

Latter-day Saints numbered thousands, yet they were but few compared with the great family of man. They could not, however, pride themselves with the reflection that this blessing was for them alone; God was just as willing to remove doubt and uncertainty from every other heart as He had been to remove it from theirs. He was not a partial God; but when they saw how the inhabitants of the earth wandered and indulged in all manner of speculation concerning God and eternity and then reflected upon what God had revealed to the Latter-day Saints, it should fill them with inexpressible joy and thanksgiving for the mercy that He had shown unto them, and for the light and intelligence which He had poured out upon them as members of His Church.

The great bulk of mankind at the present time seemed to have very little hope concerning the future. He was very much struck with the writing left by Boulanger, the French general, who suicided in Belgium a few days ago. His closing words were that he "went to nothingness," died without hope, looked upon himself as going to annihilation. That, at least, was the only interpretation that could be put upon his last expressions. What a future for a man to contemplate—a man in the image of God, full of the attributes—though perhaps undeveloped—but still the attributes of Deity! Only imagine that by blowing his brains out he thought to end his existence for ever and become a clod of the earth! This was not, however, an exceptional belief; it was too general in the world to-day. God had not left the Latter-day Saints to be a prey to these dreadful feelings, but had implanted within them principles which gave them correct ideas concerning the future, the object of their creation, the purpose which our Father had in sending us here. With them it was life eternal; there was no limit to the blessings that God intended to bestow upon His people if they would only continue faithful. But He would still try them; they would still have to pass through the furnace of affliction, as many had already; and be tried as gold that was seven times purified; they would have to pass through the deep waters. Poverty, privations, and persecutions might yet be their lot; but if they endured these things and remained faithful to the end glory and blessings unlimited would be their share. He besought them to have unwavering confidence in God and let their faith be strong, for by the exercise of faith they could accomplish wonders. The things they had endured of late should increase rather than diminish their faith in God and His willingness to save them.

When they sought for gifts and blessings from God, let them not do so in order to satisfy their own requirements merely, and that they might be able to say "I am better than my fellowmen." If they asked for gifts, let them also pray for grace and strength commensurate therewith, so that they might bear them meekly and humbly, realizing that they were not ours, after all, but the gift of God, who could at any moment withdraw them from us. The nearer we lived to God the more the spirit of testimony would rest upon

us, and everything connected with our religion was then made simple and plain. No man or woman in this Church could grow in the work of God who did not constantly commune with Him and constantly have answers to their prayers.

President Cannon next remarked that there were many subjects which might be talked upon at this Conference, and many upon which the Saints needed instruction. The two or three days now before them were scarcely sufficient to get their hearts as mellow as they should be. They came to Conference with their minds absorbed and clouded with various business affairs. They should forget these, and enter heartily and prayerfully into the important work in which they professed to engage. Let them forget their anxieties and business cares and concentrate their thoughts entirely upon the work of the Lord.

That was the first day of their Conference, and he hoped to see it close as it had begun, with crowded congregations—the people hangering for the Word of God and desirous to hear the counsel of His servants. If they came together in that spirit, he knew they would not go away unsatisfied, but would be thankful for the good they had received.

The choir sang:

Pilgrims Chorus.

Benediction was pronounced by Patriarch John Smith.

#### Afternoon Session.

Sunday, Oct. 3.

The choir and congregation sang:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation,  
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam;  
God tidings are sounding to us and each nation,  
And shortly the hour of redemption will come.

Prayer by Elder Seymour B. Young.  
Singing by the choir:

Jesus, once of humble birth,  
Now in glory comes to earth;  
Once He suffered grief and pain,  
Now He comes on earth to reign.

The sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered, the priesthood of the First ward, Salt Lake City, officiating.

#### President Lorenzo Snow

addressed the conference. He said, in substance, that as his voice was not sufficiently strong to make all the vast congregation hear, his remarks would be brief. He would at least bear testimony that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is of God. Most of the Saints had realized their anticipations regarding the manifestations they expected when they embraced the Gospel. There might be a few, however, who had not to the fullest extent they had wished. There were some that could bear testimony that they received a knowledge of this work before they obeyed it. But as a general thing, this understanding had come subsequent to obedience. This was the case with him. He had a good opportunity to investigate and satisfy himself of the truth of the Gospel. He was acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother, the Patriarch, and others over fifty-five years ago. He became satisfied that if there was any truth in the claims of any religion, the principles taught by those men were correct. Consequently,

he acted upon this belief, although he knew he would have to face opposition. The bright worldly prospect then before him would have to be renounced. But he concluded that if the ancient Gospel and its powers and gifts had been restored, it would be an excellent thing to obey the divine message. After having been baptized and received the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands by those having divine authority, he obtained a most perfect knowledge. The heavens were opened above him, and so long as memory lasted he could not forget that testimony or have any doubt as to the divinity of what is called "Mormonism." His faith, however, did not rest alone upon the manifestation he had described, but for fifty-five years and over he had received many demonstrations of the divine character of the work of God. All faithful Latter-day Saints who wished to know from whence they came, what they were here for and whither they were hastening, these matters would, if they diligently searched, be made perfectly plain to them. They would realize the force of the parable of the Savior in reference to the man who found a treasure and sold all he had to obtain it; also the saying of Christ to the young man whom he told to give up all his worldly possessions and follow him. When Zion existed in its glory its people would be one. The time was near at hand when the Saints must again endeavor to do away with the class distinctions which have grown up in their midst, and become one in all things.

#### Apostle Franklin D. Richards.

was the next speaker. He expressed his desire to bear his testimony to his fellow-men concerning the truth of the Gospel as given to the world in these last days. He rejoiced exceedingly that God had sent His servants to the land of his nativity to testify of the glorious work that had been established. It was fifty-three years ago, last June that he obeyed the message. The speaker had previously commenced the work of searching the scriptures in order to learn the truth and he had not had to wait long till he found it. In the latter part of the same year the Lord had revealed it to him, and from that day till now, he had never, not even in the darkest hours of trials, had a doubt as to its genuineness. He had found it out through obedience to the principles laid before us this morning and by the reception of the Holy Spirit and the experience of His power, both in soul and in body. He was sorry that he had not been able to do more than he had for the advancement of the kingdom of God and the salvation of his fellowmen. The Lord had blessed him from time to time with spiritual gifts and he knew certainly that the work in which he was engaged was the work of the most high God.

We need never have any doubt concerning this work. The man who was honored as the instrument of introducing it into the world was a servant of God. He received it from Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The speaker testified that he knew that the Redeemer lives and that He will stand on the earth in the latter