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THIRTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Thirty-seventh Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, convened, according to adjournment at last April Conference, on Sunday morning, Oct. 6th, at 10 o'clock, in the New Tabernacle, which was ready for Conference to be held in it, the great exertions made for some time past by those having charge of its erection having been thus far successful. The Tabernacle is 250 feet in length by 150 in width, and is capable of seating a vast concourse of people; a detailed description of it will be more appropriate when it is finished, and dedicated. An hour before the appointed time for Conference commencing, the immense building was crowded in every part, great numbers being unable to obtain admission.

There were present during the meetings, Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells, the First Presidency; Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, senr., John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, of the Twelve Apostles; John Smith, Patriarch; Joseph Young, Senr., Levi W. Hancock, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, of the Presidency of the Seventies; John Young, Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, the Presidency of the High Priest's Quorum; Daniel Spencer, George B. Wallace and Joseph W. Young, the Presidency of this Stake of Zion; Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse O. Little the Presidency of the Bishoprick; Elders Brigham Young, Junr., and John W. Young; and a great number of Bishops, Presidents of settlements and Elders from various parts of the Territory.

At the reporters table were Elders George D. Watt, David W. Evans and Edward L. Sloan, short-hand writers; and Elder T