

## REORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

Opening Address of  
**PREST. JOSEPH F. SMITH,**  
Before Special General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Morning, November 10th, 1901.

My brethren and sisters, I do not expect to occupy very much time this morning, but I feel that it would be proper for me to make a few remarks, as we are gathered here in the capacity of a special general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for the purpose of acting upon matters that may be presented to us, in the regular order of the Church and of the Priesthood. It is only recently that we held our semi-annual general conference, which was largely attended, and at which, on the last day, we were privileged to hear the voice of President Lorenzo Snow, who spoke to us for the last time in the flesh, and left with his instruction and counsel in relation to some of the most important matters that pertain to the continuance of the ministry and the labor of the Apostles of Jesus Christ throughout the world. We little supposed then that it would be the last time he would appear before us, or that we would be favored with his presence, his counsel and wisdom; but the Lord has taken him from our midst. He has finished his mission here, and the labor now devolves upon us who survive. It is our duty to take hold of the work vigorously, with full determination and purpose of heart to carry it on, with the help of the instruction and counsel with the inspiration of His Spirit, as it has been done in the past. It is our privilege to live nearer to the Lord, if we will, than we have ever done, that we may enjoy the presence of the Lord, and that we may advance faster, grow in the knowledge of the truth more rapidly, and become more thoroughly established in the faith. All this, however, will depend upon the faithfulness of the people—of those who have made covenant with God by sacrifice, who have come before the Lord with broken hearts and contrite spirits, and with unshaken confidence in their souls that they will fight the good fight, that they will keep the faith, that they will work righteousness, and that they will defend themselves from the example as well as by their profession.

**THE PATH OF PROGRESS.**  
We can make no advancement only upon the principles of eternal truth. In proportion as we become established upon the foundation of these principles, which have been revealed from the heavens in the latter days, and determine to accomplish the purposes of the Lord, will we progress, and the Lord will all the more exalt and magnify us before the world and make us to assume our real position and standing in the midst of the church. We have been looking upon as interlopers, as fanatics, as believers in a false religion; we have been regarded with contempt, and treated despicably; we have been driven from our homes, mangled and spoken of by every man until the people of the world have come to believe that we are the outscourings of the earth and scarcely fit to live. There have been thousands and thousands of innocent people in the world whose minds have become so darkened by the slanderous reports that have gone forth concerning us that they would feel that we were doing God's service to deprive a member of this Church of his or her liberty, or the pursuit of happiness, if they could do it.

**SAINTS TO BE BETTER KNOWN.**  
The Lord designs to change this condition of things, and to make known to the world in our true light—as true worshippers of God, as those who have become the children of God by repentance, and by the law of adoption have become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ; and that our mission in this world is to do good, to put down iniquity upon our feet, to exalt righteousness, purity and holiness in the hearts of the people, and to establish in the minds of the children, above all other things, a love for God and His word, that shall be in them as a fountain of light, strength, faith and power, leading them from childhood to old age, and making them firm believers in the word of the Lord, in the restored Gospel and Priesthood, and in the establishment of Zion, no more to be thrown down nor given to another people. If there is anything that I desire above another in this world, it is that my children shall become established in this knowledge and faith, so that they can never be turned aside from it.

**OBJECT OF CONFERENCE.**  
We have met on this occasion to confirm or reject, as we feel disposed or as the Spirit of the Lord in us may direct, the action that has been taken by the leading councils of the Priesthood since our last conference, and since the death of our beloved President Lorenzo Snow. I desire to state to this congregation one or two things that may be proper to mention, in order that you may understand why we have acted as promptly as we have done in these matters.

After the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Twelve Apostles continued as the presiding quorum of the Church for a number of years; but finally they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit to reorganize the First Presidency of the Church, with Brigham Young as President, and Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as his counselors. In reality this organization might have been effected within twenty-four hours after the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, but their action was delayed, until they found by experience that the exercise of the functions of the Presidency and the government of the Church by twelve men at the head was not only cumbersome, but was not fully perfect in the order of the Holy Priesthood as established by the Lord.

On the death of President Brigham Young, President John Taylor followed in some measure the example of his predecessor, and it was some time before the order of the Church was organized. The Presidency was finally organized, however, with John Taylor as President and George Q. Cannon and myself as counselors. At the death of President Taylor, President Woodruff hesitated, and he allowed a little time to pass before the Presidency was again organized. When at last he became convinced that it was his duty, and necessary in order to carry out the purposes of the Lord, he reorganized the Presidency of the Church. At that time he gave a solemn injunction to his fellow servants in relation to this. He desired it understood that in all future time, when the President of the Church should die, and thereby the First Presidency become disorganized, it would be the duty of the proper authorities of the Church to proceed at once, without any unnecessary delay, to reorganize the First Presidency.

