

wanted to earn his own living; finally he had been offered work in China, at good wages. I was startled when he told me this, and thought, Has it come to pass that men can walk the streets of Salt Lake for eight months and not find employment? Do we send Elders to the ends of the earth to preach the Gospel and gather the good and then have such scenes as these? O Israel, where is thy wisdom? You can preach the theoretical things of the kingdom of God; you can describe the glories of the seven heavens, but here is a man who hath a wife and eight children, who is talking of going to China to earn them a living. My mind wandered back to the labors of President Young, and I said in my heart, I would that we had again a Brigham Young. While we preach the Gospel, we should practice it.

I say, God bless the man who will take of the means he has and use it so the people can have employment. I approve of the labors of Brother Grant in this regard. No people who import more than they export can be prosperous. We see this exemplified in the history of the nations. We want to introduce into the midst of this people a better condition in this regard. We are anxiously looking not only for one man that is like unto Moses, mighty and strong, but for many who will rise up to unite the people in their labor, who will give to every one the employment that is so necessary. But if those who have means hoard it up for their pride, Israel will rise up and in justice will reject them. We cannot follow the wild ideas of every man who presents himself as a reformer in these matters. We must investigate and be wise in our actions.

We are, however, gaining ground rapidly. Industries are springing up in the various parts of the Territory, and there is a prospect of a brighter day. There should be organizations for still further improvement in this regard. If we invite our fellow citizens here, and if they gain by the fair not fraudulent use of the ballot control over us, we shall gracefully acquiesce in the result. But we ask them, in beholding the fruits of our industry, which we have gone through suffering to bring forth, in this country which we have redeemed, to give to us a government such as we have heretofore provided for them. But that prospect causes me no anxiety. That which gives me concern is that some of our people are growing proud and haughty, and are raising themselves in vanity above the masses. We should show our love for the people by our kindness to them, instead of going abroad in pride. While the people may submit, still they do not like it. He who destroys has not the right to claim, but he that would bring salvation to the weak. Take the great soldier of this generation, Ulysses S. Grant; in war he was great, but he was greater by his magnanimity of heart, exhibited toward Gen. Lee, at the surrender of Appomattox. In the lurid glare of battle when shells shrieked, and shot hissed around him like voices

from an infuriated hell he was great. But when he refused to take from Lee a "horse or mule because his people would need them for the spring plowing" he was greatest. The test of greatness is oft more clearly exhibited in its merciful use than in destroying.

He who coerces, who persecutes is not great. The story of the persecutions of the Saints has not been written on earth. Our wives and innocent children have been brow-beaten and caused to mourn, but not by those who possess the spirit of greatness. I have seen among those who were corrupt, tears of sympathy springing forth when they have witnessed women and children badgered, when it has been sought to bring forth the secrets of the family circle. A nation or a people can have all such honor as they can accumulate. When I read of what was said to be Mr. Blaine's scheme to annex four or five Mexican states, Canada, absorb Cuba and the Hawaiian Islands, and settle the Samoan difficulty by a foreign war, I said he had proposed a great work, but in the tears, the pains and anguish of innocent women and children there has a greater debt accumulated in this Territory. That debt must be paid, and it will require a long run of high tariff to meet the obligation.

May God bless the upright in all the world. He will give the victory to the righteous. As He gave to Joseph in Egypt power and dominion after he was sold into bondage, so will Utah, the unloved, the hated, though sold into bondage, be lifted up by the arm of God, who will again place around her the golden chain of authority, and she will feed and clothe those who brought her into bondage. God has decreed it, and no power can change it.

The choir sang an anthem, and benediction was pronounced by Elder Junius F. Wells.

Sunday Evening.

Meeting was called to order at 7 o'clock, by President Angus M. Cannon. The choir sang:

Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join
In work so pleasant, so divine.

Prayer was offered by Elder Joseph C. Kingsbury.

The choir sang:

O ye Gentile nations, cease your strife,
And listen to the words of life.

BISHOP O. F. WHITNEY

addressed the conference. I have been an interested and happy listener to the remarks that have been made during this conference; and if I can do nothing else I desire to testify to the truth of the things we have heard. I rejoice that we are living in a day when we can receive inspired instructions; that we have Apostles and Prophets, and men whom God has chosen to bear His Priesthood, and that we are not left to depend upon the memories of the past, nor entirely upon the hopes of the future; but that we have men now who are able to deliver to us the word of the Lord as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost.

It is our duty to listen to the counsel of the living oracles in our midst. There are those who love to con the musty records of the past and deify the dead letter. I would not be found belittling what God has spoken in past ages, for "holy men of old spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost." I accept as true and divine, as do this people, the record known as the Holy Bible. We also accept the holy record known as the Book of Mormon; also other records which we have, with uplifted hand, sustained as the word of God; but I am one of those who value most the living prophets of God. I believe this work to be progressive. It has progressed from the beginning, when it was organized with only six members. From that hour it has steadily increased in numbers and in influence. It has added to its numbers and to its principles as it advanced. Like a tiny snowball started from the mountain top, it has gathered its congenial element as it rolled; and as the snowball becomes an avalanche, so will this work—the little stone cut from the mountain without hands—roll and increase till it fills the whole earth.

There have been men, not only outside, but in the Church, who have had a disposition to deny to the work of God the great possibilities inherent within it. Many men dislike change, and the moment anything new appears they seek to put it out of existence. Yet God has said that His course is "one eternal round," never ending, ever progressing, ever climbing from height to height of perfection and glory.

As the works of mortals, like their makers, must be perishable, so the works of God are eternal as he is, and partake of His progressive nature. There is an evolution, a progress constantly going on in all the works of God; yet in all ages some of His children have fought against him and His cause. Nevertheless the work of God goes on, asking no odds of men, retaining its nature, its truth, virtue, stamina and integrity.

President George A. Smith used to compare the growth of this Church to the growth of a hill of corn in its various stages of development, from the time when the tender blade of green shot up from the soil, then increased to three or four larger leaves, then to a fully matured stalk, with silken tassels glittering in the sunlight and bearing its ripened ears, thirty, sixty or a hundred fold. How foolish for one who had seen the blade in its incipency, to deny that the matured and ripened stalk was a hill of corn, because it had grown and increased in the meantime. And how foolish would a farmer be to cut off the extra blades as they grow, determined to keep the hill of corn in its original state and prevent it from increasing!

At the time that Apostle John Henry Smith was presiding over the European mission, he appointed me in the spring of 1888 to temporarily preside over the London Conference. The question came up in a Priesthood meeting there as to which held the higher authority,