

A GRAND OCCASION.

The Saints Have a Spiritual Feast at Manti.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS—THROGS IN ATTENDANCE.

MANTI, May 19, 1888.—[Special to the DESERET NEWS.]—About sixty persons bound for this place to attend the dedicatory services in the Temple, and perhaps the Stake Conference to be held here today and tomorrow, started from Salt Lake City by yesterday morning's Utah Central train. Before reaching Nephi the number was increased to about eighty. There the passengers were transferred to the Sanpete Valley railway which, by the way, is unaccustomed to carrying so many passengers, and is poorly supplied with cars. The accommodations, however, were ample if not of the best order, consisting chiefly of box and flat cars with seats arranged in them. Indeed there were more than necessary, and some of the flat cars were switched off before a start was made. The passengers accepted the

IMPROVED ACCOMMODATIONS

good naturedly, doubtless realizing that the present manager of the road, Mr. Theodore Bruback, who has only held the position since the first of April, is doing his utmost for the improvement of the road and the convenience of the public and trusting that he will, as he intends to, clear the road of its incumbrances as soon as possible, and push it on through to Manti. The run to Chester was made on time and the scenery on the way enjoyed. Among the other pleasing and surprising sights witnessed was the appearance, not far from the track, as the train approached the summit of the mountain dividing Sanpete and Juab valleys, of three antelope in their wild, native state.

On arriving at Chester at 2:30, teams in abundance were found waiting to convey the party to their destination. The ride by team from there to Manti afforded a good opportunity to note the condition of the crops, which appear to be very backward compared with those in Salt Lake and Utah valleys, and to see the improvements which have been made, since former visits, in the way of building more and better houses, fencing and cultivating more land, etc., which are very apparent all along the route.

A sight of the Temple is obtained when a long way off, when it appears much nearer than it really is, but its real beauty is best appreciated from a nearer view, and will be greatly enhanced by the completion of the terrace walls and the planting of flowers and shrubs thereon, all of which will be done in time.

A WHOLE-BOULDED HEARTY WELCOME was extended by Brother John B. Maiben and the Bishops and Saints of Manti to the visitors as they arrived, all seeming to vie with one another in their efforts to make it as comfortable and pleasant as possible for them.

At an early hour this morning the teams loaded with the residents of the surrounding towns and villages began coming in, and before the time arrived for the commencement of the quarterly Stake Conference the meeting house was pretty well filled. On the stand were to be seen Apostles Lorenzo Snow, F. D. Richards, John Henry Smith, H. J. Grant and John W. Taylor, the Presidency of the Sanpete Stake, President A. O. Smoot and his Counselor David John, of Utah Stake, President John B. Murdock, of the Beaver Stake, Brothers Jacob Gates and John Morgan, of the Presiding Council of Seventies, and many others from Salt Lake City and other parts.

The opening prayer was offered by President John Morgan, and the Manti choir, led by Prof. A. C. Smyth, discoursed sweet music before and after it.

APOSTLE JOHN W. TAYLOR

was the first speaker. He expressed the pleasure he felt at meeting with the Saints under such favorable circumstances, and alluded to the instructions of the Prophet Joseph Smith on the necessity of securing, by united prayer and humility, the Spirit of the Lord, and faith in His promises when called upon to administer to the sick. Felt that the same was necessary when meeting for public worship, that the speaker might be inspired and the congregation edified. Humility was one of the first essentials, and the Saints were exhorted to cultivate it. Alluded to his own experience in seeking and securing a testimony in regard to the truth of his religion, and portrayed the effect of the operation of the Holy Spirit, stating that its tendency never was to puff up or fill one with vanity but to render humble and childlike. Rebuked the evil-doers among the Saints and exhorted them to repent of their sins and live near to the Lord if they would have their Temple accepted of the Lord and His Spirit to abide there.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

said he rejoiced in the Gospel of Christ, and had received a testimony of the truth. The Temple which had been completed and which it was the design to dedicate was among the grandest monuments of the integrity, devotion and self-sacrificing spirit of the Saints that existed. The Spirit which had prompted the erection of that House should still be cultivated by them and they should now seek through faithfulness to prove themselves worthy to enter therein and perform ordinances

for the benefit of themselves and their friends who were dead. Felt assured that their work in the erection of the Temple was accepted of the Almighty and considered it a credit to all who had assisted toward its erection.