As soon as the news reached us of the death of President Woodruff, who was in California at the time, President Lorenzo Snow said to me, "It will be our duty to proceed as soon as possible to reorganize the Presidency of the Church." As you are aware, after the burial of the remains of President Woodruff, he proceeded at once to do this. In the connection I may tell you another thing, President Snow said to me, "You will live to be the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and when that time comes you should proceed at once, and reorganize the Presidency of the Church." This was his counsel to me, and the same was given to the Twelve Apostles. In accordance with this principle and with the injunction of President Snow, within one week after his death the Apostles proceeded to designate the new Presidency of the Church, and we did it strictly in accordance with the pattern that the Lord has established in His Church, unanimously.

**ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD.**  
I desire to read a little from the revelation in relation to the order of the Holy Priesthood, that you may understand our views concerning adhering as nearly as we can to the holy order of government that has been established by revelation through the Prophet Joseph Smith in the dispensation of the fulness of times. We cannot deny the fact that the Lord has effected one of the most perfect organizations in this Church that ever existed upon the earth. I do not know of any more perfect organization than exists in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today. We have not always carried out strictly the order of the Priesthood; we have varied from it to some extent; but we hope in due time that by the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we will be able to carry out the order of the Priesthood as it was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and as it is contained in the revelations of the Lord. We have no right to depart. The Lord says:

"First, I give unto you Hyrum Smith, to be a Patriarch unto you to hold the sealing blessings of my Church, even the Holy Spirit of promise, whereby ye are sealed up unto the day of redemption, that ye may not fall, notwithstanding the hour of temptation that may come upon you."

It may be considered strange that the Lord should give first of all the Patriarch, yet I do not know any law, any revelation or any commandment from God to the contrary, that has ever been given through any of the Prophets or Presidents of the Church. At the same time we well know that this order has not been strictly followed from the day we came into these valleys until now—and we will not make any change at present. But we will first take it into consideration; we will pray for it, we will seek the mind of the Spirit of God upon it, as upon other subjects, and be united before we take any action different to that which has been done.

The revelation continues:  
"I give unto you my servant Joseph, to be a presiding Elder over all my Church, to be a Translator, a Revelator, a Prophet."  
"I give unto him for counselors my servant Sidney Rigdon and my servant William Law, that these may constitute a quorum and First Presidency, to receive the oracles for the whole Church."  
"I give unto you my servant Brigham Young, to be a President over the Twelve traveling Councils."  
"Which Twelve hold the keys to open up the authority of my kingdom upon the four corners of the earth, and after that to send my word to every creature from it."

They are—Heber C. Kimball, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Orson Hyde, William Smith, John Taylor, John E. Page, Willard Woodruff, Willard Richards, George A. Smith;  
"And I have taken unto myself, I, Joseph Smith, no man to take him; but, verily I say unto you, another may be appointed unto the same calling."  
"And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a High Council, for the corner stone of Zion;  
"Viz., Samuel Bent, H. G. Sherwood, George W. Harris, Charles C. Rich, Thomas Grover, Newel Knight, David Dorr, Darius Henshaw, Seymour Brunson, I have taken unto myself, no man to take him; but, verily I say unto you, another may be appointed unto the same calling."

"And again, I give unto you Don C. Smith, to be a president over a quorum of High Priests."  
"Which ordinance is instituted for the purpose of qualifying those who shall be appointed standing presidents or servants over different stakes scattered abroad."

"And again, I give unto you Joseph Young, Joseph Butterfield, Daniel Miles, Henry Henshaw, Zera Pulsipher, Levi Hancock, James Foster, to preside over the quorum of Seventies."  
"Which quorum is instituted for traveling Elders to bear record of my Kingdom, and to travel wherever the traveling High Council may appoint, shall send them to prepare a way before me."

"The difference between this quorum and the quorum of Elders is that one is to travel continually, and the other is to preside over the churches from time to time; the one has the responsibility of presiding from time to time, and the other has no responsibility of presiding, saith the Lord your God."

