

our educational Moses. And let those of us who are privileged to stand on either side of him, like Aaron and Hur of old, sustaining his hands in the attitude of supplication and power, see that we forfeit not that privilege. May we live long with us here, and may we be honored in associating with him in the Kingdom of our God.

The next address was a feeling response by

DR. K. G. MAESER.

He said: My dear brethren and sisters, and fellow-teachers,

There are periods in a man's life when his heart is too full for utterance. One of these periods in my life is the present, but I feel I must say something, however broken it may be, and however inadequate to portray the emotion that is just now over me. I have been asking myself ever since I awoke to the meaning of this occasion, as I have asked myself again and again before, what I have done or said that would give me some title to all this honor, which is shown me in the presence of the wisest and best men that God has on earth. And I only feel that it is not myself at all that is to be honored, or whose works and their results are to be appreciated. And this thought gives me strength to say something. My mind was reverting in my life's journey up to the moment in that sacred hour when I was baptized by Brother Franklin D. Richards, the Elders and my sister Camilla from that time until I received a letter from President Woodruff, in behalf of the Twelve Apostles, instructing me to prepare plans in regard to a Church school organization to be effected. I remember that I closed my letter to the President with these words: "I feel to exclaim, like Simon of old, 'Let now Thy servant depart in peace,' for that for which I have labored, prayed and quietly suffered for years I have seen come to pass." I would not have regretted then if the Lord had called me behind the veil, for I felt that my work was done. What, then, have I done? I have simply tried very hard to do my duty, as God marked it out through His servants from one day to another; and he who will do less is not a faithful servant. Hence I could not claim any credit; and when I asked myself many a time why so much love was given to me on the part of my students, my fellow-teachers, my friends, and the authorities and the servants of God, the answer was brought to me suddenly and unexpectedly. It came about last spring. Once in the evening at the Gardo House Presidents Woodruff and Cannon were speaking with me, and President Cannon asked me the question, "How is it, Brother Maeser, that you are contriving to get so much love on the part of your scholars and fellow-teachers?" I said, "Brethren, I would sooner lose my life than lose that love." Nay, I might have many lives, and I would rather give them all than lose that. Brother Cannon thought this a strong saying, but I understand that this love was not the result of anything that I had ever done, but it was one of the gifts of my Heavenly Father to me, which was to me a sign that He was accepting my labors, and thus I was enabled to perform them.

Therefore, anything of this sort, any

manifestation of this kind, I understand the reason of; it is an appreciation of the doings of our Heavenly Father, who in His merciful kindness wants to demonstrate that even in His weak servants He may have His name glorified. There are men in many respects far more qualified for educational work than I am, and hence I cannot claim the credit for what has been done. I am always willing to give God the praise and the thanks for it. Thus I have tried to learn life's hardest lessons. And when, the day after the dedication of the Brigham Young Academy building, President Woodruff told me that the Lord had accepted of my labors, I told President Woodruff that I would not take all the riches in the world for that knowledge. Nor was this an idle statement. I have suffered too long to express my feelings in idle talk. I feel that my salvation will depend upon my training the sons and daughters of Zion given into my hands in the testimony of Jesus Christ and of the great Latter-day work; this is the foundation stone of our education. Whatever superstructure may be built thereon must be in strict conformity with this or it will fall. Many a time has this been demonstrated when a call was made to organize a Stake academy, and I had to send a teacher to take charge of it. I have often stepped into the Normal room, but have seen no one whom I thought I could send. I remember one particular instance. I went home and asked the Lord whom I should send. That night I dreamed that I was in the Normal department, and a young man was with me. When I mentioned it to this student on the following day he said he could not think of accepting such a situation. I took him in the office, and together we asked God for guidance. The young man was sent, and he has been called a benefactor to that community. We may and must have brighter men intellectually than some who have been called to such positions in the past, but I hope and pray that we may have none without that great gratification, the Spirit of the Living God. I thank you very much for the manifestations of this document which my dear brother Talmage has just now shown me. It shall be to me a reminder as long as I live and labor that I possess your esteem and confidence, and I shall try to the best of my ability to do my duty, as I have done, and even more fully, if possible, until the Lord says, "It is enough." God bless you all.

Immediately after the conclusion of Brother Maeser's remarks,

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF

arose and said—I do not feel well enough to make a speech, but I feel that I ought to express a few of my thoughts on this occasion. I have read the Old and the New Testament, the whole history of God's dealings with the world, and I think that all the men who have labored in the cause of truth have had the inspiration of Almighty God. There is no work that God has set His hand to do of more importance than His work in the last dispensation of the fulness of times. And I think it has been by the inspiration of Almighty God that this city has been built and this Temple erected.

And I believe it has been by the inspiration of Almighty God that Brother Maeser, Brother Talmage, Brother Young, and all the brethren have been moved upon in the performance of their labor. And on the same principle, I do not believe God has ever set His hand to perform a work without doing it. I think it will come to pass in the Church School movement according to the desires of the brethren. The storing of the minds of the children with true principles is by the inspiration of Almighty God. I think we shall have many schools and teachers devoted to this labor, and they shall not be hindered by the powers that have operated against them in the past. I think God approves what has been done in these schools, and what we have done today has been by the inspiration of Almighty God.

And I say to Brother Maeser, to Brother Talmage, and those who labor with them, give heed to the word of God, and He will bless you with the necessities of life. Nobody can be engaged in a better cause. Thousands of Elders go to the nations of the earth to convert the people there, and we have a great army of children here upon whose shoulders the great work of building up the Kingdom of God will rest. There could not be a better mission in the world than that of training these children. And I say, God bless you; and I will prophecy to you in the name of the Lord that the people will soon see the necessity of this work. And as you pass along you will see the hand of the Lord in these things, for every necessary thing for your prosperity will be provided. This blessing I pronounce upon you in the name of the Lord. Amen.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

then said—Brethren and sisters, Brother Maeser expressed some surprise that he should be the subject of so much honor and respect as is shown to him by his former pupils and fellow teachers. Perhaps one reason why they honor him so in their hearts is because they have seen in him that principle of signal integrity which characterizes men of worth and stamina, and because there is welling up always from his soul the milk of brotherly kindness; because they see in him an example of humility and faith; and because he has always been devoted with all his purpose of heart to the work of education to which he has been called; because he has entered into this work in the spirit of it and has sought to conduct it under the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit; as he has remarked, by the spirit of prayer and humility before the Lord. These are reasons, Brother Maeser, why your former students and your fellow teachers love you and respect you; because they see in you an example of integrity, of purity and honesty of purpose and devotion to the cause in which you are engaged. God has blessed you signally and crowned your labors with success to such an extent that hundreds of our youths today give praise and honor to your name. I have heard numbers myself who have been pupils under Brother Maeser express gratitude to God that they have been privileged to associate