

REMARKS

BY

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON,

DELIVERED

At the Forty-fifth Annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Friday Afternoon, April 9th, 1875.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

We have abundantly proved in our experience that if we do not sustain ourselves, no other people will sustain us, and that we must be united, as was said this morning, in our temporal as well as in our spiritual affairs; and that if we would build up and strengthen ourselves in the earth, it must be by union of effort and by concentrating our means in a way that shall produce the best results for the work with which we are identified. Co-operation, or a union of effort, has been proved in our experience, when properly carried out, to be most successful. With small means and limited incomes we can accomplish, by wisely uniting our efforts, great results, and to bring about greater union should be our continual effort. As has been said, there may be failures and mismanagement occasionally, but the principle itself is a true one, and it recommends itself to every reflecting mind. We, however, in our mercantile operations in this city and Territory, have been more than ordinarily successful. I have heard reproaches indulged in, or rather reflections cast, upon our general co-operative institution. I think it has been one of the most successful establishments and institutions that we ever have had among us, and I do not know that it has been equalled anywhere, when we reflect that in the short space of three years those who invested their means in that institution made one hundred per cent.—doubled their original stock; and when the financial crisis came in the east—the panic as it was termed, and many strong houses went down before it, our institution was able to withstand the storm, and tide over, and has met every dollar of its indebtedness promptly, or at least to the satisfaction of its creditors. We have been subjected to a great deal of expense in various ways; but the experience of the past few years enables us to see now how this expense can be curtailed; and profiting by this wisdom and experience, as a community we should take the necessary steps to establish, or rather to arrange, it so that it will give the greatest satisfaction. A good deal might be said on this subject in this connection, but as we shall have a meeting very shortly in relation to our co-operative business affairs probably that would be the proper place for remarks of this character. But I would say, as one individual, to all the Saints—Let us by every means in our power, that is by collecting the little means that we have, seek to build up and strengthen these institutions in our midst, and they will prove profitable to us and be a great blessing to the entire community and to Zion.

At this afternoon's session of the Conference the authorities of the church will be presented, and it is desirable that there should be a general attendance of the members of the church, as far as they can possibly come.

To refer again to this subject of co-operation. We have seen its good effects in the settlements throughout the entire Territory. I consider that if it had not been for our institution regulating prices and governing and controlling the mercantile interests of this Territory, we should have lost, by having to pay high prices, thousands and thousands of dollars that we have saved. In Brigham City particularly, judging by accounts that we have heard, have the principles of co-operation been exceedingly beneficial to the people, because of the perfection to which they have been carried out. The great difficulty with us heretofore has been that, as a people, we have not had capital to achieve any very great results. No one man, until quite recently, has had sufficient means to carry on any great undertaking, but by the masses of the people uniting under a co-operative plan, and putting their funds in the hands of these who are judicious and good business men, we can establish

