

inquiry into the history of the primitive Church showed that the apostles and saints possessed authority; that these were destroyed and the world was left without authority to administer in the Gospel ordinances. To-day the Latter-day Saints testify that the authority of God and his Gospel with its ordinances and powers, had been restored to man, Joseph Smith had been chosen as the great Prophet of the latter days. As the Apostle Peter foretold, Jesus had come and called Joseph to this mission. Paul foretold the universal apostasy, and investigation showed that the condition he described had been reached in this age. Daniel foretold the restoration of the kingdom, and to-day the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized with all the officers, powers etc., that characterized the ancient church. Men need have no doubt on this subject, as the Lord had promised that each one who did the will of the Father should know of the doctrine. It was claimed by many that sinners would be permitted to enter the kingdom of heaven on simply believing in Jesus, and they cited the instance of the thief on the cross. An investigation of this circumstance shows that the thief did not go to heaven, but into an intermediate place, where spirits dwell, between death and the resurrection.

The speaker had proved, in his own experience, that God was true to his word, and that the Gospel was true. He bore a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel which had been restored to earth and had been received by the Latter-day Saints, and prayed that the people might be guided in righteousness.

ELDER FRANKLIN S. RICHARDS was the next speaker. He felt thankful that he had a testimony that the Latter-day Saints were the people of God, and that they had the true Gospel. They believed in having faith in God; in repentance, which meant the forsaking of sin; in baptism for the remission of the same. The Elders made the promise to all who received these principles that by the laying on of hands they would receive the Holy Ghost and a positive testimony of the truth from God. The Latter-day Saints had received this testimony. They knew that God lived; that He had restored the Gospel; and that those principles the Saints had accepted were a means of salvation. This knowledge, constituted one difference between the Saints and those who professed Christianity, but had not received the fullness of the Gospel. The Saints had an absolute knowledge of the truth of their claim, and that was what made them so tenacious of their principles; otherwise they could not have borne the persecution which had been heaped upon them. It had proved a source of strength, and was preparing them for a great mission. It was not enough to take only the initiatory steps referred to; those only brought them to the threshold of life. They were a practical people. They realized that there were duties and obligations resting upon them in other than spiritual ways. They realized that they were a part of a great government—the grandest and freest on the face of the earth. They also realized the necessity of obtaining a citizenship, and they were proud of it. They had been accused of a desire to overthrow the government. The accusation was false. Every good Latter-day Saint was a loyal citizen. They believed it to be a duty to exercise all the rights of citizenship when they were qualified. They also had social duties which they were bound to perform. They believed that they would be rewarded for their good works, and would have to atone for their sins. Through the atonement they could receive remission of sins by repentance and baptism. In the present circumstances many of those for whom the Saints would be willing to lay down their lives were exiled or in prison. But the Saints did not forget them or their teachings, and they looked forward to a time when their enemies would realize that they knew not what they were doing when they were opposing "Mormonism." But heavy as the pressure was, the power of God had strengthened the Saints to bear up under it and they would triumph. Truth would prevail. It might be crushed to earth, but in time it would rise and ultimately attain the victory. In the Gospel there was nothing but love, and under its teachings the Latter-day Saints could pray to the Lord to forgive their enemies. When the Saints were compelled to meet obstacles in the way of their doing good, it caused them sorrow. It was painful to see a man, because he believed in revelation and would not say that he would disobey the God of heaven, excluded from the privileges of citizenship in this great Christian nation. With the testimony which the Saints had of the truth of the Gospel, they would have to be true to themselves and to God, notwithstanding persecution, or become traitors to all that was good. The speaker prayed that the saints would be faithful to all their duties in life, and act so as to preserve their liberties.

ELDER ABRAHAM H. CANNON next addressed the congregation. He had been caused by the remarks he had heard, to reflect on the position the Saints occupied in relation to the government. If they had done their duty they had an absolute knowledge of the truth of the Gospel, and were not dependent on the opinion of

any man. God had promised them the spirit of revelation for their guidance, and it was of this spirit that every true Saint had partaken. It taught that obedience to the Gospel would bring life eternal, and disobedience bring death eternal. Whom shall they obey, God or man? Blackstone had said that when the two laws came in conflict, the law of God should be obeyed in derogation to that of man because it was superior. The speaker had been born and reared, in this city, and had never heard his parents or the Saints say anything in derogation of the Constitution or of the laws, except such as infringed on their religious rights, and which were unconstitutional. The Lord had told the Saints that He had inspired the Constitution, and that all laws which sustain the rights of man were constitutional. The Saints would be justified in sustaining all such. When these revelations were given there was no law of the country against the doctrines of the Gospel. Because enactments had been made since then, should God retract what He had said? The principle of plurality of wives was known to the Prophet in 1832, though the revelation was not written until ten years after. In 1852 it was publicly proclaimed as a doctrine. In 1862 a law was passed against it, but so little faith had its framers in the constitutionality of the act that for ten years no effort was made to enforce it. Since then other laws had been made against it, but, as God lives the principle will not be driven from the earth. It was no new thing for the Saints of God to be legislated against. Even Jesus Christ was murdered under a form of law, perverted by wicked men. It was under the form of law that the Huguenots, Waldenses and others were persecuted and driven for their religion. And it would so continue till Christ should come to reign.

