

ed and despised; we can 'bide our time. We are chosen to be the saviors of our race; and like our Lord and master we can endure the contumely of those whom we seek to save. Though we are greatly blessed and have had much knowledge revealed to us, still we are very ignorant on many things pertaining to salvation. We see the labors of the elders, how they have pleaded with the people, and it does seem that we are dull scholars in the school of our Father and God. This is the great difficulty with which the Priesthood have to contend. Those who live nearest to the Lord are they who are best prepared to put in practice the words of God. The Lord is dissipating our ignorance through our obedience to His commandments. Those who keep the commandments of God, though they are obscure, will be brought forth and exalted, while those who occupy high positions and are wicked will be debased. We can see the truth of this remark manifested in the history of this Church. God has exalted those who have lived a pure and upright life before Him, and punished those who have done wickedly. His justice is sufficient in every case. He has taught us that they who commit sin and grieve the Spirit of God are sooner or later removed from His church unless they repent. In this self-cleansing process is to be found the health, prosperity and vigor of the work of God, and it is constantly going on. I have noticed, in my own experience, that in branches of the church where the Saints live near to God, those who preside over them have little difficulty in leading and guiding them. When a man of God teaches them they know it is the word of the Lord to them, whether it may be on temporal or spiritual matters. While, on the other hand, there is difficulty in teaching those who are derelict in their duties. They fear, and can find a thousand reasons for not obeying counsel.

We are shut out from the visible presence of God, and are placed in the midst of temptation and sin to try whether we will be true and loyal to God. The Lord has given us His Holy Spirit, and if we will give heed to its teachings our ignorance will be removed, and we will understand the things of Heaven and be led into all truth. With all that we have suffered in times past, we are now the happiest people upon the earth. We are increasing in patience; there does not exist that feeling of hasty retaliation which was manifested twenty years ago. We are now contented to await the Lord's time. We are learning to go on our way rejoicing, regardless of the wicked and their efforts to destroy us. Some may have doubts and fears, but the majority of this people feel to calmly trust in God. The servants of God have to be very patient with us because of our dullness of comprehension. But our leaders are encouraged when they see the people ready to respond to their counsels and act in obedience to them. Shall we sit still and wait for the development of knowledge in our minds, before we embark in any praiseworthy action? If we cannot see all the results of an enterprise recommended to us, we should not hesitate about engaging in it; but we should put confidence in the words of the servants of God, seek to carry out their counsels, and thus our faith will be developed into knowledge. We should not look at every thing from the point of self-interest. When we do so, our minds become contracted and we are unprepared to progress in the work of God. When the inspiration of the Almighty rests upon a man appointed to direct us, we should live so near the Lord that we can know it is true, and have power to carry out the counsels of God through him forthwith.

Elder Charles C. Rich.—We are so constituted that we do not make rapid progress, but when we receive instructions, day by day, they make impressions upon our minds, and we are enabled eventually to remember them and act upon them. We have had a tradition that we must go somewhere else to seek perfection and the happiness that flows from it. The same principles that make people happy in heaven can make men perfect and happy on the earth. We read of a time coming, when it will not need to be said know the Lord, for all will know him; then men and women will learn their duties and do them. The evils we now have to contend against will not then exist; to stop doing evil is the way to get rid of it. It is said in the world that we are the most united people on the earth. The happiness flowing from this union is apparent. If we had more of this blessed principle we should be happier. With it we can accomplish all the objects our Heavenly Father had in view

in our creation; without it we can do nothing. According as we apply the principles of the gospel in our lives we become united. If we are rebellious and will not listen to the counsels of God, how can He use us in building up His kingdom? The Lord is coming to this earth, and we do not expect that He will conform to our notions; but we must be transformed into His image. All this requires thought and reflection; and unless we apply our minds to the principles of the kingdom of God, and search after them, we shall not be wise in relation to them. It is as easy to do right as it is to do wrong; doing right brings peace and happiness to us, while doing wrong produces the opposite results.

Elder John W. Young expressed his appreciation of the teachings given, and spoke of the blessings inherited by the young of this Church through being the legal heirs to the Priesthood,—blessings which many have to labor and toil for zealously, and which are seldom appreciated by the young.

Elder G. D. Watt exhorted the people to abide in the counsels of the servants of God, and spoke at some length on the subject of home-manufactures, inciting the Saints to continued progression therein.

Elder H. S. Eldredge bore testimony that what we have heard during this conference is revelation from God to us.

Pres. Young spoke for a short time, and dismissed the meeting by blessing the Saints and all they possess.

During this two-day's meeting, we met in a finely constructed and well covered bowery, measuring 126 by 72 feet. There were present four choirs of singers, whom the President invited to attend our next general conference. The people of Cache Valley are prospering exceedingly, and are surrounding themselves with every convenience which the abundant facilities of the mountain soil and water offer to them.

