

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

AT THIS GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Tomorrow, Sunday, April 4, there will convene in this city the Sixty-seventh annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A brief glance at the two-thirds of a century which has passed since the organization of the Church, reveals a wonderful change in the condition of the world, compared with any change that has been accomplished in any like period of the earth's history. The only parallel is that offered at the inauguration of the Christian era. At the opening of the latter-day dispensation the Lord declared that "a marvelous work" was "about to come forth among the children of men." This was revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith; and the general history of the world since that date, as compared with the ages which preceded it, is sufficient to establish Joseph's claim to the divine prophetic gift; for subsequent to the time when he gave voice to that prediction there has been going on, without cessation, "a marvelous work and a wonder" among mankind, not only in the religious world, but in discovery, in commerce, in mechanics, and in all intellectual and scientific development. The progress of civilization during the past sixty-seven years is more pronounced than during any other like period in history, and there never has been such a revolution of ideas in religious matters particularly in the same time as has taken place since the year 1830. The past two-thirds of a century has been pre-eminently the age of a marvelous work, and it is yet rolling on.

When the Church was organized it was by express instruction and authorization of the Lord; therefore it is His Church. The conviction of this fact has not come to all men yet, but it is surely, steadily and speedily gaining ground. The Lord established the Church to stay, so He states, and it is His business to maintain it inviolate from foes without and foes within. And as surely as He organized that Church by directing what was done on the memorable sixth day of April, 1830, so surely He has maintained that organization intact. There could be no lapse, no failure, in the Church organization or progress, for the Lord had declared otherwise; there could be no necessity for another organization, or an assumed re-organization, for if there had been, then the Lord's organization would have been a mistake and a failure, which cannot be. Hence the Church as it was organized in April, 1830, and in the development and growth it has made since then, has remained intact, its organization unbroken, its work unceasing. And this Church holds its Conference in this city tomorrow and succeeding days—a strong, progressive, divinely guided organization which has come up through much tribulation, and stands as a witness of

the almighty power of God in bringing to pass His purposes.

In the early days of the Church the Lord thus summarized what had been done in the institution of the Church, and what its work should be:

The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the Gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.

In its experience, the Church has met many, very many, obstacles to the mission it was called to perform; and there have been some dark days when naught but the eye of faith could discern the light beyond. But even in the gloomiest hours there has been felt the guiding hand of the Lord; and the body of the Saints never has doubted, the Church never has been left to other guidance than that of its almighty Founder and Head. He has declared, through the Prophet Joseph, that "the works, and the designs, and the purposes of God cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught, for God doth not walk in crooked paths, neither doth He turn to the right hand nor to the left, neither doth He vary from that which He hath said, therefore His paths are straight, and His course is one eternal round. Remember, remember that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men." And the progress of the Church in the accomplishment of the great mission assigned it never has been frustrated; but every effort against it that has run its course has met with dismal failure.

At the time of this General Conference the Saints and the world have still further incontrovertible evidence of the divine power that has been with and has upheld the Church, and will give to it eternal triumph. The Church's growth in influence, in numbers, and in power upon the earth has been wonderful even to its friends, though it is just what they anticipated, because they know the source of its power; and it has been no less marvelous to its enemies, whom it has also surprised, because they have not realized the futility of all efforts against it. And as it has been, so will it be in the continued progress of the work. Zion is today a mighty power whose force is increasing in the earth.

The condition of the Church at this time is most gratifying. In every mission field, home and abroad, the advancement is of a marked character. The Lord has opened the way before the Gospel message in a miraculous manner. In every direction there is cause for rejoicing and praise to Him at this Conference of the Church, as much so as at any period in history. And while the glorious work is rolling on, and in the knowledge thereof is to be found encouragement and inspiration for the Saints, that same knowledge is a warning to them of the necessity for increased diligence, that they may be abreast of the great events which the Lord is bringing to pass upon the

earth, and be fully prepared for the duties and blessings that come to His people.

EIGHTY-THREE.

The NEWS desires to unite with the Latter-day Saints in extending heartiest congratulations and good wishes to Elder Lorenzo Snow, President of the Twelve Apostles. He is a veteran among the people, in the cause of truth, to which he has given his life. For over sixty years he has been an active, energetic member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When first starting out in manhood's estate the Gospel found in him an honest heart, eager for its principles; and from that time he has been a zealous missionary in its behalf. His first association with the Church was in Kirtland, and through the scenes of Missouri and Illinois, and in the subsequent history of the Saints, he has taken a prominent part. He was an intimate acquaintance of the Prophet Joseph, and received through that great man the instructions in and impressions of the Gospel that have influenced his career. For over forty-eight years he has been a member of the Council of Apostles, and, in response to the call of the Lord, has traveled in many lands and borne witness of the Gospel restoration. For the past few years his chief work has been in connection with his duties as President of the Twelve and the presidency of the Salt Lake Temple. His is a familiar name in the households of the Saints, by whom he is deeply loved, venerated and esteemed as a faithful, honored servant of God—a Prophet in Israel. May he be spared yet many years to bless and comfort the Saints, and to wield a powerful influence in behalf of righteousness in all the world.

BOOK OF MORMON TESTIMONY.

In the Book of Mormon, I Nephi, 13: 38-42, the purpose why this record had been carefully preserved until the time for its publication through the gift and power of God had come, is plainly stated. The Prophet was permitted to behold "the book of the Lamb of God," or the Bible, and then "other books," also coming forth by the power of the Lamb, and the special mission of these latter was to convince the Gentiles and also "the remnant of the seed of my brethren" and the Jews that the records of the Prophets and the Apostles are true. It is stated: "And the angel spake unto me saying, These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first." The ultimate object is also stated: "And shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the eternal Father and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto Him, or they cannot be saved." To establish the truth of the Bible, especially with regard to the great fundamental truth of salvation through Jesus Christ is the mis-