ELDER JOSEPH N. NOBLE

stated that it was his happy lot to become a member of the Church about 50 years ago and to associate with the Prophet Joseph Smith and the early Saints. Was no less happy at the thought of having the privilege of attending the dedication of another Temple in this age. Was a living witness to the early teachings of the Prophet Joseph upon the principle of celestial marriage and knew the purity of his motives.

ELDER JACON GATES

rejoiced in contemplating the future of the Saints as well as at having had the privilege of living in the days of Joseph the Prophet and listening to his predictions, many of which he had seen the fulfillment of. Felt confident of the final triumph of the work of God over all that opposed it, and grateful for the privilege of laboring in Temples and performing a work in which countless thousands who were behind the veil were interested. Exhorted the Saints to note the fulfillment of prophecy in the events which were transpiring throughout the world and to be content to continue a peculiar people, and, having come out from the world, not to seek to return thereto. When he contemplated his experience of fifty-two years in the Church, he felt that he could forgive the enemies of the truth for all they had done, for it had been proved true that they could do nothing against but for the work of the Lord, their acts having been overruled for good.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT

stated that no person would be admitted to the Temple except those who could be recommended by their Bishops and through their recommends obtain tickets from the Presidents of the Stakes in which they resided.

COUNSELOR DANIEL H. WELLS

said the honor had been accorded to him of taking charge of the Temple and the work to be performed therein. It had been his custom when called upon to perform any work in connection with the Church to appeal to the Lord in faith and prayer for assistance, which he had always obtained, and he hoped to do so in the present instance. He then read the names of thirty-two persons who had been selected to officiate in the Temple, and requested them to meet and confer with him.

PRESIDENT CANUTE PETERSON

requested all the visitors present who were not already provided for to meet the Bishops at the close of the meeting and be taken to the homes of Saints who would entertain them. Closing prayer by Elder Lorin Farr.

AFTERNOON SERVICES.

The meeting house during the afternoon was crowded to its utmost capacity and many listened at the windows, unable to gain entrance to the building.

The opening prayer was offered by Elder David John.

COUNSELOR D. H. WELLS

expressed pleasure at enjoying the privilege of again meeting with the Saints in Sanpete after a prolonged absence. Felt grateful for his standing in the Church and a testimony of the Gospel. Remembered being present when Joseph Smith first announced the doctrine of baptism for the dead, and though not then a member of the Church, had a testimony that it was a true principle, and offered a prayer to God that he might never reject it. Was afterwards promised by "Uncle" John Smith, when receiving a patriarchal blessing, that he should do a great work in behalf of his dead friends and a great many other unexpected and wonderful things were told him which have since been literally fulfilled, proving to him that the Patriarch had the prophetic spirit. If throughout his life he had accomplished anything worthy he felt to give God the glory. Though not aspiring to any position and feeling willing to labor in any capacity, he could not have been called to do anything that would suit him better than to labor in the Temple. Had done considerable in that line in the past and felt in contemplating that work that he had not lived in vain. Looked for a great deal

MORE FAITH

to be developed among the Saints than is exhibited today. It might well be queried whether the Savior at His second coming will find faith upon the earth unless it could be found among the Latter-day Saints. Did not think the persecution the Saints endured was due to their sins, as it had been decreed that the righteous must suffer persecution. When he first became acquainted with the Saints they were being persecuted without cause, and in embracing their faith was prepared for a rough passage through life, quite as rough as it had been. Had seen good results from the various drivings to which the Saints had been subjected and the promise fulfilled that the wrath of man should be made to praise God, and the remainder be restrained. The Saints had lived to complete in these mountains three Temples, and for the sacrifice they had made in so doing they had been greatly blessed and were better off today than before the Manti Temple was started. Satan was opposed to such work, but every temple built, every house of worship or building for

the education of the Saints erected was a victory for the work of God. Exhorted the Saints to be humble and faithful. Reminded them of the sacred covenants they had made and the obligation they were under to serve God to the end. Referred to the

