

nounced constitutional by the court of last resort, I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use my influence with the members of the Church over which I preside to have them do likewise.

There is nothing in my teachings to the Church or in those of my associates, during the time specified, which can be reasonably construed to inculcate or encourage polygamy, and when any Elder of the Church has used language which appeared to convey any such teaching, he has been promptly reprov'd. And I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

President Lorenzo Snow offered the following:

"I move that, recognizing Wilford Woodruff as the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the only man on the earth at the present time who holds the keys of the sealing ordinances, we consider him fully authorized by virtue of his position to issue the manifesto which has been read in our hearing and which is dated September 24th, 1890, and that as a Church in General Conference assembled, we accept his declaration concerning plural marriages as authoritative and binding."

The vote to sustain the foregoing motion was unanimous.

President George Q. Cannon

Spoke in reference to the manifesto, giving the reasons for its having been issued by President Woodruff. A synopsis of his discourse could not give an adequate idea of it. His remarks were of such vital importance that it is deemed better to await a full report of them, which will shortly be published.

President Woodruff,

Who had been deeply affected during the presentation of, and action upon the official declaration, also expressed himself on the same subject. His remarks will soon appear in full, the same reason for not giving a synopsis applying to his discourse, as well as to President Cannon's.

The choir sang:

How beauteous are their feet
Who stand on Zion's Hill,
Who bring salvation on their tongues,
And words of peace reveal.

Benediction by Apostle Heber J. Grant. Adjourned until 2 p.m.

Afternoon Session, 2 p. m.

The choir sang:

With joy we own Thy servants, Lord,
Thy ministers below,
Ordained to speak Thy truth abroad,
That all Thy name may know.

Prayer by Elder C. W. Peurose.

A special hymn entitled "Zion will be free," was sung by the choir.

Apostle Heber J. Grant

Briefly addressed the conference. He said in substance: I have great satisfaction in seeing so large a congregation present. I have never attended a conference at which more of the Spirit of the Lord was manifest. We have been united and the speakers have been inspired by the Spirit of truth. May I be able

to contribute something of the same character as that already given for the benefit of all present. I rejoiced in the large Priesthood meeting held here last night, at which the Spirit of God was present. I sustain a testimony borne at that gathering to the effect that the man who contributes to the support of God's work will be rewarded both temporally and spiritually. I have been gratified with the remarks that have been made about events, which some have imagined will take place in 1891. Some spend nearly the whole of their time in hunting mysteries, while neglecting important duties as they come along. The best course to pursue is to fulfil daily the duties required as they present themselves. In this way a man is rewarded as he goes along, and walks in the path that leads to salvation.

Apostle John W. Taylor

Was the next speaker. He said substantially: I feel thankful to my Heavenly Father for the privilege of attending this Conference. It is the best I ever attended in my life. I am in the habit of saying this every half year. I am like a hungry man who when he eats declares that this is the best meal he has ever partaken of. God has fulfilled His promise to His people and provided for them pastors and teachers after His own heart.

I was glad to be confirmed in my impressions regarding what some have expected would transpire in 1891.

I invite you all to pay your tithes and offerings, that this may be a land of Zion to us all. I am fully in accord with the views of Elder Grant in relation to the temporal duties of the Saints. When we engage to serve the Lord we do so that we might reap salvation. All that you will find yourselves possessed of as a foundation when before the bar of God will be your wives and children. If you train not your children you are blind indeed. There is a spirit working among the Saints to educate their own offspring. If our children will be all we will have for a foundation of glory in eternity, how needful that they be properly trained. The Church schools are the greatest institutions among this people and will be one of the greatest powers for good as one of the helps in the work of God. About two years ago an eastern paper published what purported to be a correct report of missions schools. He asserted that 5000 children of the Latter-day Saints in Utah attended them. If this be true it shows quite a percentage of parents who are inconsistent with regard to their religious duty. The ordinances of the Gospel have been taught to us and we are responsible for our children being instructed in these things.

The speaker here read from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants regarding the responsibility of parents regarding the proper instruction of their children. If I were a Catholic I would wish my children to be of that faith. So with any other religion. Being a Latter-day

Saint I desire my children to be of that faith. Otherwise I would be a hypocrite. There are among us wolves in sheep's clothing ready to lead astray our little ones. The cry has gone forth "Let Zion be defiled." Wolves do not devour old sheep when there are any young ones. I have herded sheep long enough to know that. Look after your children. If you are faithful over a few of them God will make you ruler over many. May God bless you all. Amen.

Apostle Mariner W. Merrill

Was the next speaker. The substance of what he said was as follows: I hope to have your attention that you may hear what I have to say. This position is not to me a desirable one. I am not here of my own choice. May the Lord favor me with His good spirit that what I may say may be of profit. I have felt that if ever there was a time when Saints needed the testimony of Jesus it is now. The Saints need that witness for themselves that they may understand the revelations as given from time to time. There was one given to President Taylor in 1882. It directed that all the quorums should be fully organized and the families of the Saints set in order. This was that the Priesthood and people might be preserved. We could hardly realize the importance of the word of the Lord in that relation at that time. We can see it now. Events since then require the Saints to know for themselves of the divinity of this great work. There is more or less fault-finding and complaining against each other among the people. When this is the case we should consider this matter, for the Lord has spoken on this subject and said we must forgive one another. It is written concerning the disciples of old, that there were envyings and strifes among them and they forgave not each other in their hearts, and were severely chastened in consequence. There may have been an outward form of reconciliation, but they forgave not one another inwardly and were in consequence afflicted and sorely chastened. He who will not forgive his brother stands condemned and there remains in him the greater sin. The speaker related an incident wherein one man refused to forgive another, although the brother against whom he entertained feelings asked for forgiveness and requested to know what he could do to regain his good will. Resuming his comments, Brother Merrill said: Is there anybody here who feels thus? if so he stands under condemnation, and lies under the greater sin. We ought to cease our fault-finding, and seek the Lord in fervent prayer morning, noon and evening. There is no other proper course for Saints. We must carry our religion into the actions of our lives. We must forgive one another as we desire to be forgiven. If we do not, God will not hear our prayers. He will be slow to answer our supplications. This evil is more or less prevalent. It keeps people away from their meetings. The time is now when we should