

Jackson county it would not be with the rattle of the drum, with drawn sword and fixed bayonet, but with the palm of peace waving and calling the nations to come unto the glory of Zion and partake of the blessings which God had in store for the honest in heart. He hoped that our young men and women would feel in their hearts that these valleys were their homes, the places where they were to grow and develop, and not feel to separate and find their abode elsewhere. Here let them concentrate their efforts for the furtherance of God's work, so that the people of all nations might come, feeling that justice would be administered with a righteous hand.

It was announced that the committee on resolutions had entered the building and were ready to report. The Conference voted unanimously to hear the committee.

The following were then read by Hon. John T. Caine:

COMMITTEE REPORT.

Misrepresentations of the Utah Commission Denounced.

President Wilford Woodruff and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in General Conference assembled:

Brethren and Sisters.—Your committee appointed to formulate an expression of the Conference relative to certain statements made by the majority of the Utah Commission in their report to the Secretary of the Interior for the year 1891, beg leave to report the accompanying Preamble and Resolutions, and recommend their adoption by the Conference.

Very respectfully,

JOHN CLARK,
W. H. ROWE,
CHAS. W. PENROSE,
JOHN T. CAINE,
FRANKLIN S. RICHARDS.

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 6, 1891.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, the Utah Commission, with one exception, in their report to the Secretary of the Interior for 1891, have made many untruthful statements concerning the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the attitude of its members in relation to political affairs; and,

Whereas, said report is an official document and is likely to greatly prejudice the people of the nation against our Church and its members, and it is therefore unwise to allow its erroneous statements to pass unnoticed.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in General Conference assembled, that we deny most emphatically the assertion of the Commission that the Church dominates its members in political matters and that Church and State are united. Whatever appearance there may have been in past times of a union of Church and State, because men holding ecclesiastical authority were elected to civil office by popular vote, there is now no foundation or excuse for the statement that Church and State are united in Utah or that the leaders of the Church dictate the members in political matters; that no coercion or any influence whatever of an ecclesiastical nature has been exercised over us by our Church leaders in reference to which political party we shall join, and that we have been and are perfectly free to unite with any or no political party as we may individually elect; that the People's Party has been entirely and finally dissolved and that our fealty henceforth will be to such national political party as seems to us

best suited to the purposes of republican government.

Also, be it resolved that we do not believe there have been any polygamous marriages solemnized among the Latter-day Saints during the period named by the Utah Commission; and we denounce the statements which convey the idea that such marriages have been contracted as false and misleading, and that we protest against the perversions of fact and principle and intent contained in the report of the Commission, and declare that the manifesto of President Woodruff forbidding future plural marriages was adopted at the last October Conference in all sincerity and good faith, and that we have every reason to believe that it has been carried out in letter and in spirit; and all statements to the contrary are entirely destitute of truth.

And be it further resolved, That we appeal to the press and people of this country to accept our united declaration and protest, to give it publicity, and to aid in disseminating the truth, that falsehood may be refuted and justice be done to a people continually maligned and almost universally misunderstood. And may God defend the right.

A motion was made to receive and adopt the preamble and resolutions, when a gentleman in the audience asked if a "gentile and a sinner" might be allowed to make a few remarks. It was

MR. CHARLES ELLIS,

President Cannon—Yes, we have no objection; you are at liberty to do so; but won't you come to the stand?

Mr. Ellis—If you can hear me I will talk here.

President Cannon—You cannot be heard there as well as here.

Voices in the congregation—Go up to the stand.

After a brief pause Mr. Ellis went forward, and, taking a position on the lower stand, he said: I simply want to say that so far as the resolutions just read go, I endorse them, but would like to see something added to this effect:

"That, whereas the people called 'Mormons' have conceded every demand made upon them by the government of the United States, therefore they, as American citizens, loving their country and having the best government in the world, pledge themselves to loyalty to that government, demanding in return that the United States government shall guarantee to them all the rights and privileges of fair-play and equality before the law, to the protection of life and liberty and the pursuit of that happiness which it guarantees to every other sect that is based upon the bible." (Loud applause.)

Elder B. H. Roberts

said: It appears to me that in dealing with the matter to which our attention was called this morning, namely, the misrepresentations that are contained in the report of the Utah Commission, there is one thing that the Latter-day Saints should recognize. That is, that in adopting these resolutions which have been formulated by the committee appointed by this Conference we are acting in harmony not only with what reason would prompt men to do, but likewise in accordance with the expressed will of the Almighty.

In 1839, the Lord saw proper to give

instruction to the Saints as to how they should conduct themselves in relation to those who persecuted them. In that revelation, written or dictated by the Prophet of God while incarcerated in Liberty jail through the oppressions of Missouri, we find this statement:

And again, we would suggest for your consideration the propriety of all the Saints gathering up a knowledge of all the facts, and sufferings and abuses put upon them.

And also of all the property and amount of damages which they have sustained, both of character and personal injuries, as well as real property;

And also the names of all persons that have had a hand in their oppressions, as far as they can get hold of them and find them out;

And perhaps a committee can be appointed to find out these things, and to take statements, and affidavits, and also to gather up the libelous publications that are afloat,

And all that are in the magazines, and in the encyclopedias, and all the libelous histories that are published, and are writing, and by whom, and present the whole concatenation of diabolical rascality, and nefarious and murderous impositions that have been practiced upon this people.

That we may not only publish to all the world, but present them to the heads of government in all their dark and hellish hue, as the last effort which is enjoined on us by our Heavenly Father.

It seems to me that the attention of this Conference should be called to this great fact—that we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to God and to the character that we are establishing not to permit these infamous statements—either made by design or through ignorance—to pass out among the people of this nation without a flat and emphatic contradiction. (Applause.) We are enjoined by the spirit and letter of this revelation to say that these things are false. They are untrue in every particular; and further, we should say to the people of the United States that we claim the right to be heard upon this subject; that we have been lied about long enough; that we have been misrepresented to our injury and without protest as long as we intend to be. I conclude my remarks with the closing words of the resolution: "And may God defend the right;" for I believe He will. [Prolonged applause and a chorus of voices: "Amen."]

The preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted by raising the right hand and shouting aye.

Hon. John T. Caine read the following

DECLARATION BY THE FIRST PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH:

Concerning the official report of the Utah Commission made to the Secretary of the Interior, in which they allege, "During the past year, notwithstanding the 'manifesto,' reports have been received by the Commission of eighteen male persons who, with an equal number of females, are believed to have entered into polygamous marriages," during the year," we have to say, it is utterly without foundation in truth. We repeat in the most solemn manner the declaration made by President Wilford Woodruff at our General Conference held last October, that there have been no plural marriages solemnized during the period named.

Polygamy or plural marriage has not been taught, neither has there been given