

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Jan. 26th, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Though in the outward Church below
The wheat and tares together grow.

Prayer was offered by Elder E. B. Tripp.

The choir sang:

Glory to God on high!
Let heaven and earth reply,
Praise ye His name.

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

ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE

was called to address the congregation. He said it was the habit of the Elders of Israel to rely on the faith and prayers of the Saints, because they had realized that this course was necessary for the instruction of the people. No gift of eloquence, no power of speech, no aptitude for the position, is alone sufficient to enable a man to address a congregation of Latter-day Saints. To do so acceptably the speaker must be under the influence of the Holy Ghost, and that spirit must inspire his utterances. The organization of the Church shows that some power more than human controlled and directed it. In my careful study of history I have failed to find any government or organization outside of the Church of Christ that can withstand the attacks against these people in the positions in which the Saints are placed. The present growth and development of the Latter-day Saints are without a parallel in the history of the nations. What is it that so holds them together? It must be something more than human ties—it must be something that enters the soul. The Elders of Israel have passed through many scenes; they have wandered in strange lands and among those whose language and customs have been strange to them; they have faced death for their religious convictions, and it must be conceded that the Elders have, under these circumstances been sustained by a Divine Power.

There are many men who have declared their intention to solve the "Mormon" problem; judges have assumed to undertake this on the bench; Presidents have suggested to Congress plans which have been acted upon, but the Church of Jesus Christ still goes on, and none can doubt that it is increasing with the years. There must be something more than human that is supporting it. Man may plant the seed in the field, but it is God who causes it to grow. Young and timid Elders have been called to proclaim the doctrines of "Mormonism," and they have gone forth in the name of Israel's God, and have confounded the learned and the wise of the world. These

Elders speak by the power of the Holy Ghost, and upon its inspiration they rely. To speak by the power of this Spirit is to do as the ancient prophets did, requiring the angels of heaven to administer to them and bring about marvelous things. It was by that power that Elijah spake, and that wondrous works were performed. It was by that power Christ Himself operated on earth; that Peter spake with such eloquence on the day of Pentecost; and by it the Apostles and Prophets in this age act in the guidance of the Church. The Holy Ghost is God's messenger—the power and form by which He achieves the fulfillment of His plans.

I find many parallels between this power and those forces which we call natural, though the former is as far above the latter as are the heavens above the earth. For instance, the electric force is being adopted to many uses, but it must be handled according to the laws of nature. Cut the wire and the use of the power ceases till the break is repaired. Let man sever the connection with the heavens, and communication and power from that source ceases till the communication is reopened. All things in nature move according to a preconceived plan. There is design in the universe; there must have been a Designer. The design is infinite; the Designer must be omniscient. The design is all-controlling; the Designer must be omnipotent. An eminent infidel asked how communication was carried on with the heavens, whether by telephone or telegraph, for he had never heard of such a line; therefore he did not believe there was any communication. Such a remark is foolish; because there is something we have not seen, is that an evidence that it does not exist? There is an infinitude into which the mind of man has yet scarcely reached, and well known powers and forces of today were comparatively unknown to men a few years ago.

I remember the anecdote of the scientist who visited an asylum for the blind—those who had never seen the light. One of these unfortunates asked the scientist to explain what the color of a yellow rose was. The learned man endeavored to accede to the request, but his task was too great. There was nothing to which he could compare the color for the comprehension of the listener, and the inquirer could not receive the information he desired, for it could not be brought to his conception. When the Lord has sought to bring something to the attention of his children, He has done so in parallels. When He took Moses upon Sinai, He exhibited to him the picture of the world. It was a comparison by which Moses' mind could be brought to grasp the conditions. An angel might endeavor to describe heaven to us, but we could not comprehend it till we advanced to that condition where we could compare and conceive of the glories that were described.

Man is given dominion over the beasts; but there are some which outstrip him in speed and strength.

There is a principle that a being is entitled to no powers it cannot defend. Man defends his powers by using the forces of nature to accomplish that which by his own power he could not do. But he has to comply with the law by which those forces are controlled. If he cuts himself loose from these laws he is without strength. Just as he learns to subjugate these forces is he able to demonstrate his powers. The Holy Ghost is a power that has overcome the obstacles of space; that is above the forces of nature. And when man is actuated by that, his accomplishments are such as to clearly show that he is supported by a power that is divine.

Some years ago an obstruction had to be removed from an eastern harbor; the stone was excavated and explosives applied. When all had been prepared, the pressure of a child's finger caused the greatest artificial explosion that man has brought about. God said "Let there be light;" men have scoffed at the idea that light came out of darkness. But it was arranged that the waves of light came into action with as much ease as the explosion was caused by the pressure of an electric button by a child's finger. If the sound of man's voice can be conveyed hundreds of miles; if continents can be connected for communication though an ocean lies between, we cannot excuse ourselves for ignorance of God's power because of lack of comparisons. I believe that man should draw out all the powers and energies of his soul; and then the Lord will give assistance to accomplish the rest.

When the Father of our Country was called to prosecute a war for independence, it would have been foolish if the Congress had not provided him with means to prosecute the war. But the means was provided and success was attained. When we were called by our Father to come to this earth, He gave us authority and power to accomplish our mission. Enoch was called for a great work; he urged his weakness. But God told him to go, and clothed with the power of Jehovah, at his word mountains were removed and armies overthrown. It was not Enoch's word, but it was the power of Jehovah that accompanied him with the authority given him. Can we doubt the power of God today? Let sceptics beware when they ridicule Him, lest He exhibit that power. He does not always act summarily, but He can still operate with the arm of power, and will do so.

Let us do our duty and trust in Him. We should not care for the derision, for the scorn of those who know not God. Trust in Him, for He has greater forces at His command than we have known. He can control the passions of man as He does the lightning's flash for His purposes. He has protected the Saints in the past; He will do so in the future. The "Mormon" problem has not yet been solved. If we mean by its solution that the "Mormon" people will ever renounce any of the principles of life.