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THE LATE CONFERENCE.

The General Conference which closed yesterday was probably the most numerously attended, especially at its closing sessions, of any similar gathering since the organization of the Church. Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon it was estimated that not less than five thousand people were unable to gain admittance to the large Tabernacle, which was crowded in every part. Even the standing space was densely packed. Probably 12,000 were in the building.

The scene of yesterday suggested the necessity at some time, not far in the future, of providing ampler means for the people as a whole to obtain the benefits of these great gatherings, when Israel assembles semi-annually for worship and instruction. It appears almost inevitable that a division of the congregations must some time ensue in order to enable the worshippers to attain the object they have in view in leaving their ordinary employment and traveling, large numbers of them, long distances to listen to the words of the servants of God, that they may, after such seasons, enter upon the usual duties of life and discharge their obligations to the Almighty with renewed zeal, faith and vigor.

This thought is made all the more impressive by a fact that is occasionally demonstrated—the inability of the generality of speakers to make the people as a whole who form those immense congregations hear. The splendid acoustic properties of the Tabernacle are insufficient to overcome this difficulty when the building is overcrowded, there being, necessarily, when such is the case, more or less noise in the body of the great hall. This inability of the people to hear all that was said during the later sessions of the Conference which ended yesterday, was probably the only feature that marred the pleasure and profit of the occasion.

The instructions were excellent, being spirited and timely. The Epistle from President Woodruff, in behalf of the Twelve, was especially comprehensive. Its theme and those of the speakers generally were in the direction of leading the repentant sinner to look to the beacon of hope, as the mercy of God promised forgiveness to those who forsake the path of wrong-doing. The comprehensive, liberal and far-reaching character of the plan of salvation was portrayed with great force and clearness, while the exhortations to charity could not fail to have great weight upon the listeners. The allusions to the perplexities and opposition by which the Saints are confronted, together with explanations of their causes, were appropriate, while the persuasions of the brethren to induce the people to adopt the higher law of self-sacrifice in place of resorting to self-seeking processes were in exact unison with the portrayals of the situation.

It is impossible to over-estimate one feature of the instruction—the necessity of each individual conducting himself with such uprightness as to insure his possession of sufficient divine light to enable him to be proof against temptation that would induce him to act contrary to the interests of the work of God. Notwithstanding the forbidding aspect of the present, all seemed to be inspired with the hope of a bright outcome, and a firm assurance of the final triumph of truth.

As usual, the musical exercises constituted a delightful feature of the conference. The singing of the choir under the leadership of Brother Beesley was all that could be reasonably desired, while Brother J. J. Daynes' manipulation of the grand organ was masterly. The other instrumental parts were also executed harmoniously. The rendition of the closing anthem "We will give Thanks," was inspiring grand.

The measures instituted by President Angus M. Cannon and operated by an appropriate committee, for the substantial entertainment of the visiting Saints from a distance, worked to a charm. The latter were hospitably provided for in the matter of food and lodging. This arrangement eliminated all the elements of discomfort and inconvenience that might otherwise have existed on an occasion when thousands of people flocked into the city from the settlements.

Altogether the Conference was an excellent one, the Spirit of God being present in the assemblies of the Saints.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

FIRST DAY.

AFTERNOON SESSION, APRIL 5TH.

The hymn on page 108 was sung by the choir:

May we who know the joyful sound,
Still practice what we know;
Not hearers of the word alone,
But doers of it, too.

Opening prayer by Counselor Daniel H. Wells.

Singing by the choir:

When the voice of friendship's heard,
Sounding like a sweet toned bird,
When the holy notes inspire
With devotion's pure desire.

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW

spoke. The substance of what he said was as follows: I have been pleased with the instructions given this morning. We have gathered for the purpose of worshipping God and transacting business necessary for the furtherance of the cause of truth on the earth. The character of the instructions will depend largely upon the condition of our minds. We should dismiss therefrom our secular business and devote our attention to the purpose of this Conference.

Fifty-eight years ago this Church was organized. Fifty-two years of that time I have been connected with it. When I concluded to identify myself with it, I felt it necessary to ascertain its divine character. It is to be presumed that every man and woman views this subject similarly. The Gospel gives us this opportunity. The person who does not take advantage of this privilege is not in a safe condition. We have passed through many trying scenes since this work was established. There is no other way in which the Saints can make spiritual improvement and be prepared for an inheritance in the celestial kingdom than through tribulation. It is the process by which knowledge is increased and peace will ultimately be established universally. It had been said that if all our surroundings were peaceful and prosperous now, we would become indifferent. It would be a condition that would be all that would be desired by a good many natures; they would not stretch out after the things of eternity. Present circumstances are exceedingly disagreeable, and so they have been at many times since the work of God was established. For some time previous to the present crusade matters had been for a lengthy period pleasant and peaceful. It was questionable whether we were then making as much progress as we are doing surrounded by adversity. We have open to us opportunities to indicate whether or not we are willing to endure any trial that any apostle or saint in any age has accepted for the sake of the truth.

