

plain than this. It describes exactly what should take place in the last days. The predictions of that Prophet are full of comfort and consolation to all who are seeking to serve God. The tradition is that Isaiah's death was caused by his being sawn asunder and that throughout his life he suffered great trials and persecutions. He felt like a stranger and a pilgrim in the land. He saw, however, in vision a glorious future for the faithful Saints, which caused him to rejoice. The nations of the earth at the present time are indulging in sin and fulfilling by their acts towards the Saints the predictions of ancient prophets. Our Elders who go forth to the various nations of the earth seem to accomplish but little in the way of making converts, but it is necessary that their testimony should be borne. A great work is also being done in the example which the Saints are setting before the world. There is scarcely a people or community now living who are not more or less familiar with the history and doctrines of the Saints. The outrages perpetrated against them are made known throughout the world, and inasmuch as they are sanctioned by those who really have no connection with them, they thereby become accessories thereto after the fact. It is notorious that hundreds of Latter-day Saints have been sent to prison for the practice of their religion, and also that unwarranted methods have been resorted to for the purpose of wresting the control of this city from the people. The people to whom the knowledge of these things comes in this and other nations form and express opinions thereon, and inasmuch as they feel to justify and approve of such treatment of the Saints, they will be held accountable therefor by the Almighty. But men who raise their voices and use their influence against such doings will be blessed of God. The great drawback among the Saints is their want of experience to do that which the Lord requires at their hands. It is necessary that the Saints should have harsh and severe experience that they may learn the lessons that will qualify them and their children after them to fill the mighty destiny marked out for them. If we were to be ushered into the full possession of the power which the Prophet Isaiah speaks of, we would be unable to use it aright. There has been a time in our history when we were too narrow in our views to be entrusted with power. Our ideas have become broadened and will be still more so until we will be able to use without abusing the power which will come to us. Let us be careful and not betray the secret of our strength, and thereby cause the displeasure of the Lord and give our enemies power over us.

BISHOP WM. B. PRESTON.

The practical nature of the religion of the Latter-day Saints first impressed me with the distinction between it and others. It remains with us as to whether we will understand the signs of the times and profit thereby. We have reason to

rejoice in the prospect before us. Many of us are so constituted that we seem to be able to learn only by the things which we suffer, and such are rendered more faithful when oppressed by their enemies. Good will result from the experience which the Saints are passing through. The first sermon I ever heard President Young preach was on the subject of domestic economy, and the lessons therein taught are as necessary for the Saints to learn today as then. We are not doing enough toward self-support; and the Bishops of the Wards should seek to institute home manufactures in our midst, and contend against the spirit of extravagance which seems to be increasing. The remarks which were made at the Priesthood meeting in regard to the labors of the Lesser Priesthood were very timely. The Priesthood of every Ward ought to be called together at least once a month and instructed in regard to their duties, and methods discussed and measures adopted for saving the flock under their charge. The Saints should be faithful in the payment of their tithes and offerings if they would enjoy the favor of the Lord.

COUNSELOR JOSEPH E. TAYLOR:

The remarks offered during this conference have been texts from which many sermons might be preached. We have met in a semi-annual conference and the members of the Church have the opportunity of listening to the rich instruction that is given. A gentleman was heard to remark that he had attended three meetings in the Tabernacle and that each time the burden of the sermon had always been the same; the speakers had labored to impress their hearers with the superiority of their own religion over all others. However offensive that fact might be to others when mentioned, we need not seek to suppress it, for God has revealed to us the truth and it is our duty to make it known. While listening to the remarks of Elder T. Image I was impressed with the fact that the secret of the Latter-day Saints' strength lay with the Almighty. We could not enhance our interests by compromising with our enemies. There will doubtless be men forsake the ranks of the Latter-day Saints because of the severe tests to which they will be subjected. Not every man will need to prove his faithfulness by going to prison, or into exile, or sacrificing his life, but there will be other ways by which he can prove to our Father that we are true to Him. Had the Saints obeyed in the past the injunction so often impressed upon them by President Young that the beauty of their garments should be the workmanship of their own hands, they would be in a very different position today. They might be comparatively free from the power of those who have grown rich on the patronage of the Saints and then used the money thus obtained to oppress us.

The services concluded with the choir singing Hymn 249 and prayer being offered by Bishop J. S. Rawlins.

At 2 p.m. the service commenced with the choir singing Hymn 218 and the opening prayer being offered by Elder Geo. C. Lambert.

The choir sang:

Praise ye the Lord! My heart shall join
In work so pleasant, so divine.

Counselor Joseph E. Taylor read the statistical report of the Salt Lake Stake for the six months ending Jan. 31, 1890, showing a total membership of 27,547, a net increase of 265 for the half year. The total number of families reported were 5281, 40 marriages, 159 births of males and 154 births of females 79 new members and 262 children were reported baptized and only 3 excommunicated. The deaths reported were 86 males and 90 females. The report of the High Priests' Quorum for the Stake was read, as was also the Presiding Bishop's report of the fast offerings and charity account, from which it appeared that four wards had failed to report. The amount shown to have been received from fast offerings was \$4632.60, from the relief societies \$3105.64; from other sources \$908.43; and from the Tithing department \$13,730.70; the total disbursements for the period being \$21,356.76, and the total number receiving support 1556.

Reports of the Elders' Quorums Relief Societies, Sunday Schools and Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations were also read, the Young Ladies' and Primary Associations not having reported.

The authorities of the Stake were presented and sustained by unanimous vote as follows:

Angus M. Cannon, President; Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose, Counselors.

High Counselors—Wm. Eddington, Theodore McKean, George J. Taylor, Henry Dinwoodey, Anders W. Winberg, John T. Caine, Jesse W. Fox, Elias Morris, James P. Freeze, Milando Pratt, Elias A. Smith, Jesse W. Fox, Jr.

Alternates—Alonzo H. Raleigh, Joseph D. C. Young, John Nicholson, John Clark, David L. Davis, James Moyle, Orson A. Woolley, William W. Riter, Edward Snelgrove.

President of the High Priests' Quorum—Elias Morris, with George B. Wallace and Wm. C. Dunbar as his Counselors.

Patriarchs—Charles W. Hyde, Lorenzo D. Young, Wm. J. Smith, George W. Hill, William Draper, Joseph T. Kingsbury, Alonzo H. Raleigh, Washington Lemon, Thos. E. Jeremy, Henry Norman, Joseph Horne and Joseph Harker.

Fourteen Home Missionaries were released owing to being called to act in other positions such as Patriarchs, Bishops, teachers in Sabbath Schools, removal from Stake, etc. Thirty-six names were added to the list and acted upon.

Clerk of the Stake and of the High Council, James D. Stirling.

Stake Reporter, John M. Whittaker.

Board of Education of the Latter-day Saints' College of Salt Lake Stake: Angus M. Cannon, Wm. B. Dougall, John Nicholson, Elias