every kind of manufacture that is necessary in this country to make us self-sustaining. The manufacture of iron into hollow-ware and every thing of this character that is made of iron; the manufacture of rails for our railroads, of woollen goods of the best character, the establishment of sheep and cattle herds, of cheese factories and tanneries and of every branch of manufacture that is adapted to our climate and Territory can be carried on upon this principle, and efforts should be made by us as a people to establish and to make them successful. I took down with me, when I went to Washington last fall, a suit of clothes manufactured here in this Territory—the wool was grown here, the cloth was made at President Young's factory, and the clothes were made by our tailors. There was a good deal of discussion in the early part of the session concerning the resumption of specie payments. I remarked to a good many of my friends that if I were a believer, as some of them were, in the power of the General Government to make laws respecting such matters, I should be in favor of making a law that would prevent the importation into this country of anything that we could make ourselves; and I believe that specie payments will be postponed until there is a stop to the extravagance which reigns throughout the country. The stream of gold which ought to be setting in the direction of the United States, in consequence of the multiplicity of our productions and the greatness of our trade, is constantly flowing toward Europe; and while this is the case we may struggle in vain to get back to specie payments. That which is true concerning a nation is true concerning us as a Territory. If we would be independent, if we would keep the circulating medium in abundance in our midst, we must stop the stream that is flowing from the Territory, and every dollar that we spend here in sustaining a home institution, for making clothes, paying the cloth manufacturer for his cloth, the wool-grower for his wool, the tanner for his leather, or the shoemaker for making that leather into shoes and boots is that much saved to the entire community. One very prominent free-trade member of the House, during a discussion on this subject last session remarked that the suit of clothes he had on cost him but a comparatively small amount, and that he had them sent from Canada. Some one replied, by way of joke, that he had probably bought a second hand suit; but there is no doubt the clothes were new. But suppose they cost less in Canada than the same suit would in the States, can not you and every body see, without lengthy reflection, that that money all went into foreign hands, and did not benefit the people of this country? The producer of the wool, the manufacturer of the cloth and the maker of the clothes in Canada received the benefit. But supposing that thirty-five or forty dollars had been paid for that suit of clothes in the United States or in the community where the purchaser lived you can readily perceive that by the circulation of that money in his immediate vicinity, he, himself, if he were in any business, would receive the benefit of the expenditure, and that the extra cost would not be an entire loss to him like paying it out to a foreign community. And so it is with our own manufactures. We talk about brooms and about cheese, butter and other things which can be brought from the east at lower figures than we can produce them; but it is better for us to pay twenty-five per cent. more, and I do not know but even a larger per centage, for our home productions, than to send that money away to a distant community where it is circulated and we receive no benefit from it. If we bought home made cheese, and had to pay ten or fifteen cents a pound more for it (which, however, we are not required to do) than if it were brought from abroad, it is not an entire loss to the community, for we all derive some benefit from the means so spent, because it is circulated amongst us, and if we have anything to sell we get prices in proportion for it, and thus we sustain ourselves. Men may say that such and such things can be bought cheaper abroad than they can be bought at home, and therefore it is better to buy them; but I say that it is suicidal for any community to pursue such a policy, and we, with the experience that we have had in this country on these points for upwards of a quar-

tea of a century, should begin to learn wisdom, and begin to foster home manufactures and home institutions. Our co-operative institutions should take into consideration the people's good, and, if there is ink, matches, cloth, leather or anything else to sell that is manufactured in this country, they should give the preference every time to the home manufactured article so far as possible, and endeavor to stimulate and foster home production and not operate against it.

By this means we build ourselves up, and the people themselves, where they are ignorant, will soon perceive the propriety and the advantage of taking this course; whereas if we pursue the old and opposite course we shall be impoverished and stripped of our means, and, having no branches of home manufacture, we shall continue to be a poor, dependent, helpless people.

DISCOURSE

BY

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON,

DELIVERED

At the Forty-Fifth General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Friday Afternoon, April 9, 1875.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

I HAVE been much delighted in listening to the testimonies that have been given to-day as well as on the preceding days of this Conference, and especially to the discourse on prophecy by Brother Penrose this afternoon. I often think that the Lord has chosen this people and called them to do labors and to perform works that will vindicate the truth of all that he has spoken by the mouth of his holy prophets under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and also to falsify all the predictions of those who are uninspired and who speak by their own wisdom and by their own authority. If there is one peculiarity that has been more prominent than another connected with this church from the beginning, it is the many times the predictions of the wicked have been falsified concerning us. It was said almost as soon as the Church was organized that only a few weeks, or a few months at most, would be necessary to settle this delusion, for it had no foundation in truth. And thus it has been from one time to another, until to-day we are in these mountains in the position that we now occupy.