The channel of revelation is open to us as anciently. In the meridian of time, while He was in mortality, the Savior did many mighty works, yet these did not cause the people to recognize his identity as the Redeemer. This is exhibited in the question put by Him to Peter, whom He asked who men said he was. Peter told him he was taken to be a variety of personages. Christ asked Peter who he said He was. "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God," was the answer. The Savior therefore blessed him and gave him the keys of the kingdom and promised to build his church on the rock of revelation. Peter had power to impart the Holy Ghost to believers and that spirit was to communicate to them the things of God. Joseph Smith, whose divine mission was referred to this morning, by apostles, claimed to receive the same authority that was conferred upon Peter. It was given him under the hands of Peter, James and John. This power having been revealed and conferred upon man, it is the privilege of the Latter-day Saints, to understand, by the Spirit of God, the reasons why they are required to pass through the difficulties by which they are beset. In the career of the Church the Lord has done for the Saints all that he promised. He has brought us through affliction and has enlightened us in regard to his own nature and our relationship to Him. There is no people that has more reason to be grateful to Him than the Latter-day Saints. He has shown us that if we are faithful we will associate with each other in an immortal and glorious state; that those connections formed here, that are of the most enduring character, shall exist in eternity. As we keep the commandments of God new things that give us knowledge and joy are unfolded to our view.

Among our trials are temptations, by which we are enabled to show how much we value our religion. You are familiar with the experience of Job in that respect. He was given a knowledge of the resurrection, and of the Redeemer, and he knew that although he should die yet should he, in the latter days, see his Redeemer on the earth. The temptations to which he was subjected showed that he valued these heavenly considerations above everything else. The Latter-day Saints have gone further than our sectarian friends profess to have done. We have met with men who claimed to have authority from God, who have informed us if we believed, were baptized by immersion for the remission of sins and received the laying on of hands for the imparting of

the Holy Ghost we should know of the truth of the doctrine. We have accepted these doctrines, and having found a divinity in them, we are thus enabled to withstand trials when they come upon us. We have received a knowledge of these things, and we have a right to testify concerning them. No one can consistently deny that we possess this witness unless he places himself under the conditions by which we claim to have obtained it.

The Prophet Joel predicted that the Spirit of God would in the latter times, be poured out upon all flesh. One of the effects of the spirit is a spiritual faith, then there are other gifts, of a miraculous character, which are, according to my knowledge, distributed among the Latter-day Saints. There are thousands of people who can testify that the predictions of the Elders made to them to the effect that if they should by obedience to the principles called "Mormonism," they would obtain a knowledge of the divine origin. This is the reason why they have gathered. We have a testimony concerning Christ, that He is coming to the earth, to reign. We testify concerning these things, and for them we are willing to go to prison and endure all manner of abuse, contumely and reproach. Because God is our Friend we do not fear. We may have to continue to be subjected to many conditions that are disagreeable. By them we are enabled to show the angels that we love the things of God better than the things of the world.

I remember very distinctly, in Kirtland, forty-one years ago, perhaps, that there was a spirit of speculation. It came moving from the world and finally reached the Latter-day saints. Some of them began speculating; they forgot their religion, they forgot the principles that had been revealed to them, and many of them fell into the spirit of the times and were carried away with speculating. Difficulties arose—envy and strife—and the Lord, being displeased with them, brought destruction into their midst and they were broken to pieces as a settlement. But we do not wish that such things should transpire again. The Latter-day Saints ought to be too far along in wisdom and intelligence to fall into snares of this character. It does not pay. It will pay no man to turn his back upon these glorious principles and those things which have been received from the eternal worlds—to turn our backs upon these things and mix up and devote ourselves to the beggarly things of the world. It will not pay us. What ever temptation may come upon us or to which we are now exposed we should listen to the history of the past, and not allow ourselves to be overcome, or we will much regret it.

Every man has got to learn to stand upon his own knowledge; he cannot depend upon his neighbor; every man must be independent; he must depend upon his God for himself entirely. It depends upon himself to see if he will stem the tide of trouble and overcome the impediments that are strewn in the pathway of life to prevent his progress. A man can get information by the operations of the Holy Spirit and he approaches to God and increases in his faith in proportion as he is diligent. Every trial a man goes through, if he is faithful in that trial and does honor to God and his religion he has espoused, at the end of that trial or affliction that individual is nearer to God, nearer in regard to the increase of faith, wisdom, knowledge and power, and hence is more confident in calling upon the Lord for those things he desires. I have known individuals who have trembled at the idea of passing through certain ordeals who after they were through the temptation have said they could approach the Lord in more confidence and ask for such blessings as they desired.

