

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, November 22d, 1891, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

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

Prayer was offered by Elder E. Tripp.

The choir and congregation sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning,  
The latter-day glory begins to come forth.

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

## APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

was called to address the congregation. He desired to give utterance to such thoughts as the Lord should put into his heart, and he wished the Saints to assist him, that he might be restrained from saying anything not in accordance with the mind of our Heavenly Father.

He was thankful for living among the Latter-day Saints, and in a country such as this. When we consider the events that daily occur in the world, we should feel happy, for we are certainly the most favored of all people on the earth. Even leaving out of consideration the eternal blessings which have been promised to us, we are certainly a most favored people. God blesses us in our homes, and our lands, and notwithstanding all trials, we cannot help but feel that there is a providence in them. We must acknowledge the hand of God and see how marvelously He has been working for our good in all respects.

A few days ago, the speaker had had a conversation with a missionary just returned from the Eastern States. This man had been out there to gather genealogies as well as to preach the Gospel. Many years had elapsed since he had visited his old home, and he had anticipated a great deal of pleasure in meeting again with old acquaintances and visiting familiar places. But he returned sadly disappointed and felt regret because of the changed conditions now prevailing in that part of our country. Where formerly were well cultivated farms are now forests. Where formerly were numerous schools are now only a few required for the education of the children. In places which once were divided into five school districts, you would find only one now. The exception was to find families with three or more children. Occasionally one or two were found, but often people married, lived together and died without any offspring. The land has lost its fertility. Young men state that they are not able to obtain a living from a good-sized farm. This is a sad picture, the speaker observed, and he could not help comparing the condition of that part of our country with that with which God has blessed us. This land, a few years ago, was considered uninhabitable, suitable only to the Indians and hardly capable of sustaining them, yet now, it could be seen on every hand, that God has showered His blessings upon it,

and rewarded the toil of the people. He has gathered from various parts of the earth. It is as if He would present a contrast to the nations of the earth, thereby teaching all men and women that in accepting the revelations of God and keeping His commandments, there are temporal as well as spiritual blessings.

God has indeed favored us wonderfully. He has taught us principles whereby we are enabled to perpetuate a strong race in these valleys and even extend the age of man; that we may live longer and attain more knowledge of the things not yet revealed. It is said that the average age of the people in this nation is fifty-five years, while in many countries in Europe it is only thirty-three. It is also said that about fifty per cent. of the children die in infancy, and a great many of those who survive pass away before they reach manhood. People not understanding the physical laws which govern the perpetuation of the race violate these laws in various ways, thereby transferring diseases to their offspring, the results of which are seen in the increased deaths. Sickness is heard of on every hand, and it looks as if it were only a question of a few years to see the nation extinct through the increase of sickness and a disposition of parents to cease rearing offspring. From many places people have sent abroad to Scandinavia and other countries to get people to occupy the land which lies waste for want of cultivation.

Men and women who have noticed these things have felt alarm for the future. But God has revealed His Gospel, not only for its spiritual salvation and the future glories which await the faithful, but also to teach the people how to live in the flesh, how to take care of themselves in a temporal way. The Lord wants us to educate ourselves and our children. We should not wait until the children are born before teaching them to live, but we should study how to take care of ourselves, that no sin or its consequences may be transmitted from us to the third and fourth generation of our descendants. We should observe the laws which God has given us, and particularly the Word of Wisdom, whereby we are taught to refrain from the use of intoxicating drinks, tobacco, hot beverages, etc., in order that we may walk and not become weary, run and not become faint, and that the great treasures of knowledge now hidden may be revealed and God's storehouse of truth be opened to us. If we do not observe these laws, we can never reach the high ideal it is our privilege to reach. If through our disobedience to the laws of God, we transmit diseases to our children, they will surely be our accusers. We cannot stand justified before them, if we send them forth with weakened intellects and physical disability. We ought to set our faces against everything that tends to destruction and direct our minds towards that which pertains to life both here and hereafter.

God has always instructed His children concerning their mode of living. Through Moses He taught His ancient people in these things. We, too, are His children, and He will certainly give us similar instructions, if we are willing to receive them, but if we refuse to act upon His counsels,

and receive them not, but disregard them, we cannot hope to receive any more of His instructions. The Lord has called us out from the world to teach us a higher law pertaining to life here and hereafter, in order that our children may live longer and may finally reach the high age which was enjoyed by the ancient patriarchs who walked with God for hundreds of years. But He desires us to live pure lives and to root out every evil from our midst. We should seek for the testimony of Jesus, the most valuable "pearl of great price" that can be obtained by a human being, but having received this, we cannot disregard the things which God has taught us in regard to this life. When a man or a woman seeks knowledge by study and the exercise of faith, God will give it, but those who disregard the physical laws cannot receive knowledge as those can who keep these laws.

God has many blessings in store for us, if we only will prepare ourselves for them. Let us therefore be diligent and free from evils of all kinds, showing to the world that we are the Saints of God, indeed.

## PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

addressed the congregation, dwelling principally upon the practical duties of the people.

The choir sang the anthem "Let the mountains shout for joy," and the congregation joined the choir in the doxology.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder D. L. Davis.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, November 29, 1891, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

There were present on the stand Apostle A. H. Cannon, Patriarch John Smith, John Morgan, of the Presidency of the Seventies, A. M. Cannon and C. W. Penrose of the Stake Presidency and several leading Elders, also Rev. A. J. Bailey, Pastor of the Congregational Church at Ogden.

The choir on this occasion was composed of nearly 500 children from the various ward Sunday schools in the city, led by Professor Evan Stephens.

The juvenile choir sang the anthem:

Light and Truth.

Prayer was offered by Counselor Charles W. Penrose.

The juvenile choir sang the hymn, beginning:

Jesus, once of humble birth,  
Now in glory comes to earth.

The Priesthood of the Ninth ward officiated in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

## ELDER JOHN MORGAN

said he had been requested to occupy a portion of the time that afternoon, and expressed his gratification at meeting with so large a number of the Saints on the occasion. In their gathering together they were wholly dependent on the Spirit which led into all truth, for their light and thought; because without it they had learned that man, in his weakness, was not capacitated to gain information or instruction in relation to the plan of life and salvation. But however weak an instrument he might be, God in His