



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday, Apr. 13, 1870.

FORTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LAT-
TER-DAY SAINTS, APRIL 6, 1870.

ACCORDING to adjournment of the Conference held on Oct. 6th, 1869, the Saints met in a Conference capacity, this morning at 10 o'clock. The meeting was merely of a preliminary nature; as the Saints had been notified that, in consequence of the absence of Presidents Brigham Young and Geo. A. Smith, and also owing to the present unfinished condition of the gallery in the New Tabernacle, Conference would be re-adjourned until May 5th. The attendance was as large as might have been expected under the circumstances. The heavy snow storm which has prevailed almost without intermission, since yesterday morning, doubtless deterred many from being present who otherwise would have attended.

The postponement of Conference seems to have been opportune, as but few of the Saints from the country settlements could have attended on account of the stormy weather.

On the stand were President Daniel H. Wells, of the First Presidency; Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, Geo. Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, of the Quorum of the Twelve; Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, of the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum; George B. Wallace, of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion; Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and John Van Cott, of the First Seven Presidents of the Seventies; Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, the Presidency of the Bishopric; John W. Hess, Bishop of Farmington, F. A. Hammond, Bishop of Huntsville, and several other prominent Elders.

Conference was called to order by President Daniel H. Wells. The Tabernacle choir sang the hymn, commencing

"See! all creation join
To praise th' eternal God."

Prayer was offered by Elder John Van Cott. The hymn

"The towers of Zion soon shall rise
Above the clouds and reach the skies."

was sung by the Tabernacle choir.
PRESIDENT DANIEL H. WELLS

Said we have convened in a Conference capacity this morning, but we do not propose to transact the business that is usually attended to on such occasions, as those matters will be left over until the re-convening of Conference on the 5th of May. President Young and party were at Tokerville last night, all well.

ELDER JOHN TAYLOR

Spoke. It has been customary for the Latter-day Saints to meet on the 6th of April; although it has been considered wise and necessary to adjourn till another time. It is not so much mere forms and observances that we are after, but we are in search of truths and principles. Yet we feel a particular attachment for the times that have been set apart, not only in this city but in other parts of the Territory, and in various parts of the world where an organized portion of the church exists. The carrying out of the purposes of Jehovah and establishing righteousness on the earth ought to be the polar star of our ambition. If we have the spirit of the gospel this will be our aim. This is the object of the First Presidency, of the Twelve and of the Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons. The object for which we are here is not to introduce ideas of our own but to promulgate the laws of life. There were no philosophers, theologians, or scientists that knew our relationship to God, or His purposes with regard to the earth, before He revealed these things to Joseph Smith the Prophet; neither they nor we knew anything about them. It was

the Lord, through His Prophet, who revealed the sealing ordinances; how we might save ourselves and our families. It was He who taught us to be baptized for our dead. We are indebted to the Lord for all the blessings we enjoy. The kingdom of God will stand whilst all that is not founded on the rock of truth shall pass away like the baseless fabric of a dream. We know in whom we trust and He will sustain His Saints and will cause the discomfiture and overthrow of their enemies. May God bless all who love and favor Zion. Amen.

ELDER ORSON PRATT

Addressed the Conference. Forty years ago God organized His Church. It has not been sustained by human wisdom but by the power of God who is its Author. On the day when the Church was organized God gave many instructions relative to the duties of its officers. The Lord continued to give line upon line and precept upon precept. The command for the Saints to assemble together in conference, at stated intervals, wherever the Church was organized, came direct from the Almighty.

When it became necessary to build a Temple the plan was not devised by man's wisdom, but the Lord commanded that three men should be selected, unto whom the plan of the Temple would be shown, and it was done as directed and the Temple was erected according to the pattern given. The ordinances which were administered in the Temple were given by direct revelation. As the Elders went forth and declared unto the people, in the surrounding country, what the Lord was doing, persecution arose. The Saints were driven from place to place and despoiled of their property. Their persecutors had not polygamy then to plead as an excuse for their course; the reasons stated by them were that the Saints professed to have revelations from God, that they believed in the laying on of hands and anointing with oil for the healing of the sick; and another great objection urged was that the Latter-day Saints were too united. In the various parts where the Saints located and from which they were so ruthlessly driven, they petitioned the State authorities and laid before them their grievances, some of whom listened respectfully and others treated the matter with contempt. After we had been driven from Jackson county, Missouri, our steps were directed towards the West, and whilst we were out on the prairies a deputation was sent to inform us that we were required to furnish five hundred men to fight the battles of the country in Mexico; and although the circumstances under which the request was made were so peculiarly disadvantageous to the Saints, yet the quota of men was furnished.

