

counselor to the president of the conference and the remainder of the time as president of the conference. The work in that section of the South, says Elder Thomas, is in a very promising condition. He anticipates splendid results from the efforts now being put forth by the Elders.

Elder A. J. Holt, of Bountiful, has returned from the Southern States where he has been on a mission. He left home December 7, 1895, and labored continuously in the North Carolina conference until his release. He returned on the 14th inst. He reports having enjoyed his labors very much notwithstanding the fact that he had the disadvantage of ill health a part of the time. The conference, he says, is in a flourishing condition and the people are receiving the Elders and their message with much kindness and satisfaction.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

The services at the Tabernacle Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18, 1898, were presided over by Elder Charles W. Penrose of the Stake Presidency.

The choir sang the hymn:

Zion stands with hills surrounded,
Zion kept by power divine

Prayer was offered by Eugene M. Cannon.

The choir further sang:

O God, Thou good, Thou great, Thou wise,
Eternal is Thy name.

President Lorenzo Snow was the first speaker. In commencing he expressed his delight at the words of the first hymn sung by the choir, as to him they were really full of significance. The speaker read two verses from the hymn so that all could hear them, and then referred to the words of John wherein man's fallibility was set forth as well as the destiny of those who would keep themselves pure and holy. The Saints, said President Snow, had no occasion to worry over temporal things in this life. If they would cleave unto the Lord rich blessings would be poured out upon them and all would be well in the end.

Turning to the organization of the First Presidency a few days ago, President Snow referred to the unity of feeling manifest and the good will with which that matter was attended to. He spoke of his appointment to the responsible position imposed upon him, and expressed his thankfulness to the Lord for the honor conferred. He had realized blessings in the past from attention to duty, and believed that the Saints would support him with their faith and prayers in his present calling. His desire was to do right and live holy before the Lord, and this, he knew, was the spirit which prompted the actions of Presidents George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith. "Follow the examples that we set you," said President Snow, "and we feel satisfied that all will be well with you."

The speaker referred to the material that the Lord called upon to assist in rolling on His work. It was not the great and powerful in the earth, that were called to these positions not necessarily those who were educated in the colleges and seminaries of the land, but men of humility, men who were devoted to the cause of truth and could be led and guided by the Holy Spirit.

President Snow said he had no desire in and of himself to assume the responsibility now resting upon him. "If I had had the power to escape it honorably," said the speaker, "I would never have been found in my present position." He had never sought the place, nor had he asked any of the

brethren for their assistance in his appointment to the exalted position. He had had a revelation, however, that such would be the case, and as in all his walk through life, he had felt not to shirk any position that the Lord desired to impose upon him. He had tried to overcome the weakness of the flesh, that he might reach the highest glory possible for man to attain. God would inspire His servants to righteous acts if they would but cleave unto Him, and seek to do His bidding. He had set up His kingdom in the latter-days for the benefit and blessing of mankind, and to prepare the way for His coming upon the earth. His purposes would be accomplished in spite of all opposition, and the wicked and rebellious would be set aside so as to clear the way for the rolling on of His kingdom.

Concluding, President Snow said he felt to bless the Saints, and to encourage them on to works of righteousness. It would be the aim of the First Presidency to be forgiving, and to bear with the people in their weaknesses and frailties. It was God's desire to show unto His children the greatest leniency, but He required true repentance of them, that they would endeavor at all times to cast aside the sins of the world and live pure and holy before Him. The Saints should tread the narrow path, and make their prospects for the future brighter and happier day by day.

President George Q. Cannon was the next speaker. He expressed his pleasure and gratification at having been privileged to listen to the remarks of President Snow, a man in whose character and life's work there was not a single blemish. God had been merciful unto His people in raising up such men to preside over them. They were men in whose mouths guile had not been found. They had never deviated from the path of duty and had been true and faithful to every trust reposed in them. President Snow, as his predecessors, was a man of God, and those who would listen to his counsel would be blessed of the Lord.

Speaking of the reorganization of the First Presidency, President Cannon said he never saw a more united, spontaneous action than that taken a few days ago by the Council of Apostles in the appointment of President Snow. It had almost become an established precedent to defer such appointments for some time, and therefore none of the brethren expected any action in the matter for some time to come. But the Spirit of the Lord had rested mightily upon the quorum of the Apostles, and all were moved upon to express themselves in favor of the reorganization. President Snow was the last speaker on that occasion and when he had confided unto his brethren the revelation received by him concerning the matter, the Apostles felt to rejoice in the unanimity of feeling then manifest, and the fact that God's Spirit had so dictated the remarks made by each member of the quorum. God had inspired His servants and had made known unto them that the reorganization of the First Presidency should receive immediate attention.

President Cannon spoke of the destiny of the work of the Lord, and urged all to endeavor to remain true and faithful. The Saints should pray for guidance and their pathway would be strewn with peace and happiness. Jealousies should not arise in the ranks of the people, but they should rejoice in the prosperity of each other. Then they would feel happy and the blessings of the Lord would follow them. The Gospel had helped the Saints to attain to a good degree of perfection and had polished them and made them shining marks among their followmen; and it would continue to help them if they would but yield obedience to its principles and precepts.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn:

"Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation,
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Heber J. Grant of the Council of the Apostles.

ST. JOSEPH STAKE ACADEMY.

The St. Joseph Stake Academy began the school year of 1898-99 on Monday, September 1. The academy is open to students of both sexes, and of any religious denomination or nationality.

The school year is divided into two semesters of sixteen weeks each.

To teach the principles and doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the principles of morality; and the arts and sciences usually given in high schools.

The study of theology is not obligatory upon non-members of the Church.

The academy will be organized with the following departments: 1. A kindergarten, including a kindergarten training school. 2. An academic department. 3. A normal department.

Kindergarten (all material furnished by teacher) 25c per week. Kindergarten training school, \$10 per semester. Academic department, \$10 per semester. Normal department, \$10 per semester. Special rates will be made for the five weeks' course in Sunday school work. All fees payable in advance.

Students can find good board and rooms in private houses at from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week. It is advised that persons desiring places to board come and secure them before entering school. The faculty holds supervisory power over all student boarding places.

The Polysophical society will be organized for the purpose of furnishing recreation, general information and healthful amusements for students. The society will be in charge of one of the regular teachers. Non-members of the school will be admitted by complying with the prescribed rules of the society.

Although students will be welcomed at any time, it is advised that if possible they enter at the beginning of the school year. Before procuring admits applicants will call at room 3, academy building, where they will be placed in charge of an advisory teacher who will assist them in the selection of studies and in such other matters as will be found necessary. A great many have expressed themselves as being too far behind to go to school; to such we would say that they particularly need to avail themselves of the advantages offered by the academy, and they may be assured that they will receive every attention possible to make them feel at home. The spirit of the academy is not one of ridicule, but love and good-will will be constantly exercised.

The academy building is very commodious, a new addition is nearly finished and the entire building has been renovated, making for the academy an exceedingly comfortable home.

The courses offered in the academy will in no way conflict with the instructions given in the district school, but on the contrary will be a continuation for those desiring to advance farther than the grades of the common school. Certificates of graduation from the district schools will be accepted as entrance to any of the departments of the academy.

Conditions are very favorable for the success of the academy, and we extend a hearty invitation to all the young people of this county and surrounding counties to come and partake of the benefits offered by the St. Joseph Stake Academy.

By order of Stake Board of Education. A. KIMBALL, President.