

odious. No doubt a comparison of what the "Mormon" Church declares in reference to the State and what the Presbyterian Church claims in the same connection will be odious to the members of the latter, and what is sauce for the one will not be conceded as sauce for the other. Yet it is worthy of consideration and ought to put a stop to the senseless clamor on this point, at least from Presbyterian sources.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE Y. M. M. I. A.

The general conference of the Y. M. M. I. A. convened at 10 a.m. June 1st, in the Tabernacle, the attendance being large. There were present on the stand President Wilford Woodruff, Apostles Lorenzo Snow, Moses Thatcher, F. M. Lyman and A. H. Lund, Elders Jacob Gates, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, Julius F. Wells, M. H. Hardy, Joseph A. West, Rodney C. Badger, Wm. S. Burton, E. H. Anderson, Joseph E. Taylor, C. W. Penrose and others.

The opening piece was sung by the Harmony and Fifteenth Ward Glee clubs.

Prayer by Elder M. H. Hardy.

Singing by the Fifteenth Ward Glee club.

ELDER JUNIUS F. WELLS,

one of the assistants to the General Superintendency, was the first speaker. He dwelt upon the necessity of systematic, practical work in the exercises of the associations, and of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order that success might attend the organizations. He hoped that a definite plan would be agreed upon, for the next season's work, at the meeting on Monday, June 2.

ELDER JOSIAH BURKOWS

spoke on the subject of the "Origin and objects of the Mutual Improvement Associations." Their origin was due to President Brigham Young, who in 1875 appointed Junius F. Wells as an organizer. Brother Wells began this labor and organized a number of associations. There had been improvement associations, literary societies, etc., prior to this time, but they were not under the direction of the Presidency of the Church. Brother Wells was called on a mission in the fall of 1875, and Elders J. H. Smith, M. H. Hardy and B. M. Young took up the work of the associations, and that winter about one hundred organizations were effected. In 1879 there were nine thousand members enrolled in the associations. The object of these societies was mutual improvement of the youth and the acquirement of a testimony of the Gospel—the education of the young morally, socially, religiously and intellectually. This day, which may be termed the fifteenth anniversary of the organization, there are nearly four hundred associations, with a membership of over fourteen thousand. Their work has been grand

and glorious, and the future has still brighter prospects.

ELDER JOSEPH E. JOHNSON,

of Emery Stake, spoke on the sentiment, "Obedience, the Key of Power." He cited instances recorded in the Bible and Book of Mormon where, by obedience to the commandments of God, great power was obtained by men and nations. The Lord Jesus obeyed His Father's will that He might become the Redeemer of the world.

ELDER GUY C. WILSON,

of Sanpete Stake, was the next speaker. His subject was "The Promises of God to His People." The number of these promises was so numerous that there was not time to mention even the prominent ones. All the promises of blessings are predicated on obedience to the laws of God. One of these laws is tithing. For obedience to this the Lord has promised to pour out upon us blessings till we are not able to contain them. He has bestowed upon us great blessings, and asks that we devote to him but one-tenth of our increase. There are men who have accumulated immense wealth, who think they need all they have. They do not feel willing to trust God for further blessings, by paying their tithes. Other promises the Saints have are connected with the Word of Wisdom, obedience to which ensures that the destroying angel will pass us by. This is an important one to the youth of Israel, and those who trust in the Lord will not be disappointed. One great promise to the Saints is that given to Abraham and his children. The Lord has also promised that those who have faith in Him, repent of their sins, and are baptized, will receive the Holy Ghost. This is one of the greatest promises that is given to mankind, for the Holy Spirit will lead them into all truth. God has promised that in this dispensation His kingdom will triumph and will be established forever. Certainly we should live so as to partake of these glorious blessings. Our Father taught the nations of past ages that He was able to deliver His people from the power of their enemies, and that He held the destinies of men and nations in His hand. Surely the Saints can afford to implicitly trust in Him and keep His commandments.

The Glee Club sang a selection.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS

addressed the audience on the "Life of Joseph the Prophet." He said that among the benefactors of our race, Joseph Smith holds the second place. Next to the Messiah, there is no man who had done more for mankind. There have been Prophets and philanthropists who have done much for the benefit of men, but their labors pale in comparison with that which Joseph performed in the few years allotted to him. [Enoch, Noah, Melchisedec, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel; and all the Prophets performed glorious missions, but Joseph Smith stood in an age when God

designed to perform a greater work than at any other period, and all those who stood at the head of former dispensations came to Joseph and transmitted to him the keys they held. It is needless to compare the work of statesmen and philosophers, leading spirits though they were, with that performed by Joseph; for to him was committed the great mission of restoring the fulness of the everlasting Gospel in the last dispensation.

Early in his youth God revealed Himself to him, and he beheld the Father and the Son and talked with them, and could declare that God lived. The Lord revealed to Joseph the testimony of an entire continent, and a volume of scripture equal, at least, in importance to that accepted by the Christian world—the Bible. He also gave to Joseph the authority of the Priesthood. John the Baptist came and bestowed the Aaronic Priesthood; Peter, James and John conferred the Apostleship, which gave to Joseph the authority to organize the Church in all the world. Thus God gave to the world Apostles and Prophets, and all the officers in the Church, for the edifying and salvation of the people.

Joseph not only organized the Church, but through him was indicated the place where a city should be built to the name of God, and where the celestial law should govern. He exercised the gifts of seership, and gave to the world a translation of the writings of Abraham, and a new and corrected translation of the scriptures. He sent the gospel to the nations, on this continent and in Europe. This is but a portion of his work, which reaches into eternity, and carries salvation to all mankind. He contradicted the prevalent belief of the people in his day that there were but two places of destiny for men. He drew aside the curtain of the future, and made it known that all men would be rewarded according to their labors. He declared that after this life man might walk in the paths of righteousness, and exercise the gifts of faith and repentance of sin. He also taught the people regarding the celestial, terrestrial and telestial kingdom. He also declared to the world the great principle of the salvation of the dead. He revealed the condition of men before they came to earth, and gave definite ideas of what our happiness would consist of in the life to come. He taught that life in the future was a reality; that the holy family unit was not for time alone, but was to continue throughout all eternity. By the power given to him he united husband and wives for time and eternity. These are a few of the principles which he was the instrument in the hands of God of revealing. This was the work of a lifetime, yet his life in mortality closed at the age of thirty-nine.

His was no pleasant walk in life; for from the time of his first visions till his death, he was continually hounded by the bigotry, injustice and intolerance of the age. Even when a boy he was unjustly and cruelly pursued. As he grew in