THE RETURN.

Monday 7th.

At eight o'clock we left Logan on our return home, and arrived at Wellsville before noon.

In behalf of the President's company, brothers J. R. Winder and H. W. Lawrence presented a banner to the Wellsville Brass Band, which was received with three cheers.

Arrived in Brigham City between four and five in the evening.

Tuesday, 8th.

At ten o'clock we met in a fine bowery 124 by 52 feet, with a spacious stand covered with carpeting and wagon covers, and covered above and behind with factory. This bowery is the neatest one we have seen in the mountains. In front of the pulpit was a division of the stand occupied by twenty little girls dressed in white. We admire bro. Snow's taste.

Prayer by Elder F. D. Richards.

Elder G. D. Watt was called to the stand and expressed his gratification at meeting with the Saints. He instituted a comparison between the blessings enjoyed by the people of God in ancient times and those enjoyed by them now, showing how great are the blessings we have received. He urged those who permitted little difficulties to trouble them, to contemplate the great work that is a solace to every one afflicted, and draw consolation therefrom.

The twenty little girls, led by Miss Eliza Snow, sang "Waiting for Pa," very nicely.

Elder H. S. Eldredge thought that this people should take a course to import to this country those things which they cannot make and must have, that they may enjoy the profits which now pass into the hands of those who have no interest in common with us. He exhorted the Saints, as parents, to endeavor to make their homes happy and pleasant for their children, introducing innocent amusements that they may be bound to their homes by the tenderest ties, thus making impressions upon their young minds that time will never efface.

Pres. Brigham Young addressed the Saints a short time. His remarks were reported for publication.

Meeting dismissed by Elder Taylor.

2 p.m.

Prayer by Elder Geo. Q. Cannon.

Elder J. R. Winder spoke very pertinently on the subject of self-preservation, pointing out the benefits to be derived from a strict attention to the principles which lead to it, and referring to past incidents in our history as illustrations.

Elder D. J. Ross followed on the same subject, advocating the principle "Be ye always ready."

Elder H. W. Lawrence bore testimony to the truth, and expressed his desire to remain faithful to it, and to become more useful in the work of the Lord.

The twenty little girls then sang, lead by Miss E. Snow; after which Elder John W. Young treated on the principle that the Lord has sustained us, and preserved us as a people when we have hearkened to His counsel and prepared for the approach of evil.

Pres. H. C. Kimball.—When we went to redeem Zion over two hundred men went up to Missouri, a distance of one thousand miles. We had to keep up a strong guard; all Missouri was in an uproar; and when our enemies surrounded us and would have swallowed us up, the Lord sent as great a storm as I ever saw, confounded our enemies, fought our battles, and we secured terms of peace. We reinstated our brethren in the possession of their rights. When Peter smote off the ear of the servant of the High Priest, Jesus said put up thy sword, Peter, for if my kingdom was of this world my servants would fight. Now the kingdom of God is established on the earth, and will never be destroyed. We are told to put on the whole armor of Christ, both spiritual and temporal. The mountains around us may yet be infested with robbers and murderers; and the red men may be stirred up in anger against us. If we are not prepared to meet those circumstances, what would become of us? Let every man be on guard and well prepared for such contingencies.

There never was a better time than now to prepare for the future, to lay up our grain; and those who do it so, will be made aware of the benefits that will arise from this course.

If we are faithful God will defend us, and His angels will watch over us. Every man who holds the Priesthood of the Son of God, is expected to be faithful in the performance of all his duties or he will be under condemnation.

Elder Stenhouse spoke of the calmness of feeling which at all times pervades those who keep the commandments of God. The only ones who are troubled at anything are they who do not possess the Spirit of the Lord.

Pres. Young addressed the meeting for a short time, which then adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow morning; benediction by Elder Benson.

In the evening we enjoyed a very pleasant party, and were favored with the presence of Elder Ezra T. Benson and Bishop Maughan, from Logan.

Wednesday, 9th, 10 a.m.

Prayer by Elder W. Woodruff.

Elder Geo. Snider bore testimony to the work of God in the last days.

Elder John Taylor was gratified at seeing the order which prevails in Box Elder; showed that the people had an interest in the kingdom of God and desired to do His will. He pointed to the manifest general desire of the people to do right, and called attention to the great work which has to be accomplished by the Saints in this generation,—a work that will revolutionize mankind and place society upon a purer and more exalted basis of action. For this purpose He has revealed the gospel and bestowed the priesthood upon man, gathered us together and taught us in the laws of life. He is leading and guiding us all the time, and His hand is over us for good in all things; and if we will be dictated by Him through His servants, blessings shall be multiplied upon us.

