

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 20th, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir sang.

Come ye that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known.

Prayer by Elder A. M. Musser.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Come hither, all ye weary souls;
Ye heavy-laden sinners, come.

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

ELDER CHARLES W. STAYNER

addressed the congregation. It is always a source of gratification, after an absence of several months, for an Elder to mingle again with the people in our mountain home; particularly so when he has been visiting exclusively among those who are not of our faith, and has been deprived, therefore, of the privilege of hearing the inspired teachings and counsels of the Apostles and Elders of the Church.

As I am about to leave shortly on a mission to the Northern States, where I have been appointed to take charge, this may perhaps be my last opportunity for some months of speaking to the Saints who assemble here.

My recent visit to the city of Washington was entirely of a professional character; hence I have no special report to make to the brethren and sisters upon my return. I desire, however, to state that while in Washington I met with many genial gentlemen, and intelligent ladies, who took considerable interest in the affairs of Utah. It was a pleasure, indeed, to me to have the opportunity of conversing with others upon the condition of the people in these valleys, and of explaining some matters which had not been made thoroughly clear to their minds regarding our position as Latter-day Saints, religiously and otherwise. I invariably found much friendship manifested for the pioneers of this portion of the country—those who have to a large extent contributed to make it what it is. With one exception—and that was in the argument before the Supreme Court of the United States in connection with the Idaho test oath case—I never heard an unkind expression, nor even an insinuation, regarding the Mormons during my stay in the east. But I regret to say that there is very little opportunity afforded one in the course of a conversation to establish a belief in the great principles of our religion. People care more about the worldly aspects of Utah—the prospect of financial advancement—than for the fundamental principles which have gathered together here so many people from different parts of the world, forming, as it were, a commonwealth in the midst of the mountains. It is a matter of indifference to the generality of people

whether baptism be performed by immersion or sprinkling; they trouble very little in regard to the Deity, except that in a general way they believe that there is a God who is the Supreme Ruler of the universe, and that all things are more or less controlled as well as created by this Invisible Power. Still, I believe that if any religion at all would attract the worldly-minded today, it is that which proclaims that something has been received within the present generation, for they appear to utterly despise things which are old. The old prophets have but little influence with this generation. The spiritual marvels of the past do not attract as much attention as the scientific wonders of today. And but little belief is manifested in the future except that which may be the result of scientific skill.

The misrepresentations which have gone forth concerning us have, more or less, turned away the hearts of the people from our belief. They fear that there is something deceptive in the doctrines of a people who are so much maligned and, like the Saints of old, "everywhere spoken against." They seem to ignore the fact which the Savior himself predicted as one of the signs of His coming—that His people should be hated of all nations for His sake. They turn a deaf ear to anything in the shape of doctrine, or the principles of the Gospel as revealed through the modern Prophet; nevertheless, they are willing and even anxious, to know how we conduct our affairs, how matters are regulated—executively, judicially, and politically, while some enquire relative to our domestic concerns. Despite the various obstacles in the way, there are opportunities, both by precept and example, to bring the religion of the Latter-day Saints to the attention of the people, to show them that it is a practical religion, that it involves something more than mere belief, and that it requires a life of self-denial, of purity of heart, and of righteousness of purpose to become what the Lord has designed His people must be before they can receive the fullness of His glory.

I was exceedingly gratified to learn in conversation with business men, that the financial standing of the Latter-day Saints through their various institutions was considered No. 1, and that whenever they have had any dealings with us, as individuals, they were always well treated. One gentleman, I well remember, stated in the presence of quite a company that he had done business with the Latter-day Saints for a number of years, to the amount of many thousands of dollars, and in every case he had received his money. The same gentleman remarked that when he came into this community he was surprised to find people of capital trusting their poorer brethren to a considerable amount, although knowing that they had no property upon which to levy in the event of its being necessary to enforce payment. He expressed the opinion, moreover, that he did not believe the

same could be said of any other community in the United States.

I exhort the Latter-day Saints to continue in well doing in this regard; to be as prompt as possible in the payment of their debts and careful in all their public and private dealings to set that example before the world which shall cause mankind to realize there is something more in this Gospel, called "Mormonism," than many in the world suppose. Let men see that our religion is not a deception and a fraud, that it is not intended to hoodwink the people; but that it is a religion designed of heaven to purify the hearts and lives of the human race and to bring mankind into closer communion with God.

I pray that His Holy Spirit may rest down upon Zion, that she may glow with that spirit of truth and righteousness by which the earth will eventually be cleansed and prepared as a residence for the pure in heart.

BISHOP ORSON F. WHITNEY

was the next speaker. It is no news, he said, to the great majority of those here assembled to hear that the Elders of Israel do not prepare their sermons beforehand. It would be a strange innovation if this were the case. We are called upon unexpectedly to deliver to the people those things with which we may be inspired on the occasion. We arise trusting in that Spirit which proceeds forth from the Father of light, from the fountain of all power and intelligence, to make manifest unto the children of men the things of God. This, in a lesser degree, is the Spirit "which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," which is the light of the sun, and of the moon, and of the stars—the light of intelligence which is kindled in the soul of every son and daughter of God, and in everything that lives and moves and has a being beneath the broad canopy of heaven.

Such an essence as this is called by the Christian world, God. This is the being without body, parts or passions which the Christian world profess to worship, and is thus described by Pope:

"It warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
Gleams in the stars, and blossoms in the trees;
Lives through all life, extends throughout extent,
Spreads undivided, operates unspent."

But this is not God our Heavenly Father to the Latter-day Saints. We understand that there is a trinity in the Godhead which is composed of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The Father is a Being of tabernacle. He is a man, perfected and exalted by His obedience to the principles of truth and righteousness. He once dwelt in mortality; He passed through the trials of a life similar to this. He dwelt in mortal clay and conquered and subjected the flesh by obedience to the principles of the Gospel. This is the secret, and the only secret, of His power, intelligence and authority at the present time. The Son is also a being of tabernacle, in the express image, we are told, of His Father's person, inasmuch that when He was upon the earth in the meridian of time