

was no excuse for those professing membership in the Church using tobacco and other articles, the action of which was deleterious to the body, as well as being detrimental to the moral nature. Those who indulged in such habits ought to call upon the Lord to assist them to put aside all practices that were opposed to the commandments of God, instead of allowing those things to overcome and control them. The word of God to His people was "repent of all your shortcomings and vicious habits and prepare for the Kingdom of God and the coming of the Lord. The Lord knows the hearts of the Authorities of the Church, that they call upon Him to have mercy upon His Saints and move upon them to turn more fully unto Him. The necessity of compliance with the law of tithing was next treated, the speaker holding that strict conformity to the requirement was the way out of our present financial embarrassment. This, he said, was the word of the Lord, for God would open the windows of heaven and pour out an abundance of blessings upon His Church if its people, as a whole, would fully comply with the revelations that had been given on this subject. Elder Teasdale continued for some time in the same strain, giving valuable suggestions to people who were addicted to habits at variance with the requirements of the Gospel, indicating how they could overcome and be delivered from their weaknesses. He himself had been forced from such conditions by individual persistence in resisting them and by assistance from God, on whom he relied for help.

ELDER HEBER J. GRANT,

of the quorum of the Apostles, next addressed the congregation. He said his heart was full of gratitude to his Heavenly Father for the privilege of being present at this Conference, and for the valuable counsel which had been given them by those brethren who had preceded him. The speaker endorsed the remarks of Elder Teasdale in regard to the pernicious and too common indulgence in the use of tea and coffee among the Latter-day Saints, and expressed his deep regret that the Word of Wisdom was so lightly observed. Excuses were too common among the people, on the slightest pretext, and this referred to the law of tithing and other matters as well as the Word of Wisdom. The commandments of God were not kept as they should, be even by some of those in authority. If a man thought more of a cup of tea or coffee, a cigarette or a chew of tobacco than he did of his priesthood, he thought he ought to resign his priesthood. That had been the feeling in his heart lately. We heard a good deal of hard times. On this head Elder Grant drew a striking picture. He said that the total amount paid in tithing by the Latter-day Saints in the year 1893 was a little over \$151,000, and they expended in breaking the commandment of God, by disobeying the Word of Wisdom, in round numbers, a little over \$1,000,000. In other words, they expend over \$6 in cash in that same way for every dollar paid in tithing. He had faith in the integrity, honesty and testimony existing in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints. He knew that they de-

sired the honor and advancement of God's kingdom, and that the mistakes they made were, as a rule, mistakes of the head and not of the heart. But when they reflected upon what he had already said, did they not think that some of those mistakes of the head ought to be remedied? Because he certainly did. The average price of wheat in this Territory today was 40 cents; yet he had been informed that there came in here over 100,000 pounds per annum of one particular brand of smoking tobacco. Hence it took 160,000 bushels of wheat to pay for that one brand of tobacco, and this notwithstanding the fact that the Latter-day Saints had been preached to for the last fifty or sixty years that tobacco was fit only for sick cattle. The statement had been made by the agent for this particular tobacco that Utah led every state and territory west of the Missouri river, in proportion to her population, in the consumption of that one brand of this weed. He prayed with all his heart, and without railing at anybody, that a change for the better would take place at once in this respect.

The speaker adverted to the monument about to be erected to the memory of the late President Brigham Young. Many thousands of dollars, he said, were still owing on the statue, and it had been therefore decided to call upon the Latter-day Saints to contribute something toward it. He hoped that every man, woman and child among this people would give what they could spare towards so laudable an object, from 5 cents up, so that all of them might have the privilege of saying that they helped towards the erection of that memorial. In conclusion Elder Grant invoked the Lord's blessing upon the Saints.

The choir and congregation sang:

Come, let us anew our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear.

Benediction by Elder B. H. Roberts.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing by the choir:

Softly beams the sacred dawning
Of the great millennial morn.

Prayer by Elder Jonathan G. Kimball.

Singing by the choir:

We're not ashamed to own our Lord
And worship him on earth;
We learn to love His holy word
And know what souls are worth.

ELDER JOHN W. TAYLOR,

of the quorum of the Apostles, addressed the congregation. He prayed that the Spirit of the Lord would accompany his remarks, that they might be directed aright. He had been greatly edified, he said by the words which had fallen from the preceding speakers, for same excellent advice had been given for the guidance of the Saints, and which, if carried into practice, could not fail to accomplish great good. The speaker adverted to what was termed the doctrine of Christian science, by which it was claimed people could be healed of their infirmities. But the gift of healing was no new thing in this, the Church of Jesus Christ, and he would deplore to see any of the Latter-day Saints drawn away by the mere doctrines of men. Power was

given unto the evil one to deceive the children of men—even the elect of God, if it were possible. The speaker bore his testimony to the successful gift of healing among the Latter-day Saints, based upon his own individual experience, and remarked that by faith nothing was impossible. The Lord would give us faith and strength sufficient unto all things if we only sought Him with a true heart and a contrite spirit. God bless the sons and daughters of Zion; let them not doubt the servants of God, those in authority over them, but cease to criticize the authorities of this Church, who acted in all things as the Lord inspired them from time to time. It was always safe to follow their counsels; for had they not brought this people through trial and persecution up to this day? If we kept the commandments of God our salvation would be sure. Let us be faithful and seek to bring as many souls as possible into the fold of Christ. Following in the line of previous speakers, Elder Taylor deprecated the use of tea, coffee and intoxicating drinks among the Latter-day Saints, and, in conclusion, besought his hearers to do their utmost in helping to build up the kingdom of God on earth.

ELDER MARRINER W. MERRILL,

of the quorum of the Apostles, bore an earnest testimony to the truth of this work. He had the satisfaction of learning this before he joined the Church, when about only nine years of age, in answer to prayer, and had received evidences of that truth all along the line. The Lord sustained the Prophet Joseph Smith in the midst of all his trials, and He had sustained those who had since followed him at the head of the Church. Those who attempted to criticize the actions of the servants of God stood on dangerous ground. The Lord had chosen these brethren himself, and not one of them had sought the position which he occupied. Was it our place to regulate the Presidency of this Church? No, and the man or woman who continued to do this would, sooner or later, lose the spirit, and their minds would become darkened. He trusted the Saints would be humble, meek and lowly and avoid anything that was calculated to engender a feeling of dissension or ill-will. Elder Merrill spoke upon the gift of healing, the power of which, he said, was in the midst of the Saints today. The Presidency of the Church had a deep interest in the people and their welfare, and that was why they exhibited so much anxiety in their keeping the commandments of God. Templework was dwelt upon by the speaker, who said the spirit of this labor had not yet rested upon the people to the extent that it should. It was important that we should minister not only for the living but for the dead—those of our kindred who had died without a knowledge of the true Gospel. As to the financial depression with which we were now face to face, the Lord would deliver us in his own due time. The speaker besought the people to live within their means and not to mortgage their homes under any circumstances. To those who owed money he would say, pay to the utmost farthing as soon as you can, and so relieve yourselves of the burden which presses so heavily upon you.