

The choir sang:

Zion stands with hills surrounded.

Prayer by Bishop Geo. H. Taylor.

The choir sang:

'Twas on that dark, that solemn night.

The Nineteenth Ward Bishopric and Teachers administered the Sacrament.

Elder John Morgan

spoke concerning the favorable circumstances surrounding the Church at the present time—sixty-one years after its first organization—considering the hardships and persecutions to which its members had constantly been subject in times past. Our settlements, which extend from Canada in the north into Mexico in the south, teem with their tens of thousands, many of whom have been gathered from the different nations of the earth. Though so many different nationalities are represented in the Church, there should be no division or class distinction among us on national lines; all sectional organizations, representing classes and nationalities, should be discouraged wherever and whenever they tend to divide the people and create clanishness. One object of the Gospel of Christ is to make all true followers of the Redeemer one, and to establish a common brotherhood in which all class distinctions and national differences should be forever obliterated. One should not feel himself above another, because of the land that gave him birth, and no derision on account of nationality should be tolerated in the midst of the Saints. We should share all our privileges and rights on equal principles, the same as we enjoy certain rights and benefits as citizens of our great common country, whether we are American born or have become citizens by adoption.

We should also be kind and forbearing to those who are not of us, even to our enemies who persecute us, and are endeavoring to bring trouble upon us, for in many instances they do not know what they are doing. Christ and His disciples were also derided, slandered, persecuted and martyred, but the virtues of these former-day Saints have been recognized by following generations, and today they are honored among the children of men; so, also, will the Latter-day Saints, in course of time, become known throughout the world and be accepted on their true merits for what they really are, and not for what their enemies represent them to be at the present time.

Elder Joseph M. Tanner

referred to what the Gospel had already done towards destroying national feelings and sectionalism among the Saints, and thus we have been enabled to accomplish by our union that which otherwise would have been impossible. The Saints are looking forward to the great reward promised the faithful, in which they have implicit confidence. Their aim is set high, their aspirations are noble and good, their ambition is commendable, and their hearts are bent on possessing the eternal riches of heaven. While many ambitious men of the world have set their aim high and through their perseverance and determination have succeeded in obtaining power and

dominion on the earth, the Saints are patiently awaiting the results of their labors of love and look with much interest to the final outcome of the great war which is continually raging between the powers of darkness and the intelligence of heaven. And they will obtain all they desire in righteousness if they continue faithful and true to the end.

Elder B. H. Roberts

said that the presence of so many thousands of Saints at this annual conference of the Church was in itself great evidence to him of the truth of the great latter-day work: The Spirit of God is certainly moving upon the people and inspires them to gather together to learn of the ways of the Lord. So far we have not, as individuals, nor as a people, passed through any experience or difficulty that has not been calculated to benefit us. The Lord will cause His people to pass through such ordeals as will do them the most good, and give each one of us the experience most needed. By this means only will we be able to attain to that exalted position for which we are aiming. At the time the Saints were being driven out of Missouri Joseph the Prophet passed through most trying scenes, but as he lay incarcerated in a dreary dungeon, together with several of his brethren, the Lord spoke comforting words to his soul, and explained to him, at least in part, why He allowed His servants thus to suffer. Says the Lord (Doc. and Cov., 122: 3-8):

"The people shall never be turned against thee by the testimony of traitors; and although their influence shall cast thee into trouble, and into bars and walls, thou shalt be had in honor and but for a small moment and thy voice shall be more terrible in the midst of thine enemies than the fierce lion, because of thy righteousness; and thy God shall stand by thee forever and ever. If thou art called to pass through tribulation; if thou art in perils among false brethren; if thou art in perils among robbers; if thou art in perils by land or by sea; if thou art accused with all manner of false accusations; if thine enemies fall upon thee; if they tear thee from the society of thy father and mother and brethren and sisters; and if with a drawn sword thine enemies tear thee from the bosom of thy wife, and of thine offspring

And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness and all the elements combine to hedge up the way, and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good. The Son of Man hath descended below them all; art thou greater than He?"

Of the many great and glorious revelations given to the Prophet Joseph perhaps none of them contain greater promises than this one. In that time many prominent men in the Church turned against the Prophet, and became traitors to him and the work of God, but they did not succeed in turning the hearts of the Saints away from him, nor did their opposition to him harm in the least degree in the final outcome. As it was with the Prophet

Joseph so will it be with all the Latter-day Saints, who prove faithful to their God and His cause. Then let persecution continue to rage and bring what it will; let there be another exodus and another breaking up of homes and sacrifice of worldly possessions, yea let death come in its worst forms, or chains and slavery, it will all be for our good, and we have no grounds for fear.

The speaker then read an extract from another revelation, in which the Lord commands his people to "renounce war and proclaim peace, and seek diligently to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to the children" (Doc. & Cov. 98: 16-17), and then said it was a strange fact that notwithstanding the peaceful mission of the Latter-day Saints in behalf of both the living and the dead, they should be defamed and denounced as a wicked and bloodthirsty people, and be accused of disloyalty and numerous other crimes entirely unknown among us. Peace on earth and good will to man is and has always been our motto, and nothing could be farther from the truth than the accusation that we are a rebellious and war-like people. Truth, however, though slow in its progress, will prevail at last, and establish itself on the ruins of falsehood. And where revolution may succeed revolution, society be destroyed and virtue and truth be trampled under foot by the wicked and ungodly, these mountain valleys shall preserve the virtues, strength and elements of truth which shall finally renovate the earth and restore its inhabitants once more to their original purity and happiness.

Apostle Abraham H. Cannon

said he had learned to acknowledge the truth of the saying that there needs be opposition in all things; trials and difficulties are necessary to purify the Saints, and it is a positive fact that the work of God has made the greatest progress in the midst of persecution, and opposition. It is very doubtful whether our missionaries who have gone abroad would have made much progress in their various fields of labor, if they had not encountered opposition. It is said that when the first Elders who brought the fullness of the Gospel to the nation of Great Britain reported the opposition they met with there, both from the seen and unseen world, the Prophet Joseph rejoiced and declared that he knew the mission would prove a success, which it did. Likewise in Scandinavia, where so many have joined the Church, and in other lands, where the Gospel has been successfully preached, did the Elders meet with opposition in their endeavors to establish the banner of truth, and in many instances they were imprisoned and suffered much for the testimony they bore; but all this brought most glorious fruits. The Saints therefore, should not regret the fact that their enemies oppose them or that they are called upon to pass through persecution and sufferings for the truth's sake; only weak minds yield to opposition; the strong persevere and gain the victory. Most of the scientific truths which have been introduced into this world have met with bitter opposition at first, and their advocates have in many instances been looked upon as