

Singing:

This earth was once a garden place, etc.

Bishop Keeler was the first speaker. He was pleased, he said, to see such an assembly present—especially so to see so many who were intimately acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith. He became acquainted with the Prophet in the year 1839. He looked upon Joseph Smith as the greatest Prophet that had ever lived upon the earth—because he was the only personage that the Father and the Son had both appeared to at the same time upon the earth. The speaker related numerous instances with which the Prophet Joseph was connected in the early history of the Church, which tended to show that God was with him in all his undertakings to do good and to help the rolling on of His great work.

H. B. Clawson, Bishop of the Twelfth ward, said he became acquainted with the Prophet in 1841 when he with his parents removed to Nauvoo. The speaker attended a school in what was called "Joseph's store," and narrated a little incident that occurred when he had made application to become a member of a certain debating society. He was so small that several of the members opposed his becoming enrolled, when the Prophet arose and in a gentle rebuke, scored the members for the action taken by them against him. The Prophet said, "'Tis such boys as these that we want to join our associations—boys that are willing and anxious to take part in our societies are the kind that will make a success of it." These remarks had a great bearing on the speaker and helped him to strive onward through life. Spoke of the many good qualities of Joseph, and stated that he was noted for his kindness of heart to all with whom he came in contact.

George Romney, Bishop of the Twentieth ward, said he first saw the Prophet when his parents came to Nauvoo in the month of April, 1841. Brothers Leach, Clawson and others arrived there at the same time. In referring to the martyrdom of Joseph, the speaker stated that on that day hardly a dry eye could be seen in Kirtland, Nauvoo and vicinity. Sorrow filled the hearts of the people—because they had learned to love him, and appreciated the spirit that prompted all the remarks that he ever made. Elder Romney paid a visit last fall to the towns which were inhabited by the Saints in the early days of the Church. "What a change has come over the land!" The once thriving settlement of the Saints, are no longer thriving. A blight seems to have come over them and the places which were once so lovely to look upon, are now almost deserted.

Lucy Walker Smith, one of the living wives of the Prophet, was introduced to the audience. Fifty-three years ago she entered into the covenant of marriage with the Prophet. She was led to this step through praying earnestly to God in obedience to the teachings of the Prophet who had told her that God had decreed that she should be his wife. She had always loved Joseph, because she believed he was truly a prophet of God, but when asked to become his wife, that was another thing

—she didn't feel willing to do it. However, in answer to her prayers God had given her a testimony that it was His will that she should be sealed to Joseph in marriage, and having received this testimony she yielded. Knew that the Gospel was true and hoped the Saints would try to emulate the examples set them by the Prophet.

President Joseph F. Smith felt that he was one of the youngest persons living who had been acquainted with the Prophet. He was about six years of age when Joseph was killed, and hence had a very meager recollection of him. He, however, remembered having been taken on to the knee of the Prophet, at which time Joseph had asked Hyrum (President Smith's father) what the matter was with Joseph, as he looked very pale at the time. He also remembered having seen the dead bodies of his father and Joseph as they were lying in the Prophet's house. The speaker here read a memoranda made by him on Sept. 27, 1878, on the occasion of a visit by Orson Pratt, himself and others to Nauvoo and surrounding country. It referred to an interview had with David Whitmer in which he bore witness to having seen the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated, and had testified as to the authenticity of the testimony of the eight witnesses.

David Whitmer was the last surviving witness to the Book of Mormon and his testimony to its divinity remained with him till his death. The speaker referred to an interview had with a scientist, who, while admitting that Joseph Smith was an honest man, claimed that his seeing and talking with God, the Father, and the Son, was simply an hallucination that he was laboring under and not an actual occurrence. This same man, though when confronted with the question: "Is it possible for three men to be laboring under the same hallucination at the same time?" when shown the testimony of the three witnesses, knew not what to say, but simply remarked that he was not prepared to answer that question. President Smith closed his remarks by declaring that while the birthday of the Prophet did not excite much attention at the present time, the day would come when all the Saints everywhere would celebrate and commemorate the day when the beloved Prophet first saw the light.

Elizabeth D. Roundy being called to the stand, read an excellent article on the Prophet Joseph. Its introduction ran thus: "While we have not met in honor of the inauguration of Utah as a state, we have assembled, to commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the birth of him who made it possible for Utah to be enshrined into the sisterhood of states. He who introduced to the people that which took from them the darkness which hovered over them and caused that star to shine which led the Saints of God to these valleys which we call Utah and which are to be shortly honored and endowed with Statehood." At the conclusion of her address, which was replete with words bearing witness to the high character of Joseph Smith, she read a testimony from Jacob Weller, an old friend of the Prophet's, in which he bore witness of the holy

spirit which accompanied the Prophet in all his walks and conversation.

Archibald M. Hill, who embraced the Gospel in Canada in the year 1840, spoke of his acquaintance with the Prophet Joseph and related a number of incidents in connection therewith. He felt pleased with having the privilege of an acquaintance with the Prophet, and bore witness to the Spirit of God that accompanied all his remarks.

Other remarks equally as interesting as those already made mention of were made by Joseph C. Klugebury, one of the twenty-four Elders who assisted in laying the corner stone of the Kirtland Temple, Walter Wilcox and old time playmate and friend of the Prophet's, James Leach, who found pleasure in quoting the sayings of the Prophet, James W. Philpen whose acquaintance with Joseph had been one of unalloyed pleasure and happiness, and B. M. Aldrich, who has recently located in these valleys, but who first saw Joseph at his father's house in Hancock county, Illinois, in the year 1843.

The choir and congregation sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning.

Benediction was pronounced by Patriarch John Smith.

WINTER QUARTERS.

SCOTFIELD, Dec. 21, 1895.—A fire broke out at the residence of Archibald Anderson at Winter Quarters on Thursday evening, Dec. 19th at 8:30 o'clock. The house (a frame) and all its contents were consumed in less than an hour.

The family barely escaped with their lives. Mrs. Anderson, who was sick in bed at the time, and a baby four days old, were somewhat scorched while getting out of the house.

Pay day came to both of the mines here this week to gladden the hearts of the people for Christmas, that is, those who were fortunate enough to get a good pay.

The coal trade is beginning to slacken off, and the mines are not working so steady.

Seven inches of snow fell here last night.

MORMON BOX.

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 23.—A special courier from Gen. Maceo's command arrived here last night. He reports the Cuban army marching toward Mantanzas in three columns, one under Jose Lacrete and Suarez with 2,000 men, another in the north under Maceo with 3,000. The center column, under Gen. Gomez, has 6,000 men. Each column has two field-pieces of modern artillery. The extreme vanguard, 1,000 men, is commanded by Brigadier Francisco Perez, and the rear guard of 1,000 is under Quintin Bandera. In Gen. Gomez's first engagement at Matanzas with Col. Aragona, detached expressly to detain the former's march, the Spanish loss was 340 dead. Up to the time the steamer left Havana nothing had been heard of the two companies of the battalion of Canales. It is supposed they fell into the insurgents' hands. Manacitas was occupied for three days by the insurgents, who, upon leaving destroyed the town. Gen. Maceo was at Lajas when the latest reports concerning him had been received.