

this class flows from the public expression of their views. We have had numerous instances of young people calling at this office and propounding questions, in relation to doctrines advanced by men of the class now referred to. In some cases the utterances that have caused commotion among some of the people have been delivered by some man of experience and presumed mature judgment in a young people's meeting. Others again have spoken about mysterious subjects in quorum meetings and other such gatherings.

A man may not be curtailed in his mental flights, but order and discipline require that he should be, so far as relates to the public expression of his views—when they conflict with accepted doctrines. When his ideas cover ground that is essentially new, without any other ingredient of objection, unless it comes from the head of the Church, his authority to promulgate them does not exist. Anything new that affects the general faith of the Church must necessarily come first through the head. Without such a rule the Church would become segregated in its faith and spiritual schisms would multiply.

To the Saints the Lord promises an understanding of the principles of His economy. His people will receive line upon line and precept upon precept, until they shall see eye to eye. That elevated spiritual plane could never be attained if the safeguards against doctrinal segregation were disregarded.

DISCOURSE

Delivered by President George Q. Cannon, at the General Conference, Sunday morning, October 8th, 1889.

I do not recall a conference which I enjoyed better (as far as we have gone) than this Conference which commenced on Friday last. I have felt the Spirit of God in our midst, and have been exceedingly edified and pleased with the remarks which have been made by the various speakers. It is a cause of thanksgiving to every Latter-day Saint, when we meet in Conference, to know that the Lord meets with us, and that His Spirit is poured out upon His servants. We have heard from the Elders how much we need this Spirit, and how impossible it is for us to please our God, and to accomplish the labors devolving upon us without its presence and assistance. I am thankful every day of my life that I live in an age when God has poured out His Holy Spirit upon man; that we are not left to the guidance of our own minds, to grope in uncertainty, in doubt, in darkness concerning God, concerning the life to come, concerning His purposes towards man and the earth

upon which he dwells. When I think of the darkness that has been swept away; when I think of the uncertainty and doubt that have been dispelled; when I think of the flood of light which God has sent forth from His eternal throne to His children upon the earth through the medium of His Prophet, through the revelation of His Gospel, through the bestowal of His Holy Priesthood and the gift of the Holy Ghost, I feel to thank God with all my heart that my lot has been cast in a day like the present. For we are not left to ourselves; we are not left a prey to doubt and to fear and to anxiety. We know that God is with us; we know that He guides this great work, that everything connected with it is known to Him, and that its final destiny has been predicted by Him. If ever there was a people upon the face of the earth that ought to be filled with the most profound gratitude to our God for all that He has done for them, we who are assembled here today, as well as all the members of the Church who are not here, should be that people.

We are menaced by our enemies; we are threatened by dire evils; we are told our destruction is right at the threshold, that we shall be inevitably overthrown and our power wrested from us. But this is not the first time is our history that we have heard such statements. Along the pathway we have trod similar threats have been made to us; this pathway has been environed by difficulties, beset with foes, and it has seemed to human vision as though our escape was utterly impossible. How often has this been the case those who have had experience well know. It has seemed at times as though there was an impassable barrier in our pathway, impenetrable to human vision, impenetrable to human progress. But as we have stepped forward the difficulties have vanished, the pathway has been made clear, every obstruction has been moved out of the way, and we have gone joyously forward to accomplish the work that God has committed to us and commanded us to perform. I rejoice exceedingly in this. We are very weak ourselves; and those of us who bear responsibility are very conscious when we live as we should do, of our incapacity, and how very far we are from being what we should be. We shrink from the contemplation of the great weight that rests upon us, of the character of the labors that we have to perform. We would stand appalled at them, if it were not for the consciousness that God is with us, that God sustains this people; that God furnishes the wisdom and gives the strength, and that He has provided the victory; and it is comforting to know that all we have to do, is to do that which is assigned to us to the best of our power and ability, putting our trust in Him. And how strong this makes us! Not in our own strength, but in the strength of our God—He who has delivered us out of so many trials—He who has brought us through so many troubles—He who has never deserted or forsaken us, but has been near at

hand when we have called upon Him. He has heard us when affliction has befallen us, extending deliverance to us, filling us with hope, filling us with peace, filling us with joy, no matter how threatening the circumstances that have surrounded us. Can there be found a better people upon the face of the earth than the Latter-day Saints? I cannot speak for all, but I speak for the bulk, the brethren and sisters whom I know. I know by their faces, so radiant with gladness, that there is peace and joy in their hearts. I know by my own feelings—for my life, notwithstanding its vicissitudes, notwithstanding its sorrows, has been to me a complete joy until now. I have rejoiced with joy unspeakable; my language cannot describe it, not in myself but in our God, in the salvation He has assured to us. I know that this people are a favored people. I know that notwithstanding all our trials, notwithstanding all that we have to contend with, there is no enemy of ours, there is no combination of enemies of ours, whose happiness compares in the least degree with the joy and with the happiness that the Latter-day Saints have in their possession. Is not this a cause of great thanksgiving to us? Ought not our souls to swell with gratitude to God our Father for these blessings bestowed upon us? Ought we not to be a humble and obedient people? Ought we not to do His will, and have our will swallowed up entirely in His holy will? If this is not the case, then we are the most ungrateful people that ever lived, and our condemnation will be a very heavy one, if we are in this condition.

We have heard remarks fall from our brethren's lips, during the preceding meetings, concerning the disunion that exists among the Latter-day Saints. Their remarks called to mind a conversation which I had some weeks ago with an old acquaintance whom I knew in Washington. He had attended one of our meetings in company with some lady friends, and they had heard some of the speakers, in their public utterances, dwell upon the importance of union. And he related to me the comments that were made by his lady friends concerning the teaching. They had drawn the inference from the remarks, that the leading Elders were afraid that the Church was tumbling to pieces, that the work of disintegration was going on to such an extent as to cause them great alarm, which accounted for the earnest, solemn tones in which the speakers addressed the Saints concerning union and its importance, and their exhortations to the people to be more united.

I suppose those who are not acquainted with us might draw such conclusions from remarks made during this Conference. But it must be remembered by us at least, whatever other people may think, that we, as President Woodruff has told us, are placed as watchmen upon the walls of Zion, and that we do not speak as hireling ministers speak. It is not our calling to say pleasant things to the people, when they need different instructions and