WORD OF WISDOM

and to the promises made in connection therewith, and expressed the assurance that its observance by the present generation would result in prolonging their lives from five to ten years and those of the next generation at least twenty years, and that a continuation in such a course would result in man's living to the age of a tree. Ease and wealth were not essential to happiness; greater happiness had not been witnessed among the Saints than when they were journeying across the plains in poverty, filled with expectancy as to the fulfillment of God's promises and relying implicitly upon Him. Had heard Joseph Smith say the time would come when the Saints would have trouble with the government of the United States. At that time their troubles had been confined to a county or to a state. Would rather be handled by a government making pretensions to respectability than by a howling mob such as used to assail the Saints in Missouri and Illinois. Satan had inspired men to resort to various methods to destroy "Mormonism," consisting of ridicule, misrepresentation, argument, force, etc., but all had failed and would continue to. The work of God could not be impeded by mobbing the people, confiscating their property or even by killing them, but would only be hastened on by such measures.

The statistical report of Sanpete Stake was read showing a total of 12,858 members of the Church therein.

DR. ISAACSON

being introduced by Apostle Lorenzo Snow, said he felt that the Latter-day Saints were under greater obligations unto the Almighty than any other people living, because of their being blessed with greater light and knowledge. Even as the father portrayed in the parable of the prodigal son was filled with joy at the return of his wandering offspring, so would the Almighty be at seeing His covenant people who had erred, turn to Him with full purpose of heart. The Saints were persecuted more than others because of their high mission. It should be a cause of rejoicing unto them that the world was opposed to them, as thereby was the word of the Lord fulfilled. Felt an additional testimony of the Saints being the people of God when he entered the sacred edifice erected by them in Manti, and enjoyed the Spirit which abided therein. Could testify that Joseph Smith was indeed a prophet of God, and that the Latter-day Saints were the accepted people of God.

PRESIDENT PETERSON

announced a general meeting to be held at 7:30 in the evening and invited all to attend; also stated that owing to there not being hay enough in Manti to feed all the teams which had come in, a quarter section of meadow land had been secured by Bishop Jensen as a pasture for them and that he would have faithful herdsmen in attendance to look after the animals gratis.

Dismissed by Counselor John B. Maiben.

Soon after the close of the meeting, numerous teams began arriving from Chester, loaded with more visitors, and the good Saints were busy as bees providing for their comfort. It is safe to say that so many people were never in Manti before at one time, and the number is likely to be vastly increased by new arrivals tomorrow and next day.

The streets of Manti presented a lively scene on Saturday evening. Wagons by the score came rolling in from the north, south and east, some of them from such a distance as to require several days travel to reach here. All of the settlements of Sanpete were of course largely represented while from the number of Sevier County people seen on the streets it really seemed as if half the residents of that region had migrated hither. Then too Panguitch Stake and Piute County had turned out in force and made pilgrimages to this Mecca, and Emery Stake had sent many representatives in addition to the scattering members of nearly all the other Stakes, until Manti fairly overflowed with inhabitants. The stack yards were full of wagons and many were left standing upon the street in front of the houses of friends, while hundreds of campers whom the good people of Manti could not possibly find room for in their houses occupied the meeting-house square, titling yard and other such places about town; and a better-natured and more happy throng of people could not be found upon the earth.

A very large audience was present at the evening meeting. The opening prayer was offered by Bishop O. F. Whitney.