**Duties and Privileges of the Saints**  
—The Path of Progress and Exaltation—Character of the Saints to be Made Known—Object of Conference—Order of the Priesthood—Manner of Voting.

special witnesses of Jesus Christ to all the world.  
"And again, I say unto you I give unto you Vinson Knight, Samuel H. Smith, and Shadrach Roundy, if he be in the flesh, to preside over the bishopric; a knowledge of said bishopric is given unto you in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants."  
"And again, I say unto you, Samuel Rolfe and his counselors, the Priests, and the president of the Teachers and his counselors, and also the president of the Deacons and his counselors, and also the president of the Stake and his counselors."  
"The above officers I have given unto you, and the keys thereof, for help and for governments, for the work of the ministry, and the perfecting of my Saints;"

"And a commandment I give unto you that you should fill all these offices and approve of those names which I have mentioned, or else disapprove of them at my general conference."

These are the offices of the Priesthood as the Lord has given it, and we propose to follow it as near as we know how in the future; but we will take such other measures as may be deemed proper and right in due time. These things shall be presented from time to time to the general assembly of the Church, that all the business of the Church may be done in accordance with the law of God, that the people may have the privilege of sanctioning or disapproving of the things which are presented by the mind of the Spirit through those who are placed to preside, and that all things may be done by common consent.

**MANNER OF VOTING.**  
This afternoon it is intended to present before this conference the necessary changes that have been made within the last few days. All the authorities of the Church will be present to you at this conference, for the simple reason that they have already been sustained at the regular semi-annual conference of the Church. We shall present, in the main, only those who have been called to fill vacancies, and put before you that which has been done in order to perfect the organization of the Priesthood. These matters, and as little as possible that is necessary, will be presented before this conference for your action. We intend that the Priesthood shall vote upon these questions by quorums. The Presidency of the Church will first express their mind, thus indicating at least in some degree, the mind of the Spirit and the suggestions from the head. Then the proposition will be submitted to the Apostles, for them to show their willingness or otherwise to sustain the action of the First Presidency. It will then go to the Patriarchs, and they will have the privilege of showing whether they will sustain the action that has been taken; then to the Presidents of the stakes and counselors and the High Councilors; then to the High Priests (that office in the Melchisedek Priesthood which holds the keys of presidency); next the traveling Elders—Seventies will be called to express their feelings, and then the Bishops of the Church and the Lesser Priesthood, and after them the whole congregation. All the members of the Church present will have the privilege of expressing their view in relation to the matters which shall be proposed, by a rising vote and by the uplifted hand.

We propose to follow this order of the Priesthood this afternoon. We would like the people to be punctual in coming together, and for all to observe the regulations that shall be made. If each one will do his or her duty, there will be no confusion, but there will be order in the house of God. The house of God is a house of order, and we expect that this house, which is a house of God, will be a house of order, and we will have this done in their proper order if we can.

God bless the Latter-day Saints. The Lord Almighty bless His servants the Apostles, and His servants the Presidency of the Church, and all those who labor for the welfare of Zion, and the establishment of righteousness in the hearts of the people. God bless the poor and the needy, the fatherless and the widow, and those that sorrow and are bowed down, both in body and in the loss of loved ones. May the Lord bless and comfort them, buoy up their spirits, and give them hope, joy and consolation in anticipation of the glorious life that awaits them, both in time and in eternity; for no man can foretell or foresee the glorious things that await the people of God, if only they are faithful. It hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive, neither has his eye seen nor his ear heard, the magnitude and fullness of the glory of God that awaits the faithful beyond the veil. God bless you, my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### ROOSEVELT'S LITERARY SIDE

The New President as a Maker of Books.  
Attention is being directed to President Roosevelt's literary work just now because he is the first man of letters to occupy the presidential chair since Thomas Jefferson. Mr. Roosevelt has been a writer for twenty years, or nearly half his life, and his productions have been widely read. It is but natural, however, now that he is at the head of the national government, that a larger proportion of the people should turn to see what their President has done in the world of letters.

His first publication was an historical work. It appeared when he had been only a year out of college. He was graduated from Harvard in 1880, and "The Naval War of 1812; or, The History of the United States Navy During the Last War with Great Britain," by Theodore Roosevelt, was published in this city in 1882. It will be noticed that his investigations into history, the conduct of navies and warfare were begun in his earliest manhood. The "Impartiality of the author's judgments and the thoroughness with which the evidence is sifted are remarkable and worthy of high praise." Mr. Roosevelt's next work, published three years later, was entitled "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman: Sketches of Sport on the Northern California Plains, Together With Personal Experiences of Life on a Cattle Ranch." It was illustrated by A. B. Frost, R. Swain Gifford, J. C. Beard, Fannie E. Gifford and Henry Sandham, and was published in 1885 by the Putnam Company. The edition, a quarto, limited to 500 copies and sold by subscription at \$15. Of the author's work the Nation said:

