

REMARKS

BY

ELDER ALBERT CARRINGTON,

DELIVERED

At the Adjourned Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 11th, 1874.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

I HAVE been much interested during our meetings in this Conference, and, with you, I measurably realize the benefits to be derived in thus assembling together. In my reflections in reference to some remarks that have been made I have been led to ask myself—What is crime? Simply a transgression of the law, human or divine. What is law? It is, or should be, a rule of order founded in justice, for the benefit of those to whom it may apply. Now, so far as we are concerned in regard to law, we are under divine law, the gospel, the grand plan of salvation—a law that is perfect, plain and simple as well as just, and applicable to the whole human family at all times, and in this we should rejoice. But we are also under human laws as well, we pertain to a number of what are termed human governments, subject, in a greater or less degree, to man-made institutions, and are they perfect? No, each and every one of them, notwithstanding the intelligence possessed by mankind, and their centuries of experience, contain the seeds of their own dissolution, and, in the providence of God, they are all destined, in their times and in their seasons, to be superseded by the government and kingdom of God upon the earth—a fact at which every human being should rejoice. But do they? Does even that portion of the world termed Christian rejoice in the ushering in of the kingdom of God upon the earth? I am sorry to say, and chagrined for humanity at being compelled to say, that all Christendom, almost to a unit, perhaps as much a unit on that subject as upon any one thing, although they have the Bible in their hands, are opposed to the establishment of the government of God upon the earth. What folly, absurdity and inconsistency on the part of so-called Christendom to oppose that which was devised in the wisdom of the Gods in the eternal worlds, and which, in its very nature and constitution, is calculated to benefit and to promote, to the utmost possible degree, the welfare of mankind in all their relations!

What about the government under which we live? Why, it is one of the very best, as to its form, that the human family have ever devised. It was founded by excellent, honorable, upright, liberal and high-minded men who, in framing the constitution, were measurably inspired by that Holy Spirit which our Father in the heavens bestows upon whom he will. That is the view that we, as Latter-day Saints, have in regard to the fundamental or basic instrument of the government of the United States termed the Constitution; and however much we may be misrepresented, maligned or lied about in regard to that matter, as a people we are loyal to that constitution to the minutest principle therein contained. We understand that constitution—its spirit as well as its letter—and, so far as it is observed, it is a very excellent instrument for the conducting of human affairs. We are a people that uphold that constitution, and we ever have done so, and take great pleasure in doing so, and as also with every constitutional law; and I am at the defiance of the wide world to truthfully controvert the statement that we, as Latter-day Saints, have ever transgressed one single particle of constitutional law, or have ever had any occasion to do so, or ever will have in obeying the principles of the gospel and laboring to build up and establish the kingdom of God on the earth. What do you think of that? The world will tell you that we are a terrible set, that we are dishonest, ignorant, stupid, fanatical, bigoted, deceivers and deceived, and in all these statements and as many more about the Latter-day Saints the world will lie like the devil.

Now, you heard me say constitutional law. Mark it well. I understand, as a general thing, somewhat of what I am saying when I speak, and I made use of the expression understandingly. The constitutional laws of this government, what are they? They are laws enacted in pursuance of the principles couched in that constitution under the authority given the Congress of our nation to enact laws for the whole United States, and to make treaties for our government. All that is beyond that one hair's breadth is just that far usurpation, tyranny and wrong. Have we obeyed that, more or less? Oh, no doubt; we have had to do so now these many years. In the days of the strapping Joseph, when he was first called of God to bring forth this great latter-day work that the Lord our God has set his hand to accomplish, he was assailed unconstitutionally, so far as the constitution of the State of New York was concerned, by the citizens of that state; and again, the same thing occurred in Ohio, in Missouri, and, finally, in Illinois, where, contrary to the plighted faith of the governor of the state, he was slain by a mob, because, according to their own testimony, the law could not reach him, for he had lived above it. What right, then, had they to assault or interrupt him? No right whatever.

