

exhorted the people to sustain those called to officiate in the Priesthood.

After singing by the choir and congregation, prayer was offered by Elder John Nicholson.

THIRD DAY.

April 6th, 10 a. m.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn:

The time is far spent, there is little remaining,
To publish glad tidings by sea and by land;
Then hasten, ye heralds, go forward proclaiming.
Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven's at hand.

Prayer was offered by Elder John D. T. McAllister
Singing by the choir:

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

The following reports were read by Elder Heber J. Grant:

A statistical report of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

Statistical and financial report of the National Woman's Relief Society for the year ending December 31, 1895: Besides other information it showed an enrollment of 23,943, and that 503 branches had been organized in the St.; receipts of various kinds of property, including amount on hand at the beginning of the year, \$36,310; expended during the year, \$18,417. The report bears the signatures of Zina D. H. Young, president; Jane S. Richards, Bathsheba W. Smith and Sarah M. Kimball, vice presidents; Emmeline B. Wells, secretary, and Isabella M. Horne, treasurer.

Annual report of the Young Ladies' National Mutual Improvement Association of Zion, from January 1st, 1895, to January 1st, 1896. It exhibited as follows: No. of associations 406; cash on hand and received, \$9,886; property, \$4,539; balance of cash, \$3,669; property, \$3,882; increase in membership, 227; in average attendance, 841.

Signed by Elmira S. Taylor, president, Maria Y. Dugan and Martha H. Tingey, counselors, Ann M. Cannon, secretary and treasurer.

Of the Primary associations of the Church:

Six of the Stakes not reported. Number of associations, 437; officers and members, 32,348; average attendance, 14,548; meetings, with miscellaneous exercises, 11,358; donations to charitable purposes, \$576; to missionaries, \$43. Signed by Louie B. Felt, president, Lillie T. Freese, counselor; May Anderson, secretary, and nine aids to the general board.

ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH,

of the Council of the Apostles, was the first speaker. He referred to the erection of the Pioneer Monument, stating that the statue of Brigham Young had been placed upon a temporary pedestal, for protection from the depredations of rattle hunters. The permanent monument would be so elaborate as to be well worth the amount it would cost when completed. He urged greater zeal in laboring toward its completion. The speaker also stated the desire of the authorities that home publications should be more liberally patronized. They were established and distributed for the purpose of spreading among the people the principles of the Gospel and of Church

government. Every home in the Church should secure as many of these magazines and papers as possible, and they should be freely distributed in the different missions as efficient aids to the Elders. Their value in this connection had been proved. The spirit of loyalty to these publications should be developed to equal the increasing zeal for missionary work. The zeal in the latter direction was spoken of as developing to a remarkable and gratifying extent, and it was thought that this, coupled with the needed improvement in the matter of supporting home periodicals, would make the promulgation of Gospel principles in the world more efficient and easy. He closed with a testimony to the unity and faithfulness of the Church authorities, and their zeal in the performance of their duties, to the end that liberality and love toward all men might be increased, and as many as possible be brought to a knowledge of the truth.

ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON

was called upon to address the congregation. He had rejoiced with the general body of Conference attendants, in the spirit of the meetings, which he characterized as the most enjoyable in his recollection. One principle he felt to impress unequivocally upon the minds of the Saints, their union in carrying out all the designs and purposes now in contemplation and progress. The authorities should be liberally sustained in their various projects, that they, holding the keys of the kingdom, might be able to open the doors of salvation and development to the people. There could be no doubt as to where those keys were to be found today. It was well sustained by a revelation to Frederick G. Williams, where he was told these keys should always remain with the First Presidency.

Referring to the peculiar position of the Saints in the past, and their firmness in holding it, he said that it was at first difficult for him to understand the correctness of the new position taken when the old was abandoned, but the key before referred to was manifested to him and he was convinced of the correctness of the new stand. With that key in their possession the Saints would have no fear of delusion, which would thus be stripped of their power to deceive. On every great occasion the pre-eminence of the Presidency has been displayed, and this Conference was a notable example. Such triumphs, progression, intelligence and freedom, would continue, until Zion would take its legitimate place at the head. The speaker closed with the prayer that the day of this consummation might be hastened.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

made interesting remarks in relation to the "Manifesto," for which he said the Lord was responsible. He gave a relation of some of his personal experience, showing how he had been led by the spirit of revelation from his boyhood. He also told the manner in which he had been shown, long before it occurred, that he should dedicate the Temple in this city. He predicted many good things concerning Zion.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS,

of the first council of Seventy, fol-

lowed. He said in substance: He had experienced great joy in the work of the conference, and especially that nothing had been done which might cause regret. He had possessed from boyhood a testimony of the work, and had often been led by the promptings and whisperings of the spirit. He had, perhaps, not always been thus guided and controlled, and every such case had occasioned him much sorrow. He had been reminded of the word of the Lord to the whole Church at the time of its organization, when it was distinctly shown that the Prophet Joseph, having been accepted as first Elder in the Church, by the members of it, should be sustained as a seer, translator and Prophet of Jesus Christ, heed being given to all his words and commandments, as received from God. This to the end that the work might be strengthened and preserved from the storms that should break upon it. This position would give wisdom to the leaders of the Church, to sustain the liberty of the people, and yet guide that liberty to the glory of God, by his unerring counsel.

The speaker also bore testimony to the fact that this power and order would never be removed from earth, as it had been in all former dispensations, on account of the unworthiness of the people. In this dispensation the unfailing word of God had been pledged to the stability of the work, notwithstanding the imperfections of the people. Their loyalty to the truth was assured through the promise of God, and the speaker testified with power that the authority now exercised in love and zeal by the Priesthood should never be taken from them. They would be sustained of God, and even though some might have stumbled in the darkness, they might still return to the path of right, taking advantage of its unerring guidance to the good of salvation. He sustained with humility and faithfulness the decisions and instructions of the Presidency and Apostles, and felt to urge all to submit themselves in obedience to the counsels and labors of the Priesthood. He hoped always to be able and willing to place the Kingdom of God and its interests paramount to all other issues.

The anthem,

Praise ye the Father,

was sung by the choir.

Benediction by L. W. Shurtliff.

Afternoon Session.

2 p.m.

The session opened by the choir singing

Great God, indulge my humble claim;
Thou art my hope, my joy, my rest;
The glories that compose thy name
Stand all engaged to make me blest.

Prayer by Elder William C. Dunbar.
Singing by the choir, the anthem:

Come, let us sing unto the Lord.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON,

after some preliminary remarks relating to its content, announced to the Conference that a document addressed to the officers and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would be read by Elder Heber J. Grant. The reading was then proceeded with. The paper in question appears in this issue of the NEWS. It was stated by Elder Grant