In listening to President Young yesterday, I was much impressed with the power and energy with which he delivered his discourse. While absent at Washington recently, reports reached there by telegraph—in fact they were afloat before I left—that he was on the verge of the grave, and I believe it was published in this city and calculated upon by a great many that some astrological prediction that had been made concerning his health and life would be fulfilled. That prediction was to the effect, I believe, that on the 8th of December, 1874—the day on which the transit of Venus was to occur—he would pass away and die, and great hopes were based upon this astrological prediction. I remember hearing President Young say, in the old bowery, before this tabernacle was erected, I rather think some eight or nine years ago, when astrologers were rather numerous in Salt Lake City, and were making a good many predictions, that if they would concentrate all their astrological knowledge and wisdom in one man, if such a man could be found, and he would commence making predictions, he would falsify every prediction that they made and prove them liars. This came very forcibly to my mind yesterday in hearing him speak with the old-time energy and strength.

I think that we should be thankful to God for the blessing of life and health that he has given to those who preside over us, and I am sure it is the prayer and faith of all that the life of our President, and that the life of Brother George A. and the life of Brother Daniel and of all the veterans in this cause may be preserved for very many years yet to come. And, brethren and sisters, let the wicked predict evil concerning Zion if they wish to do so, we know that God will preserve, bless, uphold, establish and redeem Zion and bring to pass all that has been spoken concerning his great work in the last days; and

he will prove in the future, as he has in the past, that those who predict the downfall of this work bear false witness and testimony, and are not inspired by the spirit of revelation and prophecy, while the predictions which he inspires his servant to make will be fulfilled to the very letter, and his work will roll forth in mighty power. May God grant it, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 19.—A dispatch from Rome says that the Pope, after holding public audiences yesterday, conversed freely about the enthusiasm in New York for the American Cardinal.

In the Brooklyn city court this morning the Tilton-Beecher trial was resumed, the attendance of spectators being nearly as large as in the early days of the trial, though the number of women was greatly decreased. Both parties to the suit were present. Ex-Judge Porter then began summing up for the defense. He said to the jury that they had been for five months in the service of Theodore Tilton, under the mandates of a power which they were bound to obey. My client has, since the beginning of the suit, dealt on Scriptural principles—when they struck him on the one cheek he has turned to them the other. In the beginning they might have been struck with the general air of untruthfulness which permeated the case, and the counsel thought that if they had then been called to deliver their verdict there could have been little doubt what that verdict would have been.

On the other hand, they had had Tilton and Moulton, Jayne the informer, Woodhull & Claflin, Joe Richards, starting up daily to strike his sister in the back, and Ben Butler, the strategist. These are the parties who are the sponsors of the accusation, these are the champions of Christian purity and morality, the originators, publishers and advisers in this matter. In favor of the defendant, we have a jury of the vicinage, the wife and the children, and the grandchildren who found shelter beneath his roof, and 3,000 worshippers of Plymouth Church. Even the clustering hearts of young children loved his name, and would be living to bless his memory when you and I will be no more. We have with us the almost unanimous and enthusiastic support of his professional brethren, and the sympathy of an enlightened Christendom. These trusted and loved the defendant, while they abhorred and loathed the names of Theodore Tilton and Frank Moulton.

In our whole system of jurisprudence a plea of innocence was safe, and our laws in that respect were not a failure. The speaker quoted from Milton in regard to the might of truth and its prevailing power. One of the obstacles to the accuser was the defendant's answer of his innocence, and the oath of an honest man. Another obstacle they met with presented itself in the unblemished character and unsullied purity of both him and wife. Another obstacle was that Tilton and Moulton, for four years, by their own words and acts, had falsified such an accusation. Another obstacle was the fact that Tilton cohabited and slept with the lady accused, and remained for four years in family relations with an alleged adulteress. They met another obstacle, in that they both, Moulton and Tilton, admitted that they were here, with an oath on their lips of having open hostility against the defendant; they encountered another obstacle in the fact that they had lied to conceal it, as they say, and the question arises, whether or not they are lying now. There was an old maxim of the law, which provided that witnesses were to be weighed in the balance, and here, in one scale, they had Henry Ward Beecher and his life, and Tilton and Moulton, with a record of their lives, in the other. Judge Porter then referred to the character of the defendant, his early training, his long, unspotted Christian life and services, and the improbability that after a long life of virtue he should fall now.

