SUNDAY SERVICES.

God's Marvelous Work Through the Latter-day Saints.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 10, 1892, commencing at 2 p.m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The services commenced by the congregation singing the hymn commencing:

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform.

Prayer by Elder David H. Cannon. The choir sang:

Jesus, lover of humble souls,
Now in your mercy come to earth.

The President of the Seventh ward officiated in the administering of the sacrament.

ORSON SPENCER'S WHITNEY

then addressed the congregation. He was perfectly sincere, he said, in the statement that he would have been as well pleased if the lot had fallen to some one else to address the assembly this afternoon. He had seen times when to speak on such occasions had been a great pleasure, and he hoped he would feel the same before the services were over. At present, however, he was somewhat ailing in body and more or less embarrassed to occupy that position. But he responded to the call made upon him in the hope that God would give him the way to strength and that he by the power of the spirit might be able to say something profitable.

The speaker had been a happy and an interested auditor during the Conference just closed, and rejoiced in the fact that he had been permitted to be this day, to witness the imposing ceremonies attending the laying of the foundations of the Temple. The proceedings of the late general Conference were among the most enjoyable he had ever experienced. In viewing the vast congregations that had assembled here and witnessing the proceedings he could not but contrast the work of God as seen today with the past history of his people—contrasting the Then and the Now, and thus beginning with the present achievement. In so doing we can realize in some extent the truth of the prediction of Holy prophets that there is a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men."

It is now about seventy-two years since the Prophet Joseph Smith, then a boy about fourteen years of age, felt impelled moved the Lord in prayer and obtain from Him a knowledge of the Divine will in regard to Christ Jesus. It was on just such a bright spring morning as that which opened today that he went into the woods and the spirit of the Lord which of all the centuries then existing was the true one. He was born in a land of churches and Bibles. He was surrounded by sects, each claiming to be the true church of Christ, and it had never dawned upon him that one of these was in error, but which is the one, he did not know. Reading in the Epistle of James that "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally," he determined to put the word of God to the test, so sought the Lord, beseeching Him to hear and answer his prayers. He testifies that at this the first attempt to pray vocally, he was seized by a mysterious power which subjected his tongue and faculties and he was overcome with darkness, but he continued to pray in his thoughts and just as he seemed about to give way to the astounding influence that had seized him he saw a light descending from heaven which enveloped him. He saw the angel of the Immortal pillar of fire, and there appeared two personages, one of whom pointing to the other, said: "This is my beloved Son; hear Him."

This was the prevailing idea of God when Joseph Smith prayed for enlightenment. Now, the Prophet testifies that the glorious Being who answered his prayer was not the form of a man, and that he was destitute a new revelation to him, after having heard all he like that God was a living individual personality.

He testifies that he was told all the churches had gone astray. There had been a universal apostasy, and that not one having been authorized for the purpose of the Lord. The people honored God with their lips, while their hearts were far from Him. He was therefore instructed not to join any of the existing churches. The heavenly visitants then withdrew.

This took place in the spring of the year 1820. Three years later, Moroni, a holy angel, whose representative figure now surmounts the capitol of this Temple, visited the young prophet, and moreover himself a messenger from the presence of the Lord. He said he was the lineal descendant of Joseph who had ministered to the Nephites, an ancient people who inhabited this continent. He showed Joseph where there were records engraved on golden plates, which gave an account of the dealings of the Almighty with these ancient people. With the records were deposited an instrument called the Urim and Thummim, by the aid of which the plates could be translated. Joseph was told that God was about to begin a great work necessary to prepare the world for the glorious coming of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom which should never be thrown down. He was afterwards shown in the vision the plates from the hill Cumorah, this being the same anciently given to the hill, where Mormon, the last survivor of the great battle in which the Nephites were destroyed, had deposited the sacred records. The happenings about the year 385 A. D.

Joseph obtained and translated the plates, which translation is now known as the Book of Mormon, a history of the house of Joseph and the dealings of God with them, similar to the dealings with Israel in the Orient.

Angels again visited the faithful Prophet and conferred upon him the Priesthood. The Aaronic Priesthood was conferred upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery by John the Baptist, who ordained them to the following words: "Upon you, my servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the Gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness." This event took place on May 15, 1829, while Joseph was engaged in translating the plates. Shortly afterwards the Melchisedek Priesthood was conferred upon them. The Melchisedek Priesthood is the power to preach the gospel of faith and repentance, and confirm by laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, not the authority to lay on hands and receive the Holy Ghost. To give this power mention Priesthood, the Melchisedek, should be added thereto, they were told, be conferred upon them. This was given to them when the time came, under the hands of Peter, James and John, who held the keys of this Priesthood.