Notwithstanding these things there were bright hopes for the Saints. The three Hebrew children refused to bow the knee before the graven image, and according to the edict of the king they were cast into the fiery furnace. But God preserved them, while those who administered the unjust law were destroyed. In the case of Daniel, when the law forbade prayer to God, the Prophet continued to pray as was his custom. Daniel, according to the law, was cast into the den of lions, but was preserved by the Almighty, while those who sought to destroy him were themselves devoured. The Lord Jesus was betrayed by one whom he had chosen as an Apostle. Jesus suffered, but his betrayer destroyed himself, and his punishment was not yet past. The evil that the enemies of Zion sought to bring on the people would be turned to themselves. The Latter-day Saints should remember the fearful fate that befell the Jews because they neglected and disobeyed his words to them. He said: "If you will hearken to my words and keep the counsel that I have this day given you, I will bless you in your basket and in your store. I will bless you with faith. I will bless your bodies; I will bless your fields and the increase of your kin, and if your enemies come against you one way they will flee before you seven ways. The blessings of the heavens will be showered down upon you until you will not have room to contain them. But, said He, unless you hearken unto me and listen to my words and keep the counsel that I have given you this day, then are curses instead of blessings promised unto you. You shall go out against your enemies in one way, but will flee before them seven ways. You shall be cursed in your basket and your store: you shall be cursed in your field and flocks and lambs; when you take wives unto yourselves they shall be taken away from you; shall build houses but not inhabit them; plant vineyards but neither gather the grapes nor drink the wine thereof. The heavens will be as brass over your heads and the earth beneath as iron to you." How completely these words of God to them were fulfilled during the great siege and at the destruction of Jerusalem. In one year God's chosen people fell and were scattered throughout the earth, and are to-day a hiss and a by-word among all nations and a standing witness to all people of the power of God's wrath.

What the Almighty says is true, for his words cannot fail, and, my brethren and sisters, His blessings will follow you if you are faithful, if you are true, if you sin not against God, if you maintain your integrity, if you obey His commands and hearken unto His words. But if you do not keep His commandments curses far worse than those that fell upon the Jews will come upon you, and upon your children and children's children; for unto you is committed the greatest dispensation that ever came upon the earth, even the dispensation of the fullness of times. His work will progress until the Gospel is proclaimed in all the world, until every soul has had the privilege of receiving the plan of salvation or rejecting it to his own condemnation. Now, the Lord says to Israel, choose this day whom ye will serve—God the Ruler of this earth, or whether you will bow the neck and receive the yoke of the oppressor, and become subject to the rule and power of the unbeliever. If you serve God all will be well with you. Dark clouds may appear for a time and persecution and trouble be heaped upon you by the wicked and those who do not know God, but He will put upon you His Holy Spirit. It will whisper consolation to your souls,

and His power will be made manifest in the midst of this people.

It would not be long before Zion will be free and Israel be redeemed from the hand of the wicked. I do not believe that God is going to desert His people in the hour of trial. Those who keep His commandments will be brought up out of their tribulation and trials, while the wicked will be overthrown. Remember the words of God given to the Prophet Joseph Smith on August 6th, 1833: "Verily, I say unto you, my friends, fear not, let your hearts be comforted; yea, rejoice evermore and in everything give thanks, waiting patiently on the Lord, for your prayers have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and are recorded with this seal and testament, the Lord hath sworn and declared that they shall be granted; therefore He giveth this promise unto you, with an immutable covenant that they shall be fulfilled, and all things wherewith you have been afflicted shall work together for your good, and to my name's glory, saith the Lord. And again I say unto you, if ye observe to do whatsoever I command you, I, the Lord, will turn away all wrath and indignation from you and the gates of hell shall not prevail against you."

PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

Said the authorities of the Church, now in enforced exile, were anxious to again meet with the Saints and give to them the word of the Lord. The speaker rejoiced in listening to the precious truths enunciated at this conference. Repentance was necessary in some respects among the Saints. Their hearts were now being turned more fully to the truth through repentance, and he felt that there was hope that the servants of the Lord will yet come forth in liberty to administer the word of God. Will the Saints turn from all iniquity, and cleave only to righteousness? If they did their leaders would be liberated to again meet with them. President Taylor's heart went out to the people to have them live in purity and observe the laws of God in all things. The houses of those in authority among the Saints should be set in order. The revelation on celestial marriage had been embraced by a considerable portion of the Saints. They had been put through an ordeal, and few of them had swerved from their integrity. They had not been cast into a fiery furnace, but they were thrown into dungeons. They preferred prison rather than accept liberty at the price of renouncing their sacred covenants. A law had been passed requiring all who desired to register to take an oath provided for them. Many were unable to take this oath because of having entered into the relationship of celestial marriage. Abraham, to secure God's friendship, had been willing to undergo all things, and had been rewarded. To-day men who had entered into celestial marriage were not in a position to take the oath, but those who had not were. Men who take the oath should do it to honor God, and stand as a bulwark to protect the people from a horde of plunderers who would crush them into abject slavery. The Saints should obey God in all things and be faithful to their covenants with Him. They would receive the recompense of their actions. The present condition was only history repeating itself. The responsibility was with the Congress who made such an infamous law. If men took the oath and intended to keep it, their motives in that regard were pure. The manner in which many professing Saints had neglected the law of celestial marriage showed that they could keep the other. He hoped they would be true to God and to their country. If they would do this they would defend the liberties of the people. The Lord would justify them in what they did honestly. If you take the oath, keep it, but do not promise that you will not obey God. If the oath required that the Saints could not take it. It did not, however, do this, but only required that they continue to live in obedience to the law. The speaker exhorted the Saints to live lives of righteousness.