The speaker dwelt at some length upon the purity of Mrs. Tilton, and her intellectual capacities, and said—"Yet they would have you believe what is known to every man, woman and child in the coun-

try, that this man could have an amour in open day, openly debauching the mother of a family; that such an intrigue could be carried on through a year and a half, no eye seeing and no hear hearing; and the first woman on earth to tell it is Mrs. Tilton, and the first man she should tell it to was Theodore Tilton, and of Henry Ward Beecher, the last man on earth that could have been guilty." The speaker spoke of the impossibility of Beecher's taking a mistress to his own house in sight of his servants and grandchildren. Turning toward Moulton and Tilton, the speaker exclaimed—"What are such men for, unless for hunting down clergymen, and to crucify women? Letters which passed with no thought on her part, except in confidence reposed in her friend and pastor, have ruthlessly been thrown before the world in an altogether different light from that intended." Porter's address was interrupted by recess.

CHICAGO, 19.—A Sioux City special says that a sensation paper, published at Yankton yesterday, states that Lt. Scott, from Fort Randall, arrived at that place yesterday, and informed that paper that Gordon's Sioux City and Black Hills train had been arrested by the military at the crossing of the White River, and brought to Fort Randall. Lieut. Scott arrived here to-day, and says he did not so inform the Yankton paper, or any one else, and he does not know anything of Gordon's train, and the whole statement in the Yankton paper, except the notice of his arrival is totally false, and without color of truth. The courier who left Gordon's train on the 11th says that they were making as slow time as possible, and kept moving in anticipation of news of the opening of the Hills by the government; they were informed by Sioux and other Indian scouts that the troops would not interfere with them as long as they kept off the reserve.

An Ottawa special says that the cabinet met yesterday, and appointed D. W. McDonald, late postmaster general, as Lieut. Governor of Ontario.

A St. Joe, Mo., special says the grasshoppers are utterly destroying the winter wheat crop in that locality, and dispatches from a number of other points in Missouri and Kansas say that the crops are being injured by the grasshoppers.

TYRONE, Pa., 19.—Xingo Parks, the agitator, was arrested to-day at Osceola. Twenty-five Italians arrived from New York for the Pennsylvania mines. The strikers' meetings at various points last night were poorly attended; the strikers are demoralized, and many men have gone to work.

NEW YORK, 19.—An informal call has been made for a meeting of the Erie shareholders, next Saturday, and a rumor is current that a compound injunction is contemplated against the directors, restraining the sale, or pledge, or mortgage of the coal property of the road to raise money to pay the June interest, and restraining the payment of the June interest on the bonds involved in the controversy with McHenry and the London Banking Association.

After recess Beecher and wife came into court with ex-Judge Porter, who continued the summing up by quoting from one of Mrs. Tilton's letters, in which she breathed forth the fervor of her admiration of her husband. The woman whom he stoned as an adulteress knelt to him as to God, and loved him as she loved her Redeemer. "This woman, standing at the grave of her boy, they would have you believe, stood within nine months and a half of the grave of her own honor." Judge Morris, in opening, alluded to the frequency of the interviews between Beecher and Tilton. Now none would doubt that Mrs. Mattie Bradshaw was a good and pure woman, and Mrs. Tilton, in a letter to her husband, said that she was jealous of the attentions shown her by Beecher. The counsel quoted further from the letters of Mrs. Tilton illustrative of her unselfishness. Did any woman who had committed adultery ever write such letters of love, admiration and confidence? The counsel also quoted from the letter of Feb'y 3rd, 1868, in which she reproaches herself for her shortcomings. "The dastard to whom this letter was written furnished it to the papers for publication with the intention of blasting his wife and injuring Beecher." In another letter she says that life never seemed to her better worth living