As soon as they had received the Aaronic Priesthood they and Oliver were just to baptize each other by immersion, being the only time made at baptism, applying the burial and resurrection of Christ, the Redeemer. They were given to understand that sprinkling or pouring water upon the head, or the baptism of infants or the christenings of children, had been not authorized of God. Joseph and Oliver therefore baptized each other by immersion, after having received authority from God to do so.

On the 6th of April, 1830, these two men and a few others met in the house of Peter Whitmer at Fayette, Seneca county, New York, and organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Six members participated in the organization, or say there had not been more than the total number of Saints at that time was only six, but there had been twenty-seven baptisms, including those of Joseph and Oliver prior to the formal organization of the Church. It was in order to comply with the law of the State of New York, which required at least six members to form a religious society, that the number participated, for there were others who desired to be present at the meeting, but neither was remarked, who concerned in the organization and declared themselves willing to receive Joseph and Oliver as inspired leaders. The fact should be a sufficient reply to those who imagine that "Mormonism" is a system of deceit, that the Priesthood lineage in high-handed procedure, regardless of the rights of the people. From the first the sacrifice of the cause of truth has prevailed which achievement. In so doing we can realize in some extent the truth of the prediction of holy prophets that there is a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men."

It is now about seventy-two years since the young Joseph Smith, then a boy about fourteen years of age, felt impelled moved the Lord in prayer and obtain from Him a knowledge of the Divine will in regard to Christ Jesus. It was on just such a bright spring morning as that which opened today that he went into the woods and the spirit of the Lord which of all the centuries then existing was the true one. He was born in a land of churches and Bibles. He was surrounded by sects, each claiming to be the true church of Christ, and it had never dawned upon him that one of these was in error, but which is the one, he did not know. Reading in the Epistle of James that "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally," he determined to put the word of God to the test, so sought the Lord, beseeching Him to hear and answer his prayers. He testifies that at this the first attempt to pray vocally, he was seized by a mysterious power which subjected his tongue and faculties and he was overcome with darkness, but he continued to pray in his thoughts and just as he seemed about to give way to the astounding influence that had seized him he saw a light descending from heaven which enveloped him. He saw the angel of the Immortal pillar of fire, and there appeared two personages, one of whom pointing to the other, said: "This is my beloved Son; hear Him."

This was the prevailing idea of God when Joseph Smith prayed for enlightenment. Now, the Prophet testifies that the glorious Being who answered his prayer was not the form of a man, and that he was destitute a new revelation to him, after having heard all he like that God was a living individual personality.

He testifies that he was told all the churches had gone astray. There had been a universal apostasy, and that not one having been authorized for the purpose of the Lord. The people honored God with their lips, while their hearts were far from Him. He was therefore instructed not to join any of the existing churches. The heavenly visitants then withdrew.

This took place in the spring of the year 1820. Three years later, Moroni, a holy angel, whose representative figure now surmounts the capitol of this Temple, visited the young prophet, and moreover himself a messenger from the presence of the Lord. He said he was the lineal descendant of Joseph who had ministered to the Nephites, an ancient people who inhabited this continent. He showed Joseph where there were records engraved on golden plates, which gave an account of the dealings of the Almighty with these ancient people. With the records were deposited an instrument called the Urim and Thummim, by the aid of which the plates could be translated. Joseph was told that God was about to begin a great work necessary to prepare the world for the glorious coming of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom which should never be thrown down. He was afterwards shown in the vision the plates from the hill Cumorah, this being the same anciently given to the hill, where Mormon, the last survivor of the great battle in which the Nephites were destroyed, had deposited the sacred records. The happenings about the year 385 A. D.

Joseph obtained and translated the plates, which translation is now known as the Book of Mormon, a history of the house of Joseph and the dealings of God with them, similar to His dealings with Israel in the Orient.