What will be the end of these troubles which now hang around us? We do not pretend to say. Neither is it a matter of very deep interest to any of us. But what is of particular interest in regard to these things is that we be careful and do right ourselves, and not be overcome by the weak things, but be humble before God and follow His promptings. There was very many who apostatized fifty-one years ago in Kirtland when the same kind of difficulties as are now upon us were among the people then. There were many to whom the Lord had revealed things and blessed them in many ways. But they could not withstand the temptations of the world. But they went to work and increased their wealth in a way that God was not pleased with. They grasped at every opportunity to get wealth in a way that was displeasing to the Almighty. Hence some of them apostatized in consequence of their indulging in that spirit. I wish to make these statements for the benefit of the Latter-day Saints. Listen to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit, that when such things are brought before us to tempt us we may have power to lay them one side.

Perhaps I have said enough this afternoon.

We have every reason to rejoice and to be full of joy and satisfaction, notwithstanding the difficulties that surround us. And how far have we advanced, how much knowledge have we obtained and how much more are we able to bear now than one, two or five years ago, and are we able to stand more now than a few years ago? The Lord has strengthened us and increased us in our growth. Like the infant, when it grows up it knows not how it received gradual strength and the man-

ner in which it increased in stature. It is larger this year than last. So in regard to our spiritual advancement. We feel stronger today than we did a year ago. And this Church stands firmer now at this Fifty-eight Annual Conference than fifty-eight years ago, when it was organized with six members. There are men who have a very extensive knowledge of God and would suffer almost any kind of martyrdom before turning their backs upon the principles God has revealed. We are increasing in wisdom as a body. We can suffer now a great deal more than we could several years ago. Then we could not exercise the patience in the midst of our persecutions that we can today. There is no people upon the face of the earth who can exercise the patience, and bear the evils of the world, as we have done. It is marvelous that the people, thousands and thousands of them, can stand difficulty and trials and suffering in so much patience. We turn not and revile not our enemies. It is because the Spirit of God has increased within our midst as a people. And those who have persecuted us have done so because of their ignorance. If they could see as God does, they never would think of persecuting us as they do. Had the Jews known Jesus when he was in their midst and known what he was willing to suffer from them they never would have done what they did. Neither would our enemies do as they have and are still doing if they knew what we are willing to suffer for them. But they do it because Satan has power over them. It is not because of their natural disposition to afflict their brethren and sisters. For we are all the offspring of the same God. And these, our persecutors, are the children of God. The evil one may have such power over them that they cannot receive the truth, and we cannot do for them the good we would like to do. But in years to come we will go into the Temples and administer in ordinances through which they may have an opportunity, after they have suffered for their evils on earth, of receiving these Gospel truths, which God has so clearly made known unto us. This is what we expect to do to our enemies.

God bless the Latter-day Saints, and may we have the Spirit of the Lord and exercise patience and long-suffering. May we have a glorious Conference, that it may be said, as it always has been, that the last Conference is always the best. This is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

ELDER JACOB GATES.

was the next speaker. He said: I am glad to have the privilege of meeting with the Saints in Conference. The Church was organized fifty-eight years ago with six members. It was one of the most important events in the history of the earth. It was destined to revolutionize the world, and prepare the way for the coming of Christ and the introduction of that righteousness that will produce the Millennium. I am thankful to have the privilege of living in such a momentous age. Notwithstanding the difficulties we have to encounter, this people will triumph over all their enemies, who will yet regret their course toward this people, who have sacrificed their comfort for the welfare of humanity. Although we have been buffeted and persecuted, we have in the face of it all increased in strength. But we are hardly half-grown, yet in our immature condition we appear to be feared by those who wish our destruction. They are afraid we will become strong and numerous and overturn their false systems, which is correct. All that has come upon this people in the shape of persecution has been for their good. Every possible effort has been made to induce us to become like the rest of the world, but we cannot afford to do that. This is the work of God. He prepared the platform upon which we should stand, and we propose to stand by it. What is that platform? To do the works of righteousness and show to the world that we are just what we profess to be. This course will lead us up to all that the heart can wish, for eye hath not seen nor ear heard that which is in store for the faithful. Such will receive, according to the promise, "all that the Father hath." I have never in all my experience in this Church—almost fifty-five years—seen a better time than the present. The situation was predicted by the Prophet Joseph and the harder it blows the quicker it will be over. If we are persecuted for righteousness' sake, blessed are we, but if otherwise we get only what we deserve. We are called to be Latter-day Saints and nothing else. Our course should be upward and onward and we should never yield a single point until victory is won. We never will let up in our labors until every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ.