Now, we as a people, left the states, and I may say we left Christendom, from the simple fact that we were obliged to do so in order to live our religion. But would they let us alone after we had left the states? No. After having aided in the conquest of the very region to which we fled to avoid persecution and religious

tyranny, they were not satisfied even then to leave us unmolested to worship the true and living God according to the dictates of our own consciences; but they have followed us as a nation, and are following us to this day—a professed Christian nation is trying to force upon us the tyranny and oppression of unconstitutional law, administered by officers for whose appointment there is not a scintilla of right under the constitution. What do you think of that? And we are enduring their interference with our domestic affairs with as much patience as we may. We have endured these things with considerable patience for many long years, and I realize that we shall still be able to do so, trusting that patience is one of the great requirements of our Father concerning us as his children. He desires that we should be long-suffering towards those who seek to afflict and oppress us, as he is long-suffering towards the human family in their wickedness and waywardness, and we must become like unto him in these respects if we are his; and if we expect to become perfect in our sphere as he is in his, we not only have to be patient and long-suffering, but we shall have to continue in patience and long-suffering. Will we do so? I trust so, knowing the blindness, ignorance, bigotry, superstition, and consequent intolerance of our fellow-beings; knowing also that they as well as we are answerable to the Lord our God, being careful, while leaving events in the hands of the Supreme Ruler, that our conduct, day by day, is such that it will bear, not only the strictest examination and scrutiny of our fellow-beings, but also of our Father and his angels; realizing, also, now as anciently, that whosoever will live godly in Christ Jesus must needs suffer persecution. Do not forget that this is in the very nature of things, from the simple fact that, in order to constitute this a probation, wickedness has been permitted upon the earth; and hence good and evil; and wickedness is and ever has been aggressive, tyrannical, oppressive, cruel and murderous, and so it will ever continue to be. Do not forget these plain facts, and when you hear the wicked lie, and see them strive to oppress you and to deprive you of your rights do not get impatient about it and fancy that it is anything new, but remember that it has ever been so since the days of Cain, and that it will continue until wickedness is swept from this footstool of Jehovah, and not before that time can we hope to cease to be oppressed and wronged. And this is necessary to prove whether we will endure all things, as the great Captain, pattern, and exemplar of our faith and the great High Priest of our salvation endured, in his time. He was buffeted, scourged and mobbed and led like a lamb to the slaughter—a being in whom was no guile, who finally terminated his mortal career by a cruel death on the cross. He was opposed by his own when he came to call and gather them as their king and ruler. Who were his own? The tribes of Israel, and he came more particularly to that most stubborn and stiff-necked of all the tribes—the tribe of Judah. And did the scribes and pharisees, the rabbis and lawyers, the wise, intelligent and noble hail and welcome him? No, most assuredly not; then how much less need we expect that they will hail and welcome us, his professed followers! When, instead of himself, his word, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, came to Christendom with its almost numberless free schools and its millions of bibles and legions of priests, did the people hail that word? No, they spurned it, and in every conceivable way derided him who brought it; and, as in the days of the Savior, the priests, the pharisees and scribes, the wise in their own estimation and the wealthy all banded together to keep from the children of men the word of God, which is truth, and which is the power of God unto salvation to all who will believe and obey it. Are not these facts? I know they are, though the whole world may gainsay I know that I am telling you the truth, as God lives I know it for myself.