Angels again visited the faithful Prophet and conferred upon him the Priesthood. The Aaronic Priesthood was conferred upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery by John the Baptist, who ordained them to the following words: "Upon you, my servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the Gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness." This event took place on May 15, 1829, while Joseph was engaged in translating the plates. Shortly afterwards the Melchisedek Priesthood was conferred upon them. This is the power to preach the gospel of faith and repentance, and confirm by laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, not the authority to lay on hands and receive the Holy Ghost. To give this power mention Priesthood, the Melchisedek, should be added thereto, they were told, be conferred upon them. This was given to them when the time came, under the hands of Peter, James and John, who held the keys of this Priesthood.

As soon as they had received the Aaronic Priesthood they and Oliver were just to baptize each other by immersion, being the only time made at baptism, applying the burial and resurrection of Christ, the Redeemer. They were given to understand that sprinkling or pouring water upon the head, or the baptism of infants or the christenings of children, had been not authorized of God. Joseph and Oliver therefore baptized each other by immersion, after having received authority from God to do so.

On the 6th of April, 1830, these two men and a few others met in the house of Peter Whitmer at Fayette, Seneca county, New York, and organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Six members participated in the organization, or say there had not been more than the total number of Saints at that time was only six, but there had been twenty-seven baptisms, including those of Joseph and Oliver prior to the formal organization of the Church. It was in order to comply with the law of the State of New York, which required at least six members to form a religious society, that the number participated, for there were others who desired to be present at the meeting, but neither was remarked, who concerned in the organization and declared themselves willing to receive Joseph and Oliver as inspired leaders. The fact should be a sufficient reply to those who imagine that "Mormonism" is a system of deceit, that the Priesthood lineage in high-handed procedure, regardless of the rights of the people. From the first the sacrifice of the cause of truth has prevailed which achievement. In so doing we can realize in some extent the truth of the prediction of holy prophets that there is a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men."

The Book of Mormon was now published and scattered abroad. The work of God progressed. At the close of the year, the Church was commanded by revelation to move westward, to the Related Cities. About hundred and twenty-five Saints had been baptized there by certain Elders who had gone westward on a mission to the Indians, among the Lamanites, as they called them. Lamanites. These Elders had then proceeded on to Jackson County, Missouri. The Church was organized and established in Ohio, in 1831 they received about one week, a Bee which gives some idea of the progress of the work in the first year. Later a conference was held in Jackson county, Missouri, where the Saints had been directed to build a City of Zion. Joseph Smith declared that the whole American continent was the land of Zion, but that Jackson county was the particular place where the Saints should build up. Those who should be saved by the tribe of Joseph a great city called the New Jerusalem, which the old Jerusalem was to be rebuilt on the ancient site, and the other tribes of Israel. The word of Micah should then be fulfilled: "It shall come to pass in the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come and say, 'Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Joseph Smith declared that the spot where the city and Temple of Zion should be built was in the enclosed of Hill the land was given purchase for that purpose and for the gathering of the Saints.

In this our people were driven out of Jackson county. The Saints were misunderstood and misrepresented, then as now. It was all that they had done in Missouri to locate the promised land, and the result was threatened that their intention was to unite with the Indians in Indian Territory (now Kansas) for the purpose of carrying out this design. The truth was, however, that the Saints had been commanded to purchase the land and be upon no such.

They were to commit no overt act. Their mission was one of peace. They were to fill with a spirit of peace in all nations. They taught the Indians to cease their wars and bloodshed and to become civilized. The Boys of Mormon were taught that the Indians were their brethren, descendants of Joseph, to whom God had given this land as an inheritance, that these Indians, being so unfortunate and degraded, would yet become a white and delightsome people and take part in the building up of Zion. This was the message the "Mormon" Elders conveyed to the Indians. There was not the slightest thought of stirring them up to war against the Gentiles.

Another charge was that the Saints believed in the abolition of negro slavery. This was sufficient to blacken and condemn a Saint in the eyes of the Southern, most of whom were from the South. They were also accused of communism, which was falsely said to mean that the Saints were to have their property in common, and their property, in their wives. They were also charged with being poor, and the Missourians of that period had no fear of poverty. The result of the consequence was that in the fall of 1833, the saints, numbering from twelve to fifteen hundred souls, were driven with fire and sword from Jackson County. They have never since been permitted to return and possess their lands in that country.

But the work of God went on. Messengers were sent across the sea, the British Mission was opened, and the word of the Prophet Moroni began to be fulfilled. The people of other nations commenced to flock to Zion. Joseph Smith had been told as the result of his career that his name should be spoken well and evil of among all nations. Today we can see how this has been fulfilled. The Prophet's name, from being unknown outside his native village, has become the property of two hemispheres.