APOSTLE FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

said he rejoiced in the opportunity of meeting with so many Saints in Manti. Feeling that the minds of the Saints were occupied with the subject of the dedication of the Temple, it occurred to him that some matters pertaining thereto would be appropriate to speak upon. It had been decided to commence work in the Temple on Monday, the 28th inst., and it was necessary that persons desiring to enter therein and attend to ordinances, should procure recommends from their bishops and have them properly endorsed to gain

the privilege. The first Temple built and dedicated to the service of the true God of which we have any account since that of Solomon, was in Kirtland, completed in the year 1836. The Lord when he commanded the Prophet Joseph to build a temple in Nauvoo gave him to understand that the building of temples was a work always required of His people. Sacrifices had been required by the Almighty of His people in various ages. Adam had offered sacrifice when he knew not why, except that he had been commanded so to do. The law of carnal commandments involving sacrifices was given as a schoolmaster to bring the people to Christ, but when the great sacrifice was offered sacrifices were no longer required, except that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Other things, however, were required of the Saints in this age, among which was the building temples.

It was the intention to give all who were worthy and desirous of attending the dedicatory service a chance to do so, by continuing the service from day to day until all could be accommodated. Children under twelve years of age who were dutiful were also to be permitted to enter the building each day of the service after it was over, to view the building and there perhaps receive impressions that would remain with them through life.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT

made some further explanation in regard to the order in which the attendance at the dedicatory service was to be regulated, saying that it was the wish of President Peterson that the residents of Manti and other places near by forego attending during the first day's service to give the visitors from a distance a chance. Felt that the Spirit of God would abide in the Temple. Was encouraged with the assurance that many of the Saints were living near to God while he felt to deeply regret that there were those among them who were not consistent with their professions as Saints. One of the strongest testimonies to him of the truth of the Gospel was the course of those who apostatized from the faith. The contrast between the course of life marked out by the Gospel and that followed generally by those who opposed it was so great as to convince any reasonable person that the former were prompted by a better spirit than the latter. Knew of a man who had apostatized bawling the fact that the "Mormons," who possessed so many good qualities, should be so deluded religiously, but who was called to account by a man who had once been his fellow missionary, had heard him testify that the religion of the Latter-day Saints was true, had seen the sick healed when he placed his hands upon their heads, had heard him

PROPHECY

in the name of the Lord and seen the fulfillment of his predictions. He was asked if he was now prepared to say that he was not at that time prompted by a good spirit. Instead of doing so he wept, and testified that "Mormonism" was still true and that he was a transgressor. Referred to the prediction made by the Prophet Joseph Smith that the government should yet be arrayed against the Latter-day Saints and testified that it had been fulfilled, as well as the prediction that one by one the safeguards of the Constitution would be broken down. Had seen during his travels among the Saints evidences of neglect of duty which he very much regretted, and when called upon by such persons to administer to their sick he found it impossible to muster a great deal of faith. Felt to rebuke in all kindness and love the evil deeds of his brethren and sisters and could not regard as a true friend one who would fail to do so when he saw others going astray. Could testify that the Saints were not destitute of the gifts of the Gospel, though they were not manifest to so great a degree as they should be. Referred to

THE FOLLY OF SOME PARENTS

who declined to impress their children with the importance of their religion, preferring to allow them to grow to years of maturity and then exercise their agency in choosing or rejecting the truth. A man who would allow his farm to run to weeds for twenty years and then sow good seed and expect to reap a crop would be called a fool of a farmer, and a man who would neglect his children for twenty years and then expect to make good Latter-day Saints of them might appropriately be called a fool of a father. Exhorted the Saints to look well to the education of their children in all that pertained to their eternal welfare, and set them a consistent example.

Closing prayer by President John R. Murdock.

SUNDAY MORNING.

An hour before the time for meeting to commence a crowd sufficient in number to fill every seat surrounded the meeting house, awaiting admission, and within a few minutes after the doors had been opened the building was jammed, while the crowd outside appeared to be almost as large as before. It was then announced that the South Ward Assembly Hall would be opened and as many as could convene there would be permitted to hold a meeting in that place, the South Ward choir, under the leadership of Stephen Borus, furnishing the music. The opening prayer at the meeting in the large hall was made by President A. M. Cannon.

