Of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt

conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is one that I very much appreciate; though I feel comewhat strange in responding to the call that has been made upon me, realizing as I do that these are occasions when the people of God assemble for the purpose of listening to their leaders, and that it is more a time for exhortation and testimony than for doc-

have received at his hands. The main reason, I presume, why he has asked me to speak, is because I happen to represent, in a way, one of the general institutions of the Church. Since the opening of the year 1839 I have been connected with the Church Historian's office. While I have not Historian's office any report I will Historian's office. Historian's office. While I have not been asked to make any report. I will say that that institution, during the period of which I am qualified to speak, has kept pace with the general progress of the Church. It is not my purpose to draw any invidious comparisons be-tween the present and the past. There is no need to do so. We all understand that the Lord's work is progressive, and that it was intended to be. It is no re-flection upon the past to say that the flection upon the past to say that the present overtops it, that we are in advance today as a people over any for-mer period in our history. When I ex-press the belief that the Church of God, press the belief that the Unat the Unat of Jos-now presided over by President Jos-eph F. Smith, is in a better condition, spiritually and temporally, than ever before, I do not cast any reflection up-on the Prophet Joseph Smith, who founded the Church, nor upon President Brigham Young, his worthy and lawful Brigham Young, bis worthy and lawful successor, nor upon any of the servants of God who have in turn presided over this great latter-day work. It is sim-ply a recognition of the general princi-ple of progress, that is inherent in the work of God, and is among the things predestined. So, also, when I say that the Historian's office is in a better con-dition then it has ever been. I do not dition than it has ever been. I do not cast any reflection upon the faithful services of former historians. But it services of former historians. But it gives me pleasure to testify to the wis-dom, ability and energy manifested by President Anthon H. Lund, the present historian. He has watched over the in-stitution with all the care and anxiety of a father for his favorite child. He has given it what time he could spare from his duties, as one of the First Presidency. He has come early and remained late, and has put in more hours of willing and cheerful toil than any of his subordinates. I attribute much of the present good condition of the office to him and to those who have directed his labors. directed his labors.

upon this great congregation. I see men and women from the north, from the south, from the east, and from the west, assembled here for the purpose



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