"This style is simple and devoid of pretension, yet his descriptions of scenery are often most eloquent."  
In 1887 Mr. Roosevelt wrote the "Life

of Thomas Hart Benton," and in the following year "Governor Morris," both duodecimo volumes, published in the "American Statesman" series by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., at Boston. In the same year another duodecimo volume by him was published by the Putnam under the title, "Essays on Practical Politics." It was in the series, "Questions of the Day." His most important work appearing that year, 1888, however, was "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail," a folio volume published by the Century company and illustrated by Frederic Remington. The Saturday Review said of this book: "If it be true that ranching—that is, stock raising on the plains—is, in its present form, doomed to disappear in the next century, all the more grateful ought we to be to Mr. Theodore Roosevelt for having stereotyped its essential features and presented them to us in so attractive a form as the present volume." . . .

The Century company published a new popular edition of this work in 1896, an octavo volume of 184 pages in cloth covers. In the following year the first two volumes of the work which has been called perhaps Mr. Roosevelt's most substantial literary achievement, the "Winning of the West," were issued by the Putnam. The whole work is in five volumes, octavo, with maps. The third volume came out in 1894. Its sub-title is "The Founding of the Trans-Alleghany Commonwealths," and it deals with the period from 1840 to 1850. In the preface Mr. Roosevelt says:

"The period covered in this volume includes the seven years immediately succeeding the close of the Revolutionary war. It was during these seven years that the constitution was adopted, and actually went into effect; an event, if possible, even more momentous for the West than for the East. The time was one of great importance to the whole nation; alike to the people of the inland frontier and to those of the seaboard. The course of events during these years determined whether we should become a mighty nation, or a mere snarl of weak and quarrelsome commonwealths, with a history as bloody and meaningless as that of the Spanish-American states."

Mr. Roosevelt's study of the constitution, it will be observed from this, began with its adoption and first workings, and he obtained an early insight into the latent possibilities of the principles of American expansion, which he was later to assist in working out. In the fourth volume, issued in 1894, he was still engaged with this phase of American development. The volume is "Louisiana and the Northwest, 1791 to 1804."

In 1891 Mr. Roosevelt published his "New York" in the "Historic Towns" series of Longmans, Green & Co. A new edition with a postscript was published in 1896. This book is a volume of 232 pages, duodecimo. Mr. Roosevelt says of it and in it: "It has been my aim less to collect new facts than to draw from the immense storehouse of facts already collected those of real importance. I have tried to show their true meaning and their relation to one another; to sketch the workings of the town's life, social, commercial and political, and to show the changes and transformations, and to trace the causes which gradually changed a little Dutch trading hamlet into a huge American city."

Another of his "Historic Towns" series is "The Big Game of the United States and Its Chase with Horse, Hound and Rifle," published by the Putnam in 1893 in an octavo volume in cloth covers. This book is illustrated by B. Frost, J. Carter Beard, Henry Sandham and Frederic Remington, and many of the illustrations are not ideal drawings, but studies of animals which Mr. Roosevelt himself killed. It is described in the "American Catalogue" as "a volume full of interesting gossip on sport. Mr. Roosevelt describes the American wilderness and the heroes of frontier life—Boone, Crockett, Houston, Carson. He tells pictures life on a ranch and the work of cattle raising."

In the same year came "American Big Game Hunting—the Book of the Boone and Crockett Club." In this Mr. Roosevelt, with H. B. Grinnell, assisted in the editing. The book was published by the Forest and Stream Publishing company. It is an octavo volume of 345 pages, and is devoted to big game hunting in this country and abroad. The forest reservation and ferret papers having been contributed by various members of the club. An appendix gives a short account of the literature of American big game hunting, and lists the principal officers of the constitution, by-laws and list of members of the club.

"Hunting in Many Lands," also a part of the book of the Boone and Crockett club in which Mr. Roosevelt again collaborated with Mr. Grinnell, was published in 1895 by the Forest and Stream Publishing company, and in 1897 still another volume of this club book appeared from the same editorial hands, entitled, "Trail and Camp Fire." Also in 1895, "Roughing It," published through the Putnam, a duodecimo volume of 354 pages in cloth covers, entitled, "American Ideals; and Other Essays, Social and Political." Its contents are, "American Ideals," "True Americanism," "The Manly Virtues and Practical Politics," "The College Graduate and Public Life," "Phases of State Legislation," "Machine Politics in New York City," "Six Years of Civil Service Reform," "Administration of the New York Police Force," "The Vice-President and the Campaign of 1896," "How Not to Help Our Poorer Brother," "The Monroe Doctrine," "Washington's Forgotten Maxim," "National Life and Character," "Social Evolution and the Law of Civilization and Decadence."

