

and remarked that the fact of their having spent millions of dollars in erecting Temples showed their faith and integrity. If God had given us talent, strength of mind and body to accomplish the labor before us, let us go forward resolved to do it, and if we labored in proportion to the ability and strength we possessed He would ask no more of us.

COUNSELOR JOSEPH E. TAYLOR

Said the subject of Temple building had been happily chosen by Brother Grant that afternoon, his remarks being truly appropriate to the occasion—Easter, which was generally observed throughout Christendom in commemoration of Christ's resurrection from the tomb.

The Latter-day Saints were essentially a Temple building people. This was one of the labors which rested with full force and power upon their shoulders, and it was one which they had assumed to carry out to the extent of their ability. The preaching of the gospel to the living, the administering of ordinances of a sacred character to those in the flesh, was really a small work in comparison with the great labor which must be performed for those who had passed away and were now in the spirit world, but who did not enjoy the privileges of the Gospel while here below. Upon us, then, rested the responsibility of baptism for the dead, and in order that this holy ordinance might be successfully accomplished there devolved upon us the work of building temples—places designated by God the architectural designs of which had been revealed from heaven. Indeed scientific men and the world generally had acknowledged as to the design of those Temples—especially the one here—that there was nothing like it upon the earth. If we were poor and penniless God would accept the ordinances for ourselves and our dead outside of buildings erected for this purpose; but when His people had the means, and it was within their power, He expected them to build those houses in order that the sacred ordinances might be carried out. The speaker said he was present when the ground on which our Temple now stood was dedicated, February 14th, 1853. He commenced to labor with a pick and shovel there, and continued till the corner-stones were laid, on April 6th, working upon the excavations. For thirty-nine years he had watched with interest the slow progress of the building. While some had asked the question "Why has it not been completed before this time?" he himself had ever felt satisfied that in this regard all was going on right. They had in the meantime built three other Temples—one in the extreme south, another in the extreme north, and another was perhaps about centrally located in the Territory. Those of them who had had the pleasure and privilege of passing the threshold of either of these sacred edifices and received the ordinances for the living as well as for their dead, and who had partaken of the spirit of these holy places, could readily recognize and understand, and knew for themselves, that God was well pleased with this work. But the work of redemption would not be fully completed until every soul had been

brought to possess some condition of glory, in one of the Kingdoms which God had provided for them, save the sons of perdition. After referring to the authority conferred on the Prophet Joseph Smith in regard to the gathering of the remnants of scattered Israel and completing the covenant which God made with Moses concerning Israel, the speaker said he had prophesied that many of our young people would live to see the day when they would be able to count temples by hundreds upon this land; for the Latter-day Saints would continue to be a temple building people. If diligent in responding to the calls made upon us in reference to the work of erecting temples and then entering into them to receive the sacred ordinances for our dead who were helpless but worthy of salvation, we should have performed our duty, we should be accepted of God, and our dead would be redeemed. But if we were negligent in this regard, we perchance might be rejected as well as our dead for the time and would lose our blessing and reward.

Brother Grant had remarked upon the doubt which seemed to prevail in the minds of some people that this Temple would not be completed within the period specified. He thought the resolution adopted at the recent Conference was an intelligent one in all respects, and if we would go on with all our might, he felt convinced that there would be no difficulty whatever in accomplishing the praiseworthy object in view. Thus they would gratify the feelings of their venerable and revered President, who had expressed a strong desire to see the building finished by April next, in order that he might have the opportunity of taking part in its dedication. Unity was strength, and if they were united in this, as well as in other matters, they could do a great deal. He had no doubt whatever that the work before them could be completed by the time appointed if each one would take his or her share of the responsibility.

The choir sang the Temple anthem; after which

The benediction was pronounced by Counselor Charles W. Penrose.

THE TEMPLE AN ATTRACTION.

THE Temple is the chief attraction to strangers visiting this city. It must be recognized by all who see it, as "a thing of beauty." Even the non-Mormon residents—with the exception of a few soured and contracted souls—are proud of it, and so express themselves. The press of the country has given space to excellent descriptions of the recent ceremonies connected with the capstone and other details connected with the noble structure. Among the leading journals which have conspicuously treated this subject are the *Boston Globe* and the *New York World*. The articles which appear in both these papers are well written. They are similar in their general features, and we therefore reproduce most of what appeared in but one of them—the *Globe*:

Salt Lake City, U., April 6.—Never was a grander, a more impressive spectacle or ceremony witnessed anywhere

than that of the laying of the capstone of the great Mormon Temple in this city at high noon today.

It was the greatest event in the history of Mormonism; the grandest day ever seen in Israel.

Fully 60,000 people had assembled from Utah and the adjoining States and Territories to participate in the ceremony.

Five acres of ground were densely packed with human beings. These were fired with a devotion to principle and a religious enthusiasm unparalleled.

In the language of President Woodruff: "If there was any scene ever enacted on earth that attracted the attention of the God of Heaven and the heavenly host it was the one today, and the assemblage of the people shouting Hosannas to the laying of the capstone of the Temple in honor of God."

When the sun had reached the highest point in the heavens, Wilford Woodruff, the President, Prophet and Revelator of the Mormon Church, addressed the multitude.

He has just passed his 85th birthday, but his faculties are as bright today as those of a young man.

His manner was most impressive. His voice was clear when he said:

"Harken all ye of the house of Israel, and ye nations of the earth, we will lay the capstone of the greatest temple of our God."

Then he pressed the electric button and the capstone was dropped into place.

It was intended that he should do this work with his own hands and that the grand chorus of 500 voices should sing the especially prepared ode on a platform erected at the extreme top of the spires.

Fearing an accident, this scheme was abandoned.

A moment after the aged President had opened the electric current, the architect, from the top of the Temple, signalled back that the stone was in position.

It was then that the throng of people raised such a cry of rejoicing as has never been heard except from a victorious army.

They shouted "Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to God and the Lamb, amen, amen and amen."

This they repeated three times, accompanying their acclaims by the waving of their handkerchiefs.

The ground trembled with the volume of sound, which was multiplied again and again by the repetition of its echoes from the surrounding hills.

Immediately afterwards the great golden statue of Gabriel, [Moroni] proclaiming to all the world the coming of the Redeemer, was placed in position.

The statue is superb. It shimmers and glistens in the sunlight in a perfectly dazzling way.

Boston has recognized the talent of the artist who conceived it.

* * * * *

President Woodruff had expressed the desire that he might live to see the temple completed and himself dedicate it.

It was in answer to that one of the Apostles volunteered the information that the wish of the president was the word of God to the Mormon people;