ELDER JOHN T. CAINE

stated that the Saints expected the laws to be enforced, but they objected to the unconstitutional manner in which they were enforced. President Cleveland expressed himself as wishing the law enforced as all as others were, with equality. In reference to the searching of a man's belief and conscience, it had been thought proper that the people make some expression, and he therefore presented the following:

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTION.

Whereas, Congress has passed a law prescribing an oath to be taken by the citizens of Utah Territory, as a condition precedent to registering, voting, holding office, or serving as jurors; and

Whereas, the discussions in Congress while the said law was pending, showed plainly that the intention of the law-makers was that the said oath should not interfere with the rights of conscience or religious belief; and Whereas, some of the courts of this Territory, in the selection of jurors, have departed from both the letter and spirit of the law and have required to be taken a form of oath that is not authorized by said law, because of its infringement upon the domain of conscience and religious belief; and

Whereas, on application to a court of this Territory, of certain persons for naturalization, the applicants were questioned, by the presiding judge, as to their membership in a particular Church, their belief in certain of its doctrines and what would be their course of action should they receive a revelation from God in regard to the same; and having declared their belief in Divine revelation, they were arbitrarily denied the privilege of citizenship, solely on account of their religious belief, although they declared their intention to support the Constitution of the United States and obey the laws, and signified their willingness to take all the oaths required by law; and,

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States provides that no religious test shall ever be imposed; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, residents of Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, in conference assembled, do enter our solemn protest against such inexcusable and unwarrantable infringements upon the rights and liberties of the people. We hold that if these outrageous abuses of power are permitted to go unchecked, they will endanger the most sacred institutions of our country, and we appeal to all lovers of freedom to discountenance these unconstitutional proceedings as antagonistic to the fundamental principles of our government, and violative of the rights of American citizens, in their enjoyment of freedom of conscience and religious liberty.

The foregoing was unanimously adopted by the vast congregation.

Elder A. M. Musser read an invitation to those who desired to participate with the choir in congregational singing to meet with the choir next Friday evening, and on the second Friday in each month subsequently, for practice.

The choir sang the anthem,
The Nations bow to Satan's thrall.

Conference adjourned.
Benediction was pronounced by Elder George G. Bywater.

A leading Real Estate Agent and Private Banker, Mr. Ira Brown, Chicago, Ill., writes: "I feel it my duty to say of St. Jacobs Oil that I lay on my back three months with rheumatism. I tried it, was cured, and have never been troubled since." Permanent cure.

ESTRAY NOTICE

I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION:

One sorrel MARE, 2 years old, some white in forehead, branded W T with half circle over the letters on left thigh.
If the above described animal is not claimed on or before May 17th, 1887, it will be sold at public auction at the estray pound, Tooele City, at 11 o'clock a. m., May 17th, 1887.
M. B. NELSON,
Poundkeeper.

Tooele City, U. T., May 7, 1887.

ESTRAY NOTICE.

I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION:

One brown horse MULE, about four years old, shod all round; branded F on right thigh.
One sorrel HORSE, white face, two white feet, about ten years old; branded H Y combined on left thigh, blotch on left shoulder.
One dun colored MARE, about eight years old; branded X on right thigh, O on left thigh, something like M on left shoulder.
One brown HORSE, white strip in face, about ten years old, blind in right eye, saddle marked, with sore back, blotch brand on left shoulder and thigh.
If said animals are not claimed and taken away within 10 days from date they will be sold at the highest cash price on Tuesday, May 17, 1887, at my corral.

ALFRED A. JONES,
Poundkeeper.
Hunter precinct, S. L. Co., May 7, 1887.



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What Mr. Beyer says: "Please best thanks for the splendid seeds received from your firm. It would be a rather lengthy list if I should name all, but will say that amongst 38 first, and 3 second premiums awarded me at our fairs in Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan, 23 first premiums were for vegetable raised from your seeds. What firm can beat this?"

Seed of this quality I am now ready to sell to every one who tills a farm or plants a garden, sending them FREE my Vegetable and Flower Seed Catalogue, for 1887. Old customers need not write for it. I enclose this season the native wild potatoes.

J. A. B. GREGORY, Seed Grower, Marshall, Mich.