Two years before this, Mr. Roosevelt in conjunction with Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, had prepared a volume of "Letters from the American History," which the Century company published.

In 1899 the Scribners issued Colonel Roosevelt's "The Rough Riders," which told the tale of the operations of the United States army in eastern Cuba during the Spanish war, particularly the part played by the famous regiment which Mr. Roosevelt organized and commanded, first as lieutenant colonel under Leonard Wood, now governor general of Cuba, and afterward as colonel of the regiment.

In the following year, 1900, the Putnam published a collected edition of Mr. Roosevelt's works, called the Sagamore edition. In five volumes, issued both in cloth and paper. The same year the Century company published the "Knickerbocker Literature" series, "Episodes From the Winning of the West," an illustrated volume.

Another work of Mr. Roosevelt's, classed with "The Winning of the West" as the most important, perhaps, of his literary life, also came out last year. This was the biography of Oliver Cromwell, which attracted special attention as coming to the public at the same time with John Morley's "Cromwell." It was published by the Century company, and the coincident appearance of the two biographies provoked a good deal of discussion as to the relative merits of the two authors.

Another production of Mr. Roosevelt's last year was "The Strenuous Life," which is, probably, the latest of his writings. The origin of the title is to be found in the author's frequent use of the particular phrase in many of his speeches. The Century company published this last work—New York Sun.

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**Time Table**  
In Effect Nov. 3, 1901.  
**ARRIVE SALT LAKE.**  
From Ogden, all points East, Butte, Portland and San Francisco..... 8:45 a.m.  
From Ogden and intermediate points..... 9:25 a.m.  
From Ogden, all points East, and San Francisco..... 10:10 p.m.  
From Ogden, Cache Valley and intermediate points..... 10:50 p.m.  
From Ogden, Butte, Portland and San Francisco..... 11:20 p.m.  
From all points South, except Tintic..... 9:35 a.m.  
From Nephi, Tintic, Mercur and intermediate points..... 7:00 a.m.  
From Tooele and Terminus..... 6:00 p.m.

**DEPART SALT LAKE.**  
To Ogden, Cache Valley, and all points East..... 7:00 a.m.  
To Ogden, Butte, Portland and San Francisco..... 8:45 a.m.  
To Ogden, all points East and San Francisco..... 12:45 p.m.  
To Ogden, intermediate points and all points East..... 1:15 p.m.  
To Butte, Portland, intermediate points and San Francisco..... 10:50 p.m.  
To Tintic, Mercur, Nephi, and intermediate points..... 7:55 a.m.  
To all points south, except Tintic and Mercur..... 7:05 p.m.  
To Terminus and Tooele..... 7:45 a.m.  
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No. 4—For Grand Junction, Denver and points East..... 8:30 a.m.  
No. 2—For Provo, Grand Junction and all points East..... 12:35 p.m.  
No. 4—For Provo, Grand Junction and all points East..... 8:20 p.m.  
No. 2—For Brigham, Lehi, Provo, Heber, Mani, Marysville and intermediate points..... 8:00 a.m.  
No. 3—For Eureka, Payson, Heber, Provo and all intermediate points..... 7:00 p.m.  
No. 1—For Ogden and the West 12:45 a.m.  
CHAS. S. BURTON, Cashier.  
No. 6—For Ogden and the West 9:50 a.m.  
No. 6—For Park City..... 8:15 a.m.

**ARRIVE SALT LAKE CITY:**  
No. 5—From Provo, Grand Junction and the East..... 9:35 a.m.  
No. 1—From Provo, Grand Junction and the East..... 12:35 p.m.  
No. 3—From Provo, Grand Junction and the East..... 10:50 p.m.  
No. 4—From Provo, Grand Junction and intermediate points..... 6:00 p.m.  
No. 2—From Ogden and the West 12:05 p.m.  
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"THE OVERLAND LIMITED," equipped with Palace Sleeping Cars, Buffet Smoking and Library Cars (with bar), and Dining Cars, meals "a la carte." LEAVES SALT LAKE CITY AT 12:45 p.m. DAILY. The Limited fast mail leaves Salt Lake every evening at 7:00. First class equipment, including Free Reclining Chair Cars. The Chicago Special leaves at 7:00 a.m. Tickets and reservations apply to ticket agents, or address C. A. Walker, Gen'l Agent Chicago & North-Western Ry., 206 S. Main St., Salt Lake City.

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