PRESIDENT A. O. SMOOT

said some ten or eleven years had

elapsed since he had last visited Manti, and since that time he could see that many improvements had been made here, not the least among which was the erection of a most beautiful Temple, which was a credit to the people of this Temple district. The Saints were laboring not only for the living but for the dead also. There was something very encouraging about the growth and spread of the people of God, and the progress and prosperity everywhere apparent among the people notwithstanding the efforts of their enemies to oppose. Bore testimony to the divinity of the work which the Latter-day Saints were engaged in, with which he had been connected more than fifty-three years, and expressed the assurance that the triumph of that work was certain. Predicted that the devotion of the Saints in erecting the Manti Temple would be rewarded by an hundred fold increase in their population and their being blessed and prospered financially and otherwise. Alluded to his association with Joseph the Prophet and testified that he and his successors had been inspired of God. Exhorted the people to forsake the ways of Babylon, cease following the fashions of the world, avoid hard feelings and bickerings and by humility and faithfulness to gain the favor of the Almighty.

COUNSELOR ANSON CALL

of the Presidency of the Davis Stake, said that although he had been a resident of Utah since 1848 he had never visited Sanpete before. Was delighted with what he saw here. His acquaintance with the Saints and their religion dated back to 1831, since which time he had watched the progress of the work and assisted in forwarding its interests. At an early day in the Church he had received beatings the scars of which he still bore because of his testimony that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God. Had never been required to do anything by those over him in the Priesthood, or heard teachings advanced by them that were not good in tendency. Heard Joseph Smith make predictions upon the heads of Elders Lorenzo and Erastus Snow which he had since seen the fulfillment of. Heard the Prophet also describe the valleys now occupied by the Saints as he saw them in vision, with their snow-capped peaks and the rivulets coursing down from them into the valleys below. Had heard him also predict that the Saints would occupy the valleys of the mountains, and dwell with emphasis upon the trials they would have to undergo before reaching there as well as to the host who would die by the way side and others who should apostatize. Testified of the divine calling of that Prophet and his successors.

BISHOP V. KESLER

said he also now visited Sanpete Valley for the first time. Wherein the Saints possessed knowledge in advance of the world, they were indebted for it to the Lord. Joseph Smith had been visited by those who held the Priesthood in former ages and instructed by them. Some principles, as for instance, that of baptism for the dead, had been revealed line upon line—not all at once. Revelation had been given unto the Saints as fast as they had been able to receive and appreciate the same. Congratulated the Saints on the completion of the Temple, and predicted that deliverance would come to the Saints.

COUNSELOR J. B. MAIBEN

read a statement of the donations to the Temple for the quarter ending the last of April; also a statement of the total amount donated for the building of the Temple since the work was commenced, and invoked the blessing of God upon all who had contributed towards it.

PRESIDENT PETERSON

explained that although the Temple had been principally built by the residents of this Temple district, it was not expected they would have the exclusive use of it, but that it would be for the faithful Saints everywhere. Alluded to the comprehensiveness of the work in which the Saints are engaged, showing that it included in its interests not only all who were living but the dead also. Had learned a lesson in regard to providing for the poor while living in the "Old Fort" in Salt Lake City in the year 1847, which had never since been forgotten by him.

PRESIDENT JOHN MORGAN

said he was delighted at having the privilege of attending this conference and the dedication of the Temple. The labors of the Latter-day Saints should be a testimony to the world of the motives that prompted them. No grander or more nobler feeling could actuate mankind than that which led the Saints to erect Temples and labor in them for the salvation of themselves and dead. Reviewed the trials and drivings of the Saints in the past and the work which had been accomplished by them in the building of Temples, etc. Called attention to the duties devolving upon the Saints as parents. Spoke of the measures adopted some months since to have schools established in the various Stakes of Zion in which the children could be educated in the principles of their religion as well as in the branches ordinarily taught in the common schools. Had observed the effects throughout the world of the free school system, which excluded religion, and noticed that infidelity resulted therefrom. In Massachusetts \$16 per annum was devoted by the State to the education of every child, whereas in Utah only \$2 each per annum on an average was spent in schooling, and yet within a brief per-