When we came here we brought polygamy with us. It is an eternal part of our religion, and we will never relinquish it. We love the glorious principles we have received better than we do our homes, better than we do our lives. When compared with our hopes of eternal exaltation life is as nothing. When the Government granted to us, as a community, our present civil rights and government they were perfectly aware that we were a polygamous people. When the homestead law was extended to us it was well known that we believed in and practiced plural marriage. When the homestead law was made applicable to the people of this Territory we went forth in good faith and paid our money for our land, and we are now coolly informed that we shall not be permitted to possess these lands that we have pre-empted, cultivated and paid for. Is this just?

It is not in the province of Congress to say what portion of the Bible we shall or shall not believe in. Should the bill, which has just passed the House of Representatives, become law, then alas! for the liberty of our common country. The enjoining or compulsory enforcement of the monogamic law is one of the "twin relics of barbarism."

May the Lord bless us: Amen.

ELDER WILFORD WOODRUFF

Spoke. Our religion is God-given, and were we to relinquish it because of the fear of man, we would be recreant to every heaven-born principle. Civil and religious liberty is the keystone in the arch of the glorious Constitution of our country; if that be taken away the whole fabric must fall to pieces. This Government is in the hands of God. My life is of but small consequence when compared with my hopes of eternal happiness. No power will put down this work for God is at the helm and will guide it safely through.

President Young has done and is doing all in his power to benefit mankind, thus following in the footsteps of the prophet Joseph. I pray that we may be faithful to the holy principles we have received. Amen.

ELDER GEO. Q. CANNON.

Addressed the Conference. The Lord is calling the Saints to pass through circumstances that will conduce to make them a great people. We have had trials and persecutions, and the end is not yet. We shall doubtless have to pass through trials that will prove to God that we love Him supremely. All who have read the history of this people cannot but acknowledge that it is not plurality which causes the intense hatred that exists against them. If polygamy did not exist something else would be urged as an excuse for attempting to crush us out of existence. This we have bitterly experienced in the past.

It is not a light thing to embrace the gospel of Jesus. We are engaged in a joyous work and if we have to suffer in sustaining it, it is a glorious reflection that we are but following in the footsteps of others who have labored in the same cause. Although the clouds that seem now to be hovering over us, appear dark, doubtless God will deliver His people as signally as He ever has done heretofore, for we are laboring for the triumph of a principle that will tend to purify the human family. When the gospel was first revealed, revelation was not believed in. How widely revelations are believed in to-day! Thus it is that, although it may be unacknowledged, the world follow in our footsteps, although it may be in their own peculiar way. So will it be, probably, in relation to polygamy. If the Saints will be faithful the Lord will deliver them which is my desire in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PRESIDENT DANIEL H. WELLS.

If the Saints will be directed by the authority of the Holy Priesthood, the thing that is aimed at us will miss its mark. The blessings of God cannot be obtained on any other principle than by abiding His law.

President Wells then moved that this Conference adjourn to the 5th day of May. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

The Tabernacle choir sang the hymn commencing

"Daniel's wisdom may I know,
Stephen's faith and patience show."

Conference was dismissed by prayer by Elder Joseph F. Smith.

The Spirit of God was manifested and felt throughout the meeting; and the speakers were blessed with extraordinary freedom and power. We feel assured that none present, who came for the purpose of being edified, left, without feeling an increased desire, come what may, to sustain the work of God. We may look upon this as a harbinger of the good time that will be enjoyed at the Conference on Thursday the 5th of May.

JOHN NICHOLSON,
Clerk of Conference.

DIVERSITY OF OPINION RESPECTING THE PEOPLE OF UTAH.