In 1839 Far West was founded in Caldwell county, Missouri. In the latter part of the year, the Saints numbered 15,000 in that State alone, besides thousands in Great Britain and the several States of the Union. In the winter of 1838-9 occurred the exodus from Missouri, the entire community, men, women and children being driven out by the Missouri mobs under the infamous order of Governor Boggs, that the "Mormons" must be exterminated or driven from the State. This was for differing religiously and politically with our Missourian. They went South to Illinois, where they found the Saints had preceded them in that State, and was called of as the coming exodus, which Oliver Cowdery had foretold in his prophecy in connection with the exodus of those in Missouri and after the murder of the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum, the Saints were driven from the City the Mississippi River, their entire westward was delayed by the enlistment of Mormon Battalion, which was called for by the United States in the war with Mexico. Hence the "Mormon" Pioneers could not commence their journey to Utah in one Party as originally all the before the spring.

In 1847 Brigham Young at the head of 143 pioneers entered the West and entered this valley in July. They were sent by Colonel Benton, an experienced mountaineer, that they should be the place of planting a colony in this valley until it had been demonstrated that people could be raised here. The idea was to make a wilderness or sagebrush and sedge, the paradise of the Union, the garden and the orchard. It was said he would prove for the first ear of corn grown here. Cache valley, adjoining east, was thought to be almost promising spot, to which he sent a company of Saints, and the remainder of the country and the arrival received as to colonization. Brigham Young declared that this was the place for the Saints to settle. He has seen it is a vision. A land had settled down from heaven, and a valley had descended to him. Others in the place where my people Israel shall pitch their tents."

The world can now see that he was right. There there are about 200,000 souls in Utah, and the work which commenced then has been done by a people who were despised and persecuted, "scattered and peeled" from the beginning. They present at the opening to which the world places, filled the messenger with cities, towns, villages, farms, fields and vineyards, embracing, civilization in the midst of adverse surroundings. The speaker was reminded of the testimony of one who came wending his way from the Mormon Settlements, and who braved Englishmen, who said to the Gentiles, in his newspaper were in a great New York paper: "You say the Mormons are deluded. But their delusions is a delusion not a fraud, but I only pen to stand upon the hills of Cache Valley and survey the scene spread out before me, towns, farms and villages, fields and farms stretching out in every direction on what was once a desert, and say to my fellow-men with truth and honesty, that Mormonism is either a fraud or a failure."

We have grown little by little, as a seed which rolling down the side of a mountain, increasing till it becomes an avalanche filling the whole valley below, or as a tiny trickling rivulet, which increases in volume, swelling itself, but again respecting and finally leaving a current of a mighty river hastening on to the ocean. We have spoken in bearing witness to the success of the nation. And our growth has not only been to numbers and to material wealth, but in spiritual things as well.

This Church was founded on the rock of revelation. God has spoken to this people. The Lord has given precept, for our guidance. There has never been a time in which God has ceased to speak to His people. He speaks in the revelations to Joseph Smith, and in the scriptures of Holy Scripture, by God's people man to progresses. They indeed old brine. Vineyards, but for the and regulations change, and the people must trey pace with the march of progress. God has dealt. For instance with the Priesthood. The Twelve and Seventies and Elders in the Church, High Priests and Bishops were unknown up to a year after the organization of Kirtland, and the Seventies and the Twelve Apostles were called first years later. Some of the Saints were very much tried because, in the organization of the Seventies, the highest quorum were added, such as the Seventies, High Priests, Apostles and Patriarchs, the First Presidency, and President of Priests and High Priests. The birth of some of the early Elders was nearly equal to those of Christ.

One week the speaker said it was David Whitmer who had been accepted all the revelations given through Joseph Smith up to the year 1833, but because these were received through the medium of a certain seer stone, and he rejected the following revelations because they were not so complete and, and he declared that those did not harmonize with the previous ones. He said he had other similar grounds, only Being the Bible somewhat later. Two gentlemen from Jackson county had recently called Salt Lake City. They were to fill with a spirit of peace, to Church of Christ. Their origin was this: some of the Nauvoo Saints had not faith enough to follow Brigham Young, and they thought that the Lord's wilderness had remained behind. One of these was an Elder named Hedrick. He said sense of his business, he was while fasting and praying received, they say, a command to return to the year 1831 to Jackson county. They with a spirit of peace to the