

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Dec. 22, 1889, commencing at 2 p. m. Counselor C. W. Penrose presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

Let us pray, gladly pray
In the house of Jehovah.

Prayer by Elder L. H. Hatch.
The choir sang:

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

The Priesthood of the Twenty-second Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

COUNSELOR JOHN W. YOUNG

addressed the congregation. In speaking to the Latter-day Saints I do so with those feelings which an Elder usually has when called upon to bear his testimony. No exertion to which I am accustomed, either mental or physical, is so great as that of speaking to a congregation in this building. I regard the present as a very important time to the Latter-day Saints. It is fraught with great events. We live in the most important age of which we know anything, and the Saints have need to be thankful, for the adversary is striving, in a more determined manner than ever before, seemingly, to destroy the work of God. We witness today a very strange combination of circumstances among us. We are being tested to see if we have that testimony of Jesus which we say we have. We are being assailed by our enemies who are spreading floods of falsehood about us. In travelling to the world I have had opportunities of seeing why it is that so much prejudice exists against us. It is because the truth concerning us is not known, and because falsehoods without stint have been circulated about us by our enemies. Calumnies are invented and published and republished about us to an astonishing extent.

We must not forget our duty to the outside world. We must remember that it is our duty to preach the Gospel to the rich and affluent as well as to the poor. Until we do this the world will not be left without excuse.

We are called disloyal to the principles of our government, but we know that this charge is not a true one. It has been my lot to take part in a national campaign of recent date, and I found nothing incompatible with my religion in entering heartily and earnestly into the contest. I found that I could, with perfect consistency with my religion, take an active part in the politics of my country. When I have compared my loyalty to my country with the patriotism of other men, I have found that I was not lacking in devotion to my government and its institutions. The early teachings I received from my mother were calculated to plant in my heart a love of my country. There is nothing in the religion of the Latter-day Saints which tends to render them untrue

in their relations with this government. It is true that, in times past, some of our speakers have treated somewhat warmly upon the subject of our sufferings, and the opposition we have endured; but in all such addresses by our representative men, the intention has never been to censure the nation or its institutions, but to condemn the acts of men.

There are many good and honorable men in this country, but the greater portion of our countrymen are seeking after the things of this world, while we here in these mountains are seeking to live according to a higher type of Christianity than the world is acquainted with.

APOSTLE J. H. SMITH

next spoke. The Gospel is to be preached to all the world and then, we are told, the end comes. This has not been fully accomplished by us. It is true that many different countries have been reached by us, but there are millions upon the earth who have never heard our Elders. The learned, the wise, and the higher classes have scarcely deigned to listen to the testimony of our missionaries, to whom the homes of the wealthy have not, as a rule, been open. But the poorer and middle classes have, to some extent, received our Elders. I am satisfied that the time will come when our missionaries will have their way opened to reach the wealthier and more intelligent classes.

It is only in times of peril or alarm, perhaps, that the rich and so-called intelligent classes will deign to investigate this work. But the fact that we still exist and are engaged in spreading abroad the work we are engaged in, must in the nature of things, attract the attention of all classes; for the work we are promulgating is as a great light on a high place. If our Elders in their humility cannot reach all classes, God will find a way to attract universal attention to the principles of life and salvation.

We need have little concern personally in the contest waged against this work. It is God's business to protect it, and He will make the wrath of man to praise Him. We may pass through experiences that will try us, but this work is God's, and He will take care of it. That which God has committed to us is the truth. It forebodes ill to none but good to all. God has never failed, nor will He ever fail to answer the prayers of those who approach Him in righteousness and faith. Notwithstanding the dark outlook now before the Saints, God will overrule all for their good, and will bring to pass the triumph of those who continue faithful.

We are interested in the welfare of our country, and the man who says the Latter-day Saints are disloyal to our government is a liar before God; for our Heavenly Father has commanded us to uphold its principles and institutions.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

addressed the congregation. I am much gratified to see so large an attendance here today in view of the stormy weather. It is an evidence that the Saints are striving to do

their duties. The testimonies of the brethren this afternoon are true, as thousands of us know. If this work which is called "Mormonism" continues to flourish it can only be by the power and blessing of God. This work has survived the opposition arrayed against it, and, if it could have been, would long since have been destroyed.

At times it has seemed as if we have had all we could bear; but never at any time have we had more. Strength has been given us according to our needs. This work will continue to grow and spread until it shall accomplish all that God designs it shall. What people could have borne what we have? When we think that more than 800 of our leading men have been imprisoned; how our women and children have been tried; what inducements are offered to the Saints to abandon their religion; the intense opposition we are having to endure, it will become apparent that we are sustained by a superhuman power, or we could not bear up.

It seems to me that I have never seen a time when the bulk of the Latter-day Saints were more determined to live their religion than they are today. I believe the disposition to keep the commandments of God is as strong among the Saints today as ever, and I thank God that He has given them this spirit; and I hope the Saints will continue willing to make every sacrifice, even to life itself, rather than forsake the principles of the Gospel.

If this people are not the Church of God, where can it be found? We shall have to look for it in vain. Throughout Christendom today, priest and people bow down to the shrine of popularity. Priests preach by their learning and for hire. But God will show that He is the same yesterday, today and forever; that time has wrought no change in Him, and that He has not gone where His children cannot reach Him. He will also show that His Son Jesus has not lost interest in our salvation.

We have been led, in consequence of the peculiarity of our position, to give notice to the Latter-day Saints that on tomorrow the twenty-third of December, the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, a fast should be proclaimed throughout all the Church, and that solemn prayer should be offered unto God, the Eternal Father, by all of us, for His blessings to be bestowed upon us under our peculiar circumstances.

I speak of this, before I sit down, in order that it may be impressed upon the minds of the Saints who are here today. I have felt for a long time myself, and in speaking of this, I believe I only voice the sentiments of my brethren and sisters, that we should get together and fast and pray unto God, our Heavenly Father for His blessings to be given unto us.

I wish the people would read when they go home the last chapter of the First Book of Nephi; also the fourteenth chapter of the same book.

The speaker read a portion of the latter and said substantially: I need