

from their midst those who were not of their faith. They expected that in the latter days kings and queens would come to Zion, and that to this land of America the eyes of all nations would turn with fond desires. They expected that the government under which they lived would prosper and grow. They believed it was from God and that the men who prepared the sacred instrument of the Constitution were inspired by Him. They believed that God was directing the affairs of men in all parts of the earth, and that He would overrule all the acts of wicked men for the salvation of the honest in heart everywhere.

God having gathered the Saints to these mountains, what had He not done for them in the way of temporal blessings? The speaker referred to the advent of the pioneers to these valleys and to the sufferings of the early settlers in this then forbidding region. The valleys were at that time, he said, as barren as the mountains surrounding them were now, and it seemed impossible to the human mind that any number of people could long exist, much less prosper, in such a place. But what did they find it today? A country upon which the blessings of God had rested in rich abundance, and fields yielding crops unexcelled in any part of this great land. Apostle Cannon cited various instances in proof of his assertions, spoke of the immense quantity of grain harvested in the Territory, the ample water supply where only small streams once ran, and the marvelous growth of those thickly populated settlements where at one time only a family or two resided. God had indeed fulfilled His promises and the predictions which had been made concerning His Zion of the latter days. He had caused the desert place to become a fruitful garden; He had caused streams of living water to spring from the earth and the waste places had become the habitations of men, and He told us in the strongest language that we should trust in Him and not be afraid of what man could do.

People from all parts of the earth would yet come to Zion, and we must make room for them and welcome the good and honorable to our settlements, bidding them God-speed so long as they lived righteous lives and sought to do that which was pleasing in God's sight. Though they might not be of our faith, and saw not as we did, yet we must show goodwill towards them; for the Gospel taught us this—goodwill towards all men and women on earth. It was their duty to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and welcome the stranger within our gates. This was our duty towards the whole human family; and by our actions in this respect we would win many souls to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Kindness should be one of the strongest characteristics of the Latter-day Saints. Our emigrants when they first arrived here should be looked after and cared for, so that they did not want or become disheartened until employment could be found.

The speaker, in conclusion, bore his testimony to this work in which the Latter-day Saints are engaged as being the work of God, and predicted that the day would come when the noblest men of the earth would come and live in Zion, and the brightest intellects

would find lustre added to their intelligence by coming to dwell among the people of God.

The choir sang the anthem

Light and truth.

The benediction was pronounced by Counselor Charles W. Penrose.

### BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND OMAHA.

My late trip through the mission field, or that part of it between Washington and Omaha, was one of great interest to myself and, I trust, of profit to the conferences which comprise the Northern States Mission. Three excellent conferences were held, and about fifty discourses delivered upon the principles of the Gospel. The meetings were well attended, and in some instances the halls were crowded to overflowing. A great deal of good instruction was given and much information imparted by the Elders present respecting our people and doctrines.

The work of God is steadily gaining ground throughout the mission; much investigation is going on, many outsiders attend our meetings, and much of the old-time prejudice is being removed from the public mind. Especially is this noticeable among the more intelligent classes who read and think for themselves. The great trouble all along has been caused by the ignorance of the people respecting the Latter-day Saints, and the false rumors set afloat concerning them by their political and religious foes.

A somewhat general impression has prevailed that the "Mormons" are a semi-barbarous race—not more enlightened or to be trusted than the heathen, and when we go among the farmers of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Indiana even now, some of them hardly know whether to believe our descriptions of "Mormon" life or not. Some still cling to their former notions about us, until after a while a more intimate acquaintance with the Elders springs up and becomes in many instances a lasting friendship for them and our people. One man insisted in a conversation with me lately that he knew it would not be safe to go into Salt Lake City, unless he could show a certificate signed by a "Mormon" official, to serve him as a passport. This had been impressed on his mind by some so-called "doctor" who claimed to have been to Utah. I asked the farmer if the "doctor" had told how he himself went there and came away again? But he had not done this.

I had an amusing experience while on the B. & O. "limited," between Chicago and Washington. A blue-coated official was being regaled in a neighboring seat to mine with a Munchausen story about the "Mormons," in which the narrator asserted that they were not regarded in Utah as white people. "They always say," he went on, "in speaking of Salt Lake affairs, so many 'Mormons' and so many 'whites.'" I took out one of my cards and wrote on the back of it, "Call upon me when you are in Salt Lake and see if we are white!" The official to whom I handed the card looked surprised, and winked at me with the other eye. Pretty soon

the narrator of fanciful tales left the Pullman car and never returned. The official did, however, and, said he, "Well, I just asked that gentleman what he meant by 'white,' inasmuch as you looked to me to be as white as the rest of us?" and he added "he hasn't answered that question yet." It is such people as this who do the injury which is afterwards hard to repair. The respectable passengers traveling on the limited trains frequently listen to the grossest misrepresentations about our people; but when I am within hearing their stories do not go long uncontradicted. I have been enabled to disabuse the minds of many intelligent travelers while on this and other first-class roads. The farther west we go the oftener we meet with those who try to poison the minds of the traveling public against the Saints. The Eastern man looks at the question more dispassionately, because not personally interested in a contest between "Mormon" and anti-"Mormon." The eastern people are becoming much more interested now than formerly, however, because of the "Mormon" dividing up according to individual predilection between the two great national parties. There is some surprise expressed at the number of Republicans in Utah, as it was supposed the "Mormons" were all Democrats, and held in political bondage by their leaders. But in this as in many other matters our eastern friends are getting better informed. They will yet find that the "Mormons" are as independent, individually, in their political ideas as they are in their religious principles. CHAS. W. STAYNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 30 1891.

### WASATCH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of this Stake convened at Heber City, Oct. 31, and Nov. 1. Present on the stand: Apostle F. M. Lyman, President A. Hatch and counselors, members of the High Council, Bishops of the various wards and their counselors, Patriarch Thomas Wicken, etc.

At 10:30 conference was called to order by President Abram Hatch, and after the usual opening exercises, Elder Rockwood who had lately returned from a mission to Indiana, spoke for a short time. He related his experience whilst on his mission, and said he had proved that God was willing to help the Elders if they kept themselves humble and prayerful. He advised the rising generation to cultivate a good moral course of life, and never to rest satisfied until they had obtained a testimony for themselves of the truth of the great Latter-day work.

Apostle Lyman, referring to some of Elder Rockwood's remarks, said the people of the world were indignant against the Prophet Joseph, although they admired our doctrines generally. Elders need have great courage to defend our principles, as there was not much sympathy extended towards them when on a mission. The sentiments and feelings exercised against us might have a depressing influence, but when we found any who were kind and sympathetic we felt good and our expectations were raised.

At the afternoon session, Apostle