

for our good works, our endurance, and our labors for truth in the earth. Our lives here are but for a little season. Almost all the old members who were prominent in the Church have passed away. Nearly all who are at the head are new people.

The speaker proceeded to say that the Church had increased in strength from the beginning and that in the future it would not be of less importance than it was today, but would spread abroad, increasing in numbers and righteousness, and the Latter-day Saints would show the effects of the doctrines of the Gospel upon them. It would show in their communities, wards and Stakes as well as in themselves individually. The time was coming when the Latter-day Saints ought to seek to emphasize still more definitely the distinctive features of the Gospel in their lives.

In traveling among the Latter-day Saints difficulties were sometimes found to exist; but he begged of them to vie with each other in seeing who could be the most ready with the spirit of forgiveness. Where there was hardness of heart the Spirit of God could not dwell. In the presence of assembled Israel he warned the Latter-day Saints against the inclination towards stubbornness and unforgiveness. The Spirit of the Lord was full of forgiveness, justice, righteousness, mercy and long-suffering, and they could not possibly be true Latter-day Saints without these virtues.

Apostle Lorenzo Snow

remarked that they were dependent entirely upon the Lord whom they endeavored to serve for that intelligence and instruction, and those qualifications, which were essential in order that they might perform the duties and obligations devolving upon them. The Lord had accomplished a great deal for the Latter-day Saints. He had aided them materially in their various experiences, in the trials and temptations to which they had been exposed while endeavoring to carry out His purposes during the last sixty-one years.

In taking a retrospect of their history as a church and people, they could not but feel grateful indeed for the mercies of the Almighty towards them. Referring to the advancement of the Latter-day Saints, morally, spiritually, and financially, the speaker said that during his experience of the last fifty-five years—since he had been associated with this Church—he had watched the wonderful strides made in these respects. He dwelt upon the persecutions and trials through which the Saints passed in Nauvoo and Missouri, the sacrifice of their homes and farms, and even the Temple itself, which had been consecrated through the revelations of the Almighty. They submitted to these cheerfully, though it took considerable faith to make the surrender. In Missouri their wives and children tramped over the frozen plains, and in some places their tracks were marked with their blood. Yet despite all these trials, the people grew in strength in the principles which they had espoused. They knew that all these things were of God and that they were suffering for His cause. It was plain to their understanding that the Holy Ghost assisted them; otherwise those

sacrifices could never have been made. Various offers came that if they would renounce their principles there would be no cause for sacrifice; but they valued their religion too much to do this.

God had revealed to His chosen people many glorious things. He had enlightened their understandings; because when the Gospel reached them they were in darkness; they knew not God nor His ways. Who could wish for better prospects than were before the Latter-day Saints? What God had revealed in regard to their future was the result of faithfulness in this life in the carrying out of His purposes. It was wonderful what they had been able to do as a people, and they were still growing. More had been accomplished by the Latter-day Saints than by any other people on the earth. What more did their persecutors want than they had delivered over to them already? Why did their missionaries go forth and preach the Gospel, while some had even laid down their lives in God's cause? For the good of mankind at large—because we were the children of God. When men persecuted the Latter-day Saints they knew not what they did. This people would not be satisfied until every knee should bow and acknowledge the Lord as King.

God bless the Latter-day Saints. Let them not be discouraged. There was One at the helm who would not fail them, and the time would come when they would have everything that their hearts desired.

Apostle Abraham H. Cannon

was the next speaker, the following being the substance of his discourse: I have listened with great interest to the remarks of the speakers who have preceded me. God has been merciful unto us in imparting His mind and will through these Apostles who have addressed the conference. Though the Church has been organized nearly sixty-one years, it is still in its infancy. The events of the past will in future be considered small compared with those which will yet be developed. When we reflect concerning what God has said about the latter-day Zion, and the great things which are yet to come, we must see that we have scarcely passed the stage of childhood. We have not reached that maturity in which our greatest strength will be exhibited. Notwithstanding this, in comparison with the religious world at large, we are in the brilliant sunshine. In spiritual things the Saints lead the van of progress. In other things we, as a people, occasionally are very deficient. We have not learned how to live as Saints because we have not learned to take care of temporal blessings. We have not yet brought temporal blessings under subjection to the law of God. We are not as just nor forgiving as we should be. We are not as diligent in attending our meetings as we should be. The Gospel plan means temporal as well as spiritual salvation. It relates to time as well as eternity. Unless we learn more fully the temporal lessons of life we will come short of a fullness of blessings. Industries necessary for the future growth and benefit of Zion are not as much encouraged as they ought to be.

They languish in consequence of this indifference. It is not possible for Zion to grow and become a heaven to the honorable of the earth unless we take a more consistent course in regard to temporalities. Consider for a moment the financial difficulties passed through of late. It has been deemed necessary to induce capital to come here from abroad to build up the country. Why not put forth our own efforts and establish permanent industries.

In 1875 shortly after the Franco-German war, France had an immense indemnity fund to raise. It was so great that it would seem as if it must crush the nation. Yet it was all paid in an astonishingly short time, and France recently was able to loan England an exceedingly large sum to bridge a financial difficulty. The poor peasantry were able to come to the assistance of their government in paying the indemnity, and the latter pay the interest to their own people. Thus they build up their own country. Why cannot we emulate such an example. The time is foretold in relation to Zion that her people will yet become lenders and not borrowers. These thoughts have come to me while listening to the brethren.

Some people have predicted that the destruction of the Church is near. A greater error could not be made. Those who take this view have not read aright the history of this community.

The speaker went on to state that those who assert that the Church is going to decay, point, as an evidence in that direction, to what they conceive to be the mistakes of the authorities. What they hold to be mistakes are, however, only what was proper should be done under existing conditions at the time the steps were taken. The same class of pessimists regard the act of Adam and Eve in partaking of the forbidden fruit as a calamity to humanity, when it was a part of the divine plan whereby man could be brought to a knowledge of good and evil, and gain an experience that would advance him in the scale of being. A certain class of the cotemporaries of Moses condemned the leading of the Israelites out of bondage into the wilderness as a mistake. But the glorious results of the exodus is a manifestation of divine wisdom. The lowly character of the birth of Christ has been regarded by some as a mistake, as it would, in their estimation, have been better for Him to have come into the world under affluent circumstances, so that he might have been received by the rich and the noble. It was deemed a mistake for him to be nailed upon the cross, and even His disciples imagined when it occurred that their calling was gone. Yet that glorious act of sacrifice constituted the atonement of a God for the redemption of humanity. It is the judgment of men not illumined by the Holy Ghost which commits mistakes. Men's thoughts are not as God's. The men who have led this Church in this dispensation do not make mistakes, although, viewed by individuals devoid of the Holy Spirit, some of their acts may assume that appearance. I testify that President Woodruff who stands at the head of the Church is directed by the revelations of God. So with those associated with him. They may make mistakes in their personal con-