Now then, with regard to these matters that we are immediately passing through—the attempted enforcement of laws that are not constitutional and, through not being constitutional, that are not valid, and consequently of no force or effect whatever, in justice, what are we endeavoring to do about it? I trust that we will endure, with all patience, whatever the Lord our God may permit the evil one and those who, through the exercise of their agency, list to serve him, to accomplish; and while enduring with all patience, that we seek, in all faithfulness and uprightness for the guidance of his Holy Spirit to lead us in the path of truth and to enable us to walk therein, and to endure meekly and patiently all things that he in his providence may see fit to place upon us, in order to prove whether we as individuals and as a people will serve him in evil as well as in good report. Is there anything bigoted or contrary to the principles of eternal truth as taught by the Savior and his apostles in all this? No. Then why not the world turn to the Lord our God, and live? Why not, Latter-day Saints, for our own sakes, live faithfully, humbly and uprightly and in all respects honor the requirements of the gospel, until we become powerful through good works and able to meet, with joy, the coming of the Savior, and prepared to hail with gladness the society and companionship of just men made perfect, being worthy to associate with them and to share in their blessings, and finally, be saved in the celestial kingdom of our Father? That this may be our lot is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"I am very happy," said a French mother. "I have a son-in-law whom everybody discusses, and a daughter whom no one talks about."

REMARKS

BY

ELDER CHARLES C. RICH,

DELIVERED

At the Adjourned Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 11th, 1874.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

I HAVE rejoiced in listening to the instructions that we have received this morning, as well as during the whole of this Conference. It seems to me that they ought to make an everlasting impression upon the minds of the Saints, and that we, one and all, should be determined, under the influence thereof, to live more faithfully and to keep the commandments of God as near as possible in all things; and I have no doubt that this is the feeling, at the present time, of most of those who have attended this Conference. It is for us to guard against temptation that may be presented before us, and when we leave this place, that we suffer not ourselves to do or to say anything that is wrong, but be willing, with an eye single to the glory of God, to carry out the counsels of his servants and to perform all the labors required at our hands in aiding to advance his cause and to build up his kingdom upon the earth, that we may prepare ourselves for that which is to come both on the earth and in the eternal worlds. I know very well that there is no being upon the earth who is thus engaged, but what feels well; all such rejoice in their labors, and the spirit and power of God will rest upon the Saints when they take this course and adopt this policy.

We have been permitted to live in one of the most auspicious times or dispensations that has ever been ushered in upon the earth—the dispensation of the gathering together of all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. We may feel our weakness and inability, but it is not our strength or wisdom that is to bring about the triumph of the purposes of God upon the earth, we are simply co-workers with our heavenly Father, and his power will bear off his Saints in the future as it has done in the past and up to the present time. It is upon his arm that we have to lean, and in him we must put our trust. When has there been a time when the Saints have trusted in God and been disappointed? Never; inasmuch as we have done our part, the Almighty has never failed to do his and to fulfill his promises. We have the power to carry on this work and to perfect ourselves, and also to perform a labor for our benefit and for the benefit of our friends who lived before us who did not have such an opportunity as we have. This should be impressed upon our minds, and we should not suffer ourselves to neglect any duty that is incumbent upon us, whether for our benefit or for the benefit of those who have lived before us. When we pass behind the veil and meet with our friends, if we can tell them that, while we were in the flesh, we attended to and performed certain ordinances and ceremonies in their behalf which they, while here, had not the privilege of attending to and performing for themselves, and which they had not power to accomplish in the spirit world, it certainly will be a matter of rejoicing to us and also to them; but, if, on meeting them there, we have to admit that we neglected to do that for their benefit which it had been in our power to attend to we shall not feel pleasant, and our friends will most assuredly be disappointed.

In speaking of the temples now in course of erection in which to perform the ordinances for the dead, our hearts ought to be inspired with determinations to go all we can to push them forward to completion, that, in our day, while we yet live in the flesh, we may have the privilege of doing a work therein for our dead friends as well as for ourselves. All these things are before us, and our eyes should be single to the glory of God, and our hearts set upon building up his kingdom upon the earth, and not upon objects that do not tend in this direction. I have felt, for many years, that I was not safe in any place or upon any errand, and had no business to be engaged in any labor, no matter what it might be, unless that business, errand or labor was directed by the priesthood; and I feel to-day that all the labors and operations of the Latter-day Saints, temporal and spiritual, ought to be organized and directed by the priesthood which God has established to lead his people. If our labors are thus directed they will tell in the right direction—for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God, and not for the promotion of evil upon the earth. This is a thing against which we should be continually on our guard. Human nature is weak, and many people when brought in contact with evil influences are liable to be led away, they are in danger, and the best, the safest, policy is to keep away from dangerous ground and beyond the range of evil, and we should not associate with those whose influence is evil.

