

selors down. The law of God required it; and whenever there was any deviation from this they were in danger. The work of the people of God was advancing, and in this nation there was a great change in public feeling taking place in regard to the Latter-day Saints, than whom no people had been more lied about or misrepresented in the past, since they came to dwell in the valleys of these mountains. The world should learn who and what they were, and what they were doing; and all they asked was that the truth should be spoken concerning them. They had labored in the interest of their fellowmen. As Latter-day Saints they had faith that God would save the whole human family in some kind of glory, if they were not the sons of perdition. But all men under heaven were held responsible before God for their acts, and if they committed sin they had to pay the penalty.

He prayed God that they might all, as Latter-day Saints, live their religion, do what God required of them, remember their prayers, and walk uprightly before the Lord, and when they reached the other side of the veil they would meet with their reward, according to the works done in the flesh. He prayed that God's blessing would rest upon this Conference, that the people would be united together, and that much good would result therefrom.

The choir sang:

Hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Benediction by Elder Seymour B. Young.

THE OVERFLOW.

The Tabernacle did not afford sufficient space for the great multitude of people who gathered to worship in the afternoon; it was therefore decided to hold an overflow meeting in the

ASSEMBLY HALL.

That building was also densely packed, and still many hundreds were unable to gain admission to either building.

Apostle Franklin D. Richards presided at the overflow gathering, when the proceedings opened at 2 o'clock.

The choir sang:

Hark! listen to the trumpeters!
They sound for volunteers.

Prayer was offered by Apostle John W. Taylor, after which the choir sang:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray!
I am forever Thine!

Elder John Morgan

was the first speaker. He said that it was with no small degree of pleasure that he mingled his voice in worship with his brethren. He loved to testify to the truthfulness of the everlasting Gospel. When we considered that for sixty-two years the testimony of this Gospel had been sounded in the ears of the human family in all parts of the earth it was no longer a cause for wonder that so many people were gathered on such an occasion as the present Conference. The immense audiences in the Tabernacle and the Assembly Hall and the hundreds who had been turned away from both buildings gave some idea of the hosts of Israel. These Conferences were productive of

great good. Those who attended them were built up and refreshed and carried away with them the spirit of kindness and love. The instructions given at these great semi-annual gatherings found echo in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints in every ward and Stake of Zion. Thus was Israel benefited incalculably. When contemplating the rapid and wonderful growth of the Church during its sixty-two years of existence we found much over which to marvel. Numerically we were becoming a great people and he felt like echoing the saying of one of God's Prophets, "Give us room that we may dwell." In years gone by it was the custom of the leaders of the Church to call young people to build up settlements and villages and found cities and commonwealths beyond the borders of civilization. This principle was correct and beneficial. Barren and uninviting wastes had thereby been converted into productive farms. The struggles of these young people upon the frontier were oftentimes of a trying nature. But they were imbued with the faith of God and the true spirit of pioneering. The children of parents so called, naturally inherited these gifts, and as they grew to man and womanhood they too went in search of homes in the wilderness. They took up the land, diverted the streams and cultivated the soil. They surmounted the obstacles and overcame the difficulties common to the settlers of a new country. They were brave, industrious and honest and their accomplishments are eternal monuments to their memory.

Today hundreds of young men in the thickly populated districts were without any definite or fixed purpose in life. This superfluous strength should be scattered about. If it was not these selfsame young men and their descendants would become the hewers of wood and drawers of water. By spreading out they could take up land and in time become the possessors of valuable homes. We were surrounded by districts richly endowed both as to climate and soil and other natural resources. In extending our borders we had passed by many such favored spots.

It was wrong, the speaker said, for parents to persuade their sons and daughters to remain on the little farm at home. They should be allowed and encouraged to extend the borders of Zion and acquire titles to land which would become inheritances of incalculable worth. In our remote settlements the cry was for more strength. In surrounding States and Territories our people were sought after as peaceable and law-abiding citizens. These States and Territories offered all the facilities essential to making a people happy, independent and prosperous.

Elder H. H. Roberts

next addressed the congregation. He said that it was natural in these semi-annual Conferences to be somewhat reminiscent in our reflections, especially when the progress of the work of the Lord was pointed out to us. His mind involuntarily reverted back to the log-cabin of Father Whitmer, where sixty-two years ago a few men, six of whom were members of the Church,

held the first Conference of the present dispensation. What a bold and remarkable prophet a man would have been esteemed on that occasion had he predicted that in little more than half a century the Church would grow to its present proportions, or if he had declared that a great Tabernacle, with a seating capacity of from 10,000 to 13,000 persons, would be built in the Rocky Mountains, and that such a building would be wholly inadequate to accommodate the Latter-day Saints who should go to it to worship. If on the occasion of the first conference of the Church those present did not particularize the building of a great Tabernacle in the wilderness, they did predict a wonderful growth of the Church. An infant had the organs and outlines of a grown person but was undeveloped. Who was there that could stand beside the cradle and predict the possible achievements of that embryotic man? Or who was there that could predict with any degree of accuracy the growth and development of the Church during the next sixty-two years? We could reasonably hope that its development would be much more rapid in the future than in the past. The labors of the Elders had been productive of much good. The most of it, however, was like the iceberg, hidden below the surface. The work of preaching the Gospel to the living was insignificant when compared with what had been done for the dead. In the St. George Temple alone more baptisms had been performed for the dead than the total membership of the Church. For this and other sacred purposes the Latter-day Saints had reared their temples. To witness the laying of the cap-stone of the last and greatest of these structures thousands of people had come to this city. There were those who spoke slightly of these stately structures, but they did so ignorantly. We were called upon to do a great work, how great we knew not. It had not yet entered into the heart of man how much good would be accomplished in the temples of our God. They were the links between heaven and earth. In them we would be bound to our dead kindred and they to us.

Apostle F. D. Richards

said it was a prevailing idea with a great many people that there were only six members in the Church at the time it was organized. He had entertained the same thought for a long time himself, but learned of his mistake and was now desirous of setting other people right on the same question. According to the laws of New York a church could neither be organized nor incorporated with less than six members. He could not say authoritatively what the exact membership of the Church was at the time it was organized. It was on the 15th of May, 1829, when Joseph and Oliver were baptized and ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood. Between that time and April, 1830. The Gospel had been testified to by Joseph and Oliver, and quite a number had been baptized.

The choir and congregation sang:

How firm a foundation.

Benediction was pronounced by Apostle Heber J. Grant.