The anthem:

O be joyful in the Lord,

was sung by the choir.

Benediction by President Angus M. Cannon.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION, APRIL 6TH.

Singing:

O Jesus! the giver
Of all we enjoy.
Our lives to thy honor
We wish to employ.

Prayer by Apostle Heber J. Grant.

The choir sang:

Come, all ye sons of Zion,
And let us praise the Lord,
With harmony unceasing,
According to his word.

APOSTLE JOHN W. TAYLOR

was the first speaker this morning, the following being a brief synopsis of his remarks: I desire to enjoy a portion of the Holy Ghost to direct my words. We are blessed with pleasant weather, peace and health. The conditions seem favorable for a good conference. Since we last met in this capacity, there have been many changes—some pleasant and some the reverse. Individuals have repented of wrong doing while others have been excommunicated. Should there be any of the latter present, may they listen humbly to what will be said. All men are prone to err, some to a greater degree than others. It seems necessary according to the law of the Church, to deal decisively with persons who are guilty of a certain class of offenses. This phase is continuous. I desire to speak to those who are liable to err. There will be no offense to those who consider themselves perfect should arise and leave this building.

It is grievous to note the fact that men suffer themselves to be cut off from the Church. It is difficult for me to control and look after myself, and keep from encroaching on others. There is a way for all men to repent. Those who are given to drunkenness can forsake that evil and indulge in no more. So with dishonesty of every kind. He who commits this wrong should return to honest habits, and the Lord will forgive him. So with the sin of falsehood. Let those guilty of this evil learn to tell and love the truth. Christ said concerning those who should love evil, that they should be placed outside the New Jerusalem. If we give way to temper and speak harshly, let the person showing this weakness learn to govern himself. Let us learn temperance in all things, that our posterity may be healthy. If we break the laws of nature we will have to pay the penalty. If we have neglected our prayers, either in secret or in the family, we should attend to this important duty. When men begin to apostatize they generally leave off their devotions before the Lord. God will be sought after in worship and gratitude.

There were but few persons here yesterday. One would have thought that the people had mostly gone to fast meetings in the wards. This is a necessary and important ordinance. The best meetings are among the most interesting. To one is given a tongue, another the interpretation, and so on, so that all are edified. Those who have paid their tithing faithfully are to be congratulated. It is an ancient law, Abraham having obeyed it. The Lord has revealed it in our day. If any of you have neglected compliance with it, repent of your omission and do better. If the Lord has given a home in Zion, appreciate it. If you have entered into the eternal marriage covenant keep it sacredly. If you have not, repent of your evil doing.

My experience has convinced me of one fact. He who has received a testimony of the truth from the Lord, it remains with him until he sins away the light by which it was imparted. It causes either joy or sorrow. If one does good, it creates pleasure, while the commission of wrong creates the opposite effect. This is universal with the Saints. I have had come to me during the last year men and women who have sinned. They have asked what they could do to recover lost ground. You can only say to such people, as long as there is repentance in a person's heart there is hope. It is not the design of God to destroy that soul in whom this principle exists. This repentance is to forsake evil and turn unto the Lord. Lift up your heads, ye Saints, unto your God, for He is not a tyrant. But he will chide and rebuke us, to draw us back to the true path.

There have been remarks made by different brethren for the purpose of making sin hateful. Some of these remarks have had a tendency to destroy all hope, and may not in that way have accomplished the object intended. Let hope be destroyed and the individual in which it is extinguished is lost. Except for murder and the sin against the Holy Ghost, there is forgiveness and redemption through the payment of the penalty attached to sin and by repentance. [The speaker here explained, by quoting from the Doctrine and Covenants, what is the meaning of endless punishment. It is God's punishment, that being its character, but it does not follow that those subjected to it are always retained in that subjection.] I say this that those who have sinned may not be without hope. Those who repent should do so in sorrow and mourning, rending their hearts. Remarks were made yesterday in relation to the preaching of the Gospel to the dead.

Peter explained that Christ, after being put to death in the flesh, went and preached to the spirits in prison. Among those to whom he ministered were people who had been shut up in prison in the spirit world from the days of Noah. They, while on earth were great sinners, having been destroyed from the earth because of their wickedness. They were offered, through the advent of Christ among them, liberation and forgiveness, through repentance, that they might live according to God in the spirit. This shows the long suffering