Our lives are made up of small items, of labors performed a little at a time. If our acts are good, if our words are such that the righteous can approve of them, we need not fear when they are summed up and judgment rendered, for our lives having been spent in the performance of good deeds, it will be all right with us, and if we have this consciousness we can rejoice wherever we are. I can bear testimony that I have never been disappointed when I have been engaged in the work of the Lord and in carrying out the counsels of his servants unto me. I can bear testimony that this is the work of God, and

that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that Brigham Young is a prophet of God, and that the gospel which they have preached to the Latter-day Saints is the gospel of the Son of God; and inasmuch as we live according to its precepts we shall be delivered from evil. Salvation is revealed in the gospel, and that salvation commenced to be received by us when we obeyed it. We can be freed from our sins when we learn and obey the truth, for in the gospel there is deliverance from sin if we will but apply its principles to our lives. When we find a difficulty in the midst of the people it is simply because some one or more have done that which they ought not to have done, and had they applied the principles of the gospel applicable to that particular case the difficulty might have been avoided. When we practice the principles of this gospel to perfection we shall be delivered from evil, whether in this world or in the world to come. For instance, if no murders are committed none of the evils will be experienced which grow out of that crime; if the people generally would cease lying the evils now resulting because of the great prevalence of falsehood in the world would be unknown. And so we might enumerate all of the evils that are committed by the human family and say that, if the principles of the gospel of Christ were universally observed the evils of every kind now so abundant in all parts of the world would be known no more. Then it is for us, to whom this gospel has been revealed, to learn what is right, and to be faithful in practicing it, and the more faithful we are in applying ourselves to this important duty, the more speedily will evil disappear from amongst us, and the salvation promised by the gospel be by us enjoyed, and that is precisely what we want—a present as well as an eternal salvation by an application of the principles of the gospel to our daily lives.

If this course were pursued by mankind generally it would soon bring about a millennium, or that still more happy time spoken of by the prophets when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the great deep, and when men all the world over are friends and brothers. This is the direction in which the practice of the principles of the gospel leads us, and a continued and close attention thereto will enable us to overcome every imperfection. At the same time our heavenly Father is disposed to try those who profess to have taken upon them the name of Christ, and, in fact, he is trying us continually in order to prove whether we will serve him in all things. If an evil is presented before us, we must either receive or reject it. If we reject it we have overcome; if we accept it, we are overcome of evil. And we may say that we have continually a trial before us, and it is for us to be on our guard that we enter not into temptation, and that we are not overcome, no matter in what guise or how temptingly evil may present itself to us. We need to be valiant before the Lord, valiant in testimony, valiant in keeping his commandments, valiant in rejecting every evil principle and practice that may be presented before us; and if this is our course, and we continue therein, the time will come when we will be counted worthy of an inheritance and exaltation among the sanctified in the presence of our Father.

I feel to rejoice in the principles of the gospel that the Lord has revealed to us, and that, many years ago I had the privilege of hearing and obeying them. I can say that, from that time until the present, I have never had the first moment's sorrow because of anything that I have been called to pass through in connection with the gospel, and I hope I never shall. My experience in this cause and kingdom has been a source of continual rejoicing, and I believe it will be so to the end. I trust brethren and sisters that this is also your experience, and that you and I may continue faithful to the end, that we may be counted worthy of the privilege of mingling with that great company of the sanctified and just whom we have heard spoken of this morning, and that with them we may receive a crown of glory and immortality. This is my prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.

Correspondence.

Sunday School Festival—Material Progress.

MENDON, Jan. 24, 1875.

