

was written hundreds of years before his time, and he only translated it. I believe that the spiritual gifts are as common among us as they were in the early rise of the Church, only there are more of us, and we do not notice them as much as formerly. My labors of late have been in the Manti Temple, and there I have seen many cases of healing.

The speaker related a number of instances of healing which had occurred under his own observation, during the period of his labors in the Manti Temple, which were striking testimonies of the truth of the Gospel. The sick had been made whole and the blind restored to sight.

How thankful Luther and the reformers would have been if they could have witnessed such evidences of the truth of their teachings as we do.

The choir sang:

Mortals awake! with angels join  
And chant the solemn lay.

ELDER JUNIUS F. WELLS.

I have greatly enjoyed the spirit of this conference and the instructions we have received. It was truly said that no people are so well served by those whom they sustain in positions of honor and trust as are the Latter-day Saints. The service rendered to us by the servants of the Lord is very great. Without a paid ministry, this people are looked after in all the affairs of life, and they always know where to go for advice. The Scriptures say that he who desireth the office of a Bishop, desireth a good thing. A Bishop's thoughts are ever upon his little flock. The poor appeal to him for succor and the sick apply to him for relief. All this labor, and much more, is performed by the Bishops among this people in their organized wards, from Idaho to Mexico.

The union existing among this people is their strength, and is what causes them to be feared. Drinking of the water of life, as described by Brother Lund, is what has made this people one, and no people can be united as this people are except by the power of the Holy Ghost.

APOSTLE J. H. SMITH.

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Words of truth have been delivered to us at this conference. It seems to me that no people on earth have instruction given to them by their religious teachers upon every subject as do the Latter-day Saints. Our leaders teach us the Gospel, instruct us in our daily duties, warn us against temptation, and admonish us to do right.

From the day the labors of Joseph Smith the Seer commenced, the seal of the Holy Spirit was upon his ministry. It was upon the ministry of the man who led us to the mountains, who was a great one, raised up for that work; and it has been upon the ministry of the Priesthood of this Church in all parts of the earth.

The voice of inspiration knows no timidity. It is not confined alone to the leaders of this people, but it

circulates through the whole body. Those who obey the laws of God enjoy it. The sick are healed, the blind see, unknown tongues are spoken, devils are cast out; and the gifts and graces which pertained to the Gospel in the days of Jesus and the ancient Apostles exist among this people today. This is my testimony.

The testimonies borne during this conference are true, and the Saints know it. We dare not deny it. I plead with you, my brethren and sisters, to be true, honest, virtuous and faithful, and we shall obtain the blessings promised.

ELDER A. W. IVINS.

In the days of the Savior came one crying in the wilderness, Repent. So in our day. A message of repentance from heaven is published, and the servants of the Lord are proclaiming that Israel will be gathered. This congregation is a living witness of the fulfillment of some of the purposes of God. We came here from many different nations, and are living witnesses that the Gospel has been restored. We have been called out of Babylon, that we may be saved from the fate which awaits her. Babylon will fall, and if we partake of her sins we shall receive of her judgments.

APOSTLE H. J. GRANT.

I have been truly edified by the outpourings of the Spirit we have had at this conference. I rejoice that there is abundance of labor for each Latter-day Saint, and that the gift of eternal life is within the reach of all. I rejoice in this work, and I know that it is true. When the people of God were driven to the mountains, there was but one city of them; now they extend from Canada to Mexico.

It depends upon the individual himself, in this work, whether he shall be saved or not. Our carelessness may retard for a time the work of God, but ultimately it will fill the whole earth.

The choir sang the anthem:

Daughters of Zion.

Benediction by Apostle J. H. Smith.

JOHN NICHOLSON,  
Clerk of Conference.

#### LETTER FROM PALESTINE.

In Jaffa, as in other important coast cities, we have an American vice-consul, a fact which would not deserve chronicling were it not for the circumstance that this particular gentleman, amid his varied and important duties as United States vice-consul, also finds time to engage in missionary labor, thus, incredible as it may appear, combining, as it were in one person, political and ecclesiastical interests and mingling them together in sweet accord.

It happened in this wise: A gentleman was brought to the German hospital during the present month, sick. He was a member of the so-called Mormon church. It soon became apparent that his sickness would terminate in death. The day

before he died, our kind-hearted, benevolent vice-Consul called upon him in order, it seems, to have a talk with him about the status of his soul. Very laudable! In the course of conversation, or preaching rather, the dying man—I have it from his own mouth—was conjured by the afore-mentioned Consul to deny his faith and apostatize from his Church at the gates of eternity; and, wonderful! although the said Consul hardly claimed to be a prophet, yet he told the dying man that if he would apostatize he would probably immediately recover from his illness! How a sane man could act like this gentleman did I fail to comprehend, since numbers of persons die every day even without having heard of "Mormonism." Surely such talk must spring from ignorance and fanaticism combined. For a moment the tempter was suffered to talk, but in the next the dying man raised his hand toward heaven, and, emphasizing every word, said: "I acknowledge 'Mormonism' as the eternal truth." Thus the Consul missionary, instead of getting the credit of having turned a righteous man from God—as was his purpose—obtained a testimony the rejection of which will in the eternities cause him bitter sorrow.

The simple testimony of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, given by a dying Saint in the Holy Land, I thought I would commit to "the immortal custody of the press," and I suppose the United States vice-Consul will also feel very thankful to me for having brought to the notice of the public his zeal as a missionary, which otherwise would have become known only to a very small circle. Should he by any chance happen to see these lines, he is welcome to any satisfaction he may be able to derive from them.

As an illustration of social relations in this part of the world I would like to mention a case recently brought to my notice. A little girl, about ten years of age, is staying in a house as a servant girl. An old fellow, 60 years of age, has taken a fancy to her for one reason or other, and wants to marry her. The poor child thinks of such a possibility with the greatest horror; but as the inclination of women is very rarely consulted, the old man simply arranges the business with the parents; they—would anyone believe it possible?—assent to the proposition, and take steps to force their unfortunate child to the unnatural union. The child threatens to go over to Islam, or to commit suicide, in order to escape her fearful fate. The parents, aided by the police, pursue their daughter, intending to capture her and force her to submit. Up till date the poor creature has been able to escape, and as the lady, her mistress, is a very noble and kindhearted person, and not without influence with the authorities, it is hoped that the little one may be saved from a fate worse, it would seem, than a too early grave. The incident, however, throws much light upon social relations as they exist in the Orient.