

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The sixty-seventh semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 4th, 1886, President Wilford Woodruff presiding.

Of the general authorities present on the stand there were of the First Presidency—Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith; of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill and Anton H. Lund; Patriarch John Smith; of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, George Reynolds and Jonathan G. Kimball; of the Presiding Bishopric—Wm. B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder.

Conference was called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir sang the hymn which begins:

Softly beams the sacred dawning
Of the great millennial morn.

Opening prayer by Elder Brigham Young.

The choir again sang the hymn commencing:

High on the mountain-top
A banner is unfurled,
Ye nations now look up,
It waves to all the world.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

was the first speaker. His remarks dealt chiefly with the pleasure he felt in meeting with the Saints, reflection on the evident fulfillment of prophecies concerning the results upon the Jews of killing the Savior and the effects upon this generation of the killing of the Prophet Joseph and other holy men; the delivery by Joseph of the keys and responsibility upon the Apostles to carry the Gospel to the world and build up the kingdom of God on the earth.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

next addressed the Conference. He spoke of the force and value of the testimony of President Woodruff, who had been personally taught by the Prophet Joseph Smith. He had heard the charge of Joseph to the Twelve, on whom he placed the authority to carry forward the work of God to success. He had known that all those who had arisen and made claims to lead the Church had no divine authority. President Smith spoke of there being many good and pious people in the world, and explained that goodness alone was not sufficient to empower them to represent God in the building up of His kingdom. He stated that the leaders of this Church were recognized by the Almighty, and that they should also be recognized by the people, those who failed to support whom God had chosen would not receive recognition at the hands of the Lord. Besides dwelling clearly and elaborately upon the foregoing points, he discoursed earnestly upon the necessity of parents teaching their children in Zion the principles of the Gospel, that they might keep the faith when they reached maturity.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

testified to the harmony of this dis-

position with all that had preceded it, in the gifts and blessings of the Spirit, naming instances of the exercises of such gifts. He also referred to the work for the dead, testifying that this labor is being accepted in heaven and that Apostle Abraham H. Cannon and others had been called into the spirit world to perform missions there in connection with this work. Joseph Smith was the first since the days of the ancient Apostles to preach this doctrine.

The choir sang the anthem:

Israel's sons, with one accord,
Raise a song, a song of joy.

Benediction by Patriarch John Smith.

Afternoon Session.

The choir sang a portion of the hymn which commences:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning;
The latter-day glory begins to come forth.

Prayer by Elder John W. Hens.

The choir sang the hymn which begins:

O my Father, Thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

addressed the congregation. He took of the basis of the first part of his discourse the truths embodied in the hymn which had just been sung by the choir, and dwelt for some time on the origin of man, who, according to revelation, was descended in his spiritual being from God, whose gifts and attributes he inherited. The speaker also explained the object of man's probationary existence on the earth. God had in various ways vindicated these truths, notwithstanding the fluctuating and changing theories of man in relation to human kind evolving from lower forms and orders of life. He spoke of the joy to be derived from the possession of such sublime truths and the consciousness of an exalted origin. The closing part of the discourse related to the nature and character of the Priesthood which God had revealed in this dispensation, and the necessity for the Saints being advised and directed by that authority. It was clearly shown that in taking this course and giving ear to the counsels of the leaders of the Church, there was no loss of independence. It was of man-worship, but a just and consistent recognition of the authority of God. The character and history of the Saints showed that there was no community on earth more independent than they.

PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW

said the Saints might think it difficult to live up to the commandments of God, but He would never give any law without bestowing upon men the ability to obey it, thus bringing out the divine in man's nature. This would arise from man's close relationship to God. The speaker had received a manifestation of this relationship when he was young in the work; "A man now is, God once was; as God now is, man may become." This had been firmly impressed upon the servants of God in other ages. Moses especially having shown remarkable power in this direction at various times. By this power he had been able to turn aside the great anger of the Lord from the people, even when this anger promised

to make of Moses the greatest of the children of Israel. Such a point of godly education should be reached by his servants in this day, that they might act humbly and unselfishly under all conditions. The speaker asked if the Saints had realized all the blessings they anticipated from obedience to the Gospel, and answered that in his opinion the faithful servants of God had gained vastly more than they were able to expect. This was realized in the knowledge of man's relationship with God, without considering any other blessings the Gospel had bestowed, for this knowledge had as its end the cultivation of a holy ambition in man to make himself more like his divine Father. This was illustrated anciently in the life of David, who had cultivated godliness and nobility of heart. A striking instance was his sparing Saul's life that he might not be found guilty of raising his hand against the Lord's anointed. Latter-day Saints should strive to educate themselves to a greater degree of self-control in preparation for the trying situations of the future. In the light of the destiny of the Saints, the speaker thought that any required self-sacrifice should not be considered too great for bringing about that destiny.

He commended the work being performed in the temples as being pre-eminently fitted for advancing spirituality, and a work in which there could be no failure; he urged upon the people greater faithfulness in this work, for the benefit it would bestow upon the living and the dead. He closed by exhorting the Saints to greater encouragement and diligence in their labors.

The choir sang the anthem:

Awake, my soul.

Benediction by Elder John Nicholson.

Overflow Meeting.

An overflow meeting was held in the Assembly at 2 p.m., Elder Brigham Young, of the Council of the Twelve, presided.

The Temple choir and congregation, under the leadership of Brother O. J. Thomas, sang:

Redeemer of Israel, our only delight,

Prayer was offered by Elder Wm. H. Walker.

Choir and congregation sang:

Come, come, ye Saints, no toll nor labor fear.

ELDER ANTHON H. LUND

spoke concerning his recent mission to Europe, of the guiding hand of God over the Church, and the judgments which are to be visited upon the wicked.

ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE

spoke of the restoration of the Gospel of Christ through Joseph Smith the Prophet, and the present condition of the world, which was steeped in wickedness. The Saints were in possession of the truth, which would regenerate them. They had light and darkness, truth and error presented for their acceptance, and if they chose the former it would lead them up to the presence of God. The sinful and indifferent among them would not be accounted worthy to stand.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG

reiterated upon the characteristics which