Referring to the subject of home-manufactures and the disadvantages under which we labor, the speaker said: "The object of the President has been to raise cotton south, in this Territory, that we may have it at home. What are the toiling millions of the old world working for? To hold together a miserable existence, and to enrich the few. We want to place our labor in a proper position, that while we are independent we may be the industrious producers of wealth which all may enjoy. The great secret of wealth is to sustain ourselves and have something to dispose of, which will be a source of wealth to us."

The twenty little girls then treated the audience to another song.

Pres. H. C. Kimball referred to the remarks of br. Taylor, bearing testimony to their truth. He referred to the power which God has conferred upon His servants, and assured the Saints that if they live for the blessings pronounced upon them, they will realize their complete fulfillment. He exhorted the people to be humble, kind and benevolent, and to ever feel a spirit of general interest for the well-being of the whole body. He testified that he knew God for himself, and had heard Him speak like a man speaking in the wilderness.

Dismissed by Elder C. C. Rich.

2 p.m.

Prayer by Elder Geo. Q. Cannon.

Elder F. D. Richards spoke upon temporal matters, self-preservation and

the workings of the ungodly against the truth. Speaking of our present situation, he said, "Since the Lord has brought us up to these mountain wilds, and has assisted us in redeeming the desert, we should be faithful in doing His will, and in striving to maintain ourselves and our independence. We can make our own hats and bonnets. If the brethren will cut the straw and prepare it, our little girls can plait sufficient to supply our demand in these articles. Let our farmers raise flax, and in the winter prepare it and manufacture it. Then the hat maker can exchange bonnets for linen, or for linsey or for cotton cloth or stoves. This exchange is simply trade and commerce which we can have among ourselves. The sooner we begin to move in the direction which will lead to our self-sustenance the better it will be for us; there is no country better adapted for a self-sustaining population than the one which we now occupy. Let us make what we require for clothing, and raise what we use as luxuries, such as tobacco, sugar, tea etc., and keep the means within ourselves which is now carried off to procure these and kindred articles."

Elder G. Q. Cannon.—It is said that self-preservation is one of the first laws of nature, and its a law as imperatively binding upon us as upon any other people. We have none to depend upon but God our heavenly Father. Our policy is different from that of every other people. They labor to destroy; we seek to save. If we let slip the opportunity we now have, of sustaining ourselves, we may not have such another again. Extravagance and luxury prevail among the nations of the earth, and in this nation to an alarming extent, and bankruptcy and beggary will be the results. We are called out from the midst of them, to carry out a policy that will bring salvation temporally as well as spiritually. The greatest danger that threatens the throne of France is the extravagance of the imperial family; and so it is everywhere. We partake, to a certain extent, of that spirit; and this is one of the greatest obstacles against which home manufactures have to contend. The feeling is, my brother wears State's clothing, and I want the same kind. So it is with our ladies. We must begin to tear this feeling out of our hearts, and make it a matter of pride to wear home-made clothing. The Nephites could not have commerce with other nations; but the Lord gave them a choice land. He has given us this land, the same that He gave to them. They commenced with rude machinery, making coarse clothing at first, and progressed until they could make very fine fabrics. So let us begin to sustain ourselves, and gradually progress to real independence.

After referring to the many blessings which we enjoy, and the privileges conferred upon us by the Lord, he concluded thus:

"If we continue to listen to the counsels of the servants of God, we shall move in the vanguard of the nations, and realize all that has been promised to us."

Elder Wilford Woodruff reasoned on the inconsistency of trusting a matter of such importance as our salvation to the direction of God and His servants, and yet being afraid to be dictated from the same source on our temporal affairs. Referring to gardening, and agriculture he said,—"I have visited your orchards, and am glad to see them. They are bearing apples and peaches and apricots. In setting out on orchard set out good fruit trees. In sowing flax, it should be sown thickly on rich land, and it will yield fine lint. We must sow clean seed of every kind we sow; and we must fallow our lands, or weed our crops, and mow down the sunflowers and other weeds out of the margins of our fields and streets. We must learn to make our own clothing, or become bankrupt. I have heard President Young preach to our sisters about making their bonnets for the last ten years. Listen to his counsels and the counsels and advice of others of the servants of God and the Lord will bless us." We have reason to have confidence in those who have led us for half a century, and lead us constantly in the right way. We should have confidence in such men if we knew comparatively nothing; but when we may know the truth of their teachings for ourselves, by the revelations of the Spirit, our confidence is doubly strong. The Lord will prove his servants and handmaidens, and if we are faithful we need have no fears.

Pres. Brigham Young spoke for some time, and then blessed and dismissed the people.

Yesterday evening and this evening the military were reviewed.