IN yesterday's NEWS will be found some clippings from Eastern papers on the subject of the Cullom Bill. They afford a very good idea of the feeling which prevails respecting this measure. Thinking, observing men, however much they may dislike polygamy, can not but see that the passage of such a Bill, and the making of it a law of the land, will be attended with innumerable evils. It is no light affair for a Government, such as ours is, to interfere with the right of conscience. If the Latter-day Saints are to be told what they may or may not believe, how long will it be until some other denomination shall have a faith prescribed for it? If one man's faith can be interfered with, why not another's? Let this Bill pass, and a door is opened for the inauguration of sectarian strife, which will not terminate until free thought is utterly stifled, and medieval tyranny and superstition once more reign unchecked. If the "Mormons" are to be punished for believing the entire word of God, why not the Protestants be persecuted and hunted for believing a portion of it, or for putting their own interpretations upon it, instead of trusting to priests to explain and comment upon it? Or why not the Roman Catholics be compelled to abandon their peculiar tenets? If men can be exposed to the penalty of the law for believing more than the dominant party think they should, why

not make it a penal offence for not believing as much as they do, and subject free-thinkers and infidels to punishment for their unbelief?

Let a door of this kind once be opened in this Republic, and it will be found a difficult matter to close it again. There are many who seem to realize that there is danger in this kind of legislation, and they oppose it. There are others who frankly admit that such a measure is not constitutional; but then it is intended for the "Mormons," and why should there be any regard paid to the Constitution in their case? There are two classes who are urging members of Congress to enact severe laws against the people of Utah—they are religious bigots and contractors. It was men of the first class who crucified Jesus, persecuted and slew his followers and drenched the soil of the old world with the blood of the noble and the free who would not subscribe to their narrow and illiberal tenets. It was the latter class who, vulture-like, stood ready to profit by the ruin which they had urged on, worshipping no God but mammon and ready to part with honor and to sell body and soul for filthy lucre.

With the first class honor, honesty, virtue, temperance, good order and every other noble quality which a people can manifest pass for naught, so long as those who possess them are not of their creed and will not bow down to their shrine. With the other class the greed for money overpowers every other consideration; they can contemplate blood-shed, rapine, the destruction of a people and the desolation of their homes, with complete calmness and equanimity, so long as they can see a prospect of making money thereby. If these classes had their way, the fate of the people of Utah would soon be written. But there are other influences at work. There is a class of people, and they are a large and influential class, who look at all these matters from a different stand-point; they are not bigots, neither do they expect fat contracts by inaugurating a crusade against the "Mormons." They are not so noisy and impudent as the others, and therefore, in the beginning are not much heeded. But when they do move their influence is felt. Then the reaction begins, and justice is heard.

Already this class begins to make itself heard. We have been gratified at the wide publicity which has been given to the Remonstrance which was adopted by the General Mass Meeting last Thursday week. It has gone to every paper in the Union connected with the associated press. It will be read by millions, and will give the public a correct idea of our position and the nature of the evils with which we are threatened. It will evoke sympathy. Men will ask themselves, "what have the 'Mormons' done that they should be visited by such vengeance as this Cullom Bill contemplates?" The people of Utah have been dreadfully misrepresented, and many wrong impressions prevail about them; but there are millions of people who know that they have built up a flourishing State in a desert; they have heard of their past persecutions, of their privations, of their industry, good order and peaceful surroundings, and they will question the propriety, much more the justice, of exterminating them. It is not from bigots, or the mercenary scoundrels who expect pelf or fame from murdering and robbing an innocent community that we expect good thoughts, or moderate, wise action. As well might we look for mercy from a tiger. But there is another class, numerous and influential, whose opinion and judgment have weight, and to whose utterances all pay deference. It is probable that they may have something to say upon this question.

THE ST. LOUIS "TRIBUNE" AND THE "MORMONS."

Under the head of "Mormon Polygamy the St. Louis Daily Tribune, of the 1st inst., has an article on the "Remonstrance" recently adopted by the people of this city in mass meeting assembled. After giving the groundwork upon which their Remonstrance is based, the Tribune remarks that it is difficult to believe that a people who "must know the history of Joe Smith," can be sincere in justifying polygamy on the ground that it was enjoined by God through him. It further remarks that Smith's life and the history of the "Mormon Bible" are as well known as any other facts can be, and if the "Mormons" really believe them, it thinks, if no other reason existed, that their sys-