago in the confirmation of President Lorenzo Snow as President of the Church, and the selection by him of his two counselors. The reorganization of the First Presidency has been accomplished sooner than most of the people anticipated, for it had become almost an established precedent to wait for some time after the death of the President of the Church before the appointment of another President. When the Prophet Joseph Smith died, the Council of the Apostles, with President Brigham Young at their head, led the Church for some years before the First Presidency was again organized. There was a reason for this. After the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph there was intense feeling against the Church. The spirit of persecution raged. There being no First Presidency, hatred was not concentrated against any one man, as it would have been, doubtless, had the

First Presidency been organized. The Twelve, therefore, presided over the Church until we had left Illinois and come west. After the death of President Brigham Young, again some time elapsed before the First Presidency was organized. At the death of President John Taylor the Twelve again acted as the presiding council until the First Presidency was organized with President Wilford Woodruff at the head. And thus, it might be said, a precedent had been established, and the general feeling was that no immediate action would be taken in organizing the First Presidency. But on September 13th, at a meeting of the Apostles, while discussing the necessity for the appointment of a trustee-in-trust for the Church, the necessity also of organizing the First Presidency appeared clear to the brethren, and one after another of the Twelve spoke in favor of such action being taken at that time. After hearing their views, President Snow then arose and stated to the brethren that he had, since the death of President Woodruff, felt led to present himself before the Lord, clothed in his priestly robes, in the Temple, and the Lord had revealed to him that the First Presidency should be organized, and also revealed to him who his counselors should be. He did not give any expression to this, however, until after the Apostles had spoken on the subject. This statement of President Snow was evidence to them that the Spirit of God had inspired the remarks which they had made, and approved of the work which they had proposed to do, and it caused them to rejoice greatly. For myself it was very unexpected to me for action to be taken at that time, though I was heartily in favor of it, and have always felt that the First Presidency should be organized as quickly as possible or as soon as the Lord would inspire such action. President Lorenzo Snow was called of God to occupy the position in which he stands today, and he will be sustained by the Lord as His mouthpiece to the Church, and also by his Counselors and the Apostles, and the whole Church will approve of the action taken and sustain it fully. I think I am safe in saying that a thrill of joy went through the entire Church when the word was sent out that the First Presidency had been reorganized and that Lorenzo Snow was the President. Although there has not been time to hear from the different organizations in the Church at a distance, still I am perfectly satisfied that this action on the part of the Apostles has been received with delight everywhere. Certainly that is the feeling of the Saints in this part. I can say that President Wilford Woodruff, shortly before his decease, expressed his desire that there should be no delay after his death in perfecting the organization of the Presiding Quorum. The action taken was inspired of the Lord, and it is a matter of gratification and rejoicing that this has been so soon accomplished.

It is wonderful how the Church moves forward without a jar or a break in its course, notwithstanding the departure of its leading spirits. The authority of the Holy Priesthood remains; the keys continue with the Church, the order of the Priesthood is maintained, and the revelations of God are given through the designated authority for the guidance of His people. Nothing that occurs will interfere with its progress or with the consummation of the purposes for which the Lord designed it. This authority and the keys will remain with the Church, no matter what may happen

or who may be taken from us; for this is the work of the Lord and it will not be hindered by any power beneath the heavens. What an impressive lesson it must be to the world to see the Church moving thus steadily forward, notwithstanding it has suffered so severe a loss in the death of President Woodruff, so distinguished and so beloved.

The Lord organized this Church to stand until the end. Men may fall; they may turn aside through transgression, through negligence, through failure to keep the Spirit of the Lord, or from various causes; but the work of the Lord will go on; it is not dependent on man. We are dependent on the Lord. But He is independent of us, and He will accomplish His own purposes in His own way and use such instruments as may seem good to Him and which are ready for His service. We on our part should be ready to serve Him wherever we are called upon to labor. There should be no jealousies or envyings among the Latter-day Saints. If we indulge in envy of any of our brethren; if we are jealous of their attainments or any advantage that they may have we indulge in a wrong spirit. In this we ought to follow the example given us by our illustrious President, who was so childlike in his demeanor, and who was so devoid of any feeling of jealousy. We should be glad and rejoice when the Lord bestows his favors upon any of his servants, and when they exhibit talents which fit them for His service. All such men are needed in the great work which God has commenced on the earth, and which will embrace within its scope everything that is good and great, and that will elevate humanity.

What a great work the Almighty has already accomplished with the Latter-day Saints! He has taken the weak things of the earth, the uneducated, the poor, the oppressed of the various nations, has gathered them to these mountains and made of them a people who have attracted the attention of all the world. How often has derision been excited on the part of our enemies when they have seen our emigrants come from various lands! As the people came in from the plains they did not look like very promising material out of which to make a people such as we expected to be. But the Lord has uplifted this people, and has polished them. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, when strictly obeyed, elevates men and women. It is said that in the old countries it takes three generations to make a gentleman. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will make a man a gentleman in one generation. It is wonderful to the observing mind what great changes have been wrought with this people in this respect. The poor, the lowly and the obscure who have obeyed and carried out in their lives the principles of the Gospel have been elevated and polished. This work is not for the abasement but the elevation of mankind. It is a work of evolution. Out of this people God will evolve a nation that will excel in everything. The work will go forward, improving, advancing and benefiting mankind and preparing them for the reign of righteousness and peace. The work of the Latter-day Saints is not to injure any of the sons and daughters of God, but to bless them and improve their condition. They should be imbued with that charity which is the pure love of God and of mankind. They should help one another and seek to promote each other's welfare. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has already polished them to a considerable degree and made them brighter and better in every respect. It has made many of them shining marks among their fellowmen. It will continue to lift them up, if they