Editor Deseret News:

We had a grand time yesterday with the members of our Sunday school, a day which I think will be long remembered by them. The programme of the performances was as follows:

At twelve o'clock, m., the teachers and children, to the number of about 150, assembled at the meeting house, where we enjoyed ourselves in a grand picnic, after which we commenced drawing for the prizes, which had been purchased for the occasion, and which consisted of apples, candy, penholders, pencils, handkerchiefs, babies' stockings, etc., which were hung in a small pine tree, situated in the centre of the hall. Each prize was numbered. Then there were other numbers placed in a small box, which corresponded with the numbers on the prizes, and as each drew his number I can truly say it was a pleasing sight to see them wending their way to the little pine tree. They were all much delighted with this part of the programme. I will

here state that there were just as many prizes as there were scholars present, so that it was no blanks, unlike most of the lotteries of the day.

After we had enjoyed ourselves in this style for two or three hours, we all retired to our homes, to do our chores and prepare ourselves for the dance, which commenced precisely at six o'clock, p.m. and it was amusing to see the little urchins "trip the light fantastic toe." In this delightful amusement we enjoyed ourselves until about eleven o'clock, when we retired to our homes, each perfectly satisfied with the amusements of the day, and with a fixed determination that this shall not be the last day of the kind.

I am pleased to tell you we have a good thriving Sunday school, under the able management of Elder John Donaldson, superintendent, Isaac Sorensen, assistant supt., and a good troupe of teachers.

The United Order is progressing favorably. The majority of the people here are determined to carry it out. Some of the brethren have been off to the canyons, getting out lumber, to build a dairy which I think will be in operation sometime next summer, with brother Andrew Andersen superintendent.

ALFRED GARDNER,
Cor. Secretary.

About the Two Railroads.

SALT LAKE CITY,
Feb. 2, 1875.

Editor Deseret News:

As it seems to be a settled question that there is to be a narrow gauge railroad between this City and Ogden, the question naturally arises—What is the purpose? and, What object is to be attained that what not be accomplished by less expensive means, thus leaving considerable capital to be invested in other directions with more certainty of a return and a corresponding greater benefit to the community? Are the existing railroad facilities insufficient, and if so, can they not be made fully equal to the demand, with far less expense than by building an entirely new line of road?

The answer I think would be, Lay down a third rail on the U. C. R. R., which could be spiked to the same ties, and would cost but a trifle in comparison, besides terminal arrangements; adopt the point switch, worked by the station-master or deputy, at passing places, instead of the miserable sliding rail as at present; put up efficient interlocking signals, and then try what could be done by putting thereon the same amount of rolling stock that would otherwise be necessary to work a narrow gauge road.

To find the number of trains that can be run when thus arranged, let us take the greatest distance between stations, viz., from Ogden to Kaysville, sixteen and a half miles. This will be too much for rapid transit, so, at about half way between stations, establish a passing place, making the distance about eight miles and a quarter; then from Kaysville to Wood's Cross, nine miles and a half; from Wood's Cross to the City, eight miles and three quarters; the greatest distance being nine miles and a half, which at an average travelling rate of twenty-five miles per hour, would take, including time for starting, say half an hour to each stage, making two hours in all. Trains could leave every hour, and arrive every half hour, making, in ten hours, ten trains each way, one half of which may be wide gauge and one half narrow, and by adopting the staff system, four staffs for the whole time would render it absolutely impossible for an accident from either rear or butting collision to occur.

Whether the traffic for some time to come will require more accommodation than can be thus afforded, I very much doubt. If it should, all that would be needed to double it in amount would be to double the number of turnouts and travel at thirty miles per hour. Of course either arrangement would require a considerable increase of rolling stock, but not so much as a second railroad, besides requiring but little extra grading and ties, viz., at the turnouts.

ENGINEER.

BORN.

In this city, Jan. 29, to Mrs. Elizabeth S. Pittman, a daughter. Mother and child are doing well.