

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, August 17, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Elder Henry P. Richards presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

O say what is truth? 'Tis the fairest gem  
That the riches of worlds can produce.

Prayer was offered by Elder Wm. Willis.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Spirit of faith, come down,  
Reveal the things of God.

The Priesthood of the Thirteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER A. F. McDONALD

was the first speaker. He felt to rejoice in the privilege of meeting with the Saints to partake with them of the Lord's Supper, and he was thankful to be numbered with this people.

For a few years past, he said, I have been laboring in Mexico. Those who have friends in the Mexican settlements would no doubt like to hear how we are prospering there. The health was generally good when I left. We have had some drouth, but recently we have had refreshing rains. We have religious liberty there and enjoy many blessings for which we are very grateful. We trust to go on and do all the good we can in that land for the interests of the kingdom of God. Great interest is felt among the people in our work. We have good schools and can assemble there, as here, to worship God according to His direction. Our schools are well patronized. Many who are sending their children to the States for education are anxious that we should establish schools for their benefit.

I am thankful for the Gospel revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith. We who have been privileged to hear and believe the principles of the Gospel should be truly thankful.

There is probably no greater sin than that of ingratitude. We should be thankful to God and to the brethren who are our leaders. Many shall yet come from the nations of the earth and acknowledge the errors of their fathers. We have had this experience. I think of what we were taught in Presbyterian Scotland, where the ordinances of the Gospel were regarded as mere outward ordinances. How wide is the difference between this doctrine and the teachings of our Lord. Our Savior taught Nicodemus an ordinance obligatory on every human being—the ordinance of baptism. To be buried in water in the likeness of Christ's death and to rise in the likeness of His resurrection is the essence of baptism. The illustration of our Savior to Nicodemus of the new birth is superior to any I ever heard. It shows us how to receive the Holy Spirit, the still small voice by which we can be guided and re-

newed. And if we are true to this voice we will never go astray.

We were formerly taught that baptism was non-essential to salvation. Now we know that it is all-essential. Not that baptism in itself does everything, but it has been instituted by our Savior, who shed His blood for us, and therefore it is essential. When an Elder raises his hands and baptizes us in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, the authority he has and the faith exercised combine to bring about a remission of our sins. And from the time our sins are forgiven we should be continually growing in knowledge, in strength and in keeping the commandments of God.

I know that this work is no delusion. I know that it is the work of God, and I rejoice in it.

As a people we have never seen a time in which we could better display our loyalty to God than today. The greater our trials are, the more strength we will have to resist. While we are in the world, the light of the Gospel is given us to live by. How earnestly we should strive, that our faith may grow. All the benefits of the Gospel are to be diligently sought for.

God has been merciful to us. He foretold us, years ago, what transpires today, even in this city; and many other things are yet to come. But we have also been promised that if we will follow the counsels of the servants of God, we shall be preserved in the time of trial.

The principles we have embraced bring to us not merely a hope or belief but an assurance that this is the work of God. Brethren who find fault with others do not realize their position in the Church of God. It is remarkable to see the blessings of God manifested even in the abundant produce of the soil wherever we go. People say this is because of our industry, but we know it is only by the blessings of God.

I trust each one of the Saints will inquire into his spiritual condition in order to find out whether he is in his line of duty each day, and I pray God to bless this people.

Many of the inhabitants of the United States have been led to persecute us, they know not why; but I know that God will take care of His people. The rulers of Mexico, I can say, do not feel thus toward us. The superintendent of schools in the State of Chihuahua told me once that our people have the best school buildings in the whole State outside of the capital. And thus our works are testifying in our favor in the eyes of the people. I do not anticipate that there will be much persecution down there, if we can only live our religion. Much of our trials are of our own creation. May the servants of God always be preserved to counsel and direct us in the paths of righteousness.

ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE

was the next speaker. He said it is proper that we should meet here as the children of God. They would be undutiful children who would refuse to come together to communi-

cate with their Father. We acknowledge ourselves the children of our Heavenly Father. We have the conviction within us that God loves us. But if He loves us, He will naturally devise some means whereby He can manifest himself to us. Not every day; yet none who have been able to endure His presence has been denied this privilege. We should familiarize ourselves with the ways of God. Only those who have done so can understand God. We can not understand the scriptures save through the Spirit of God. The Lord will speak to such of His children in the language suited to each one's condition. To Pharaoh, for instance, He sent one of the greatest prophets that ever lived, Moses. This prophet came and demanded that the children of Israel should be set free. But Pharaoh would not recognize Jehovah. The language of Moses was not intelligible to the proud king. God then changed his language. Plagues of various kinds were sent upon Egypt. This the king understood, and he acknowledged the power of God and promised to obey, although he repeatedly broke his royal word, until the last plague came with the most terrible force and convinced him to let the people go.

When Christ came, humble and lowly, few would believe Him. But when He hung upon the cross, and there came earthquake and darkness, then there were people that understood. They could not misunderstand the language of earthquakes testifying that He was the Son of God. So, now, God will speak to men in a tongue that they can understand. Some men harden their hearts until they feel the chills of death, or the trials of poverty, or till other painful experiences bring them round. It is not always that afflictions are from the evil one. God may sometimes have to send afflictions to bring about His good purposes.

There are times when we find ourselves tossed about like the disciples on the sea of Galilee, but in each of these experiences we can perceive the voice of our Master in the darkness: "Fear not; it is I!"

Let us strive to live so that we can realize the guidance of our God in all things and deserve the name of Latter-day Saints.

The choir sang the anthem:

Daughter of Zion.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder George G. Bywater.

## NOW THEY CAN'T DO IT.

Attorney William C. Hall August 18th, as requested by the Board of Equalization, filed his opinion in the County Clerk's office on Saturday, regarding the power of the board to lower the entire assessment roll of Salt Lake County. The opinion is as follows:

To the Hon. County Court, Salt Lake County:

I have carefully considered the question submitted, viz.: "Have you, as a board of equalization, power to lower the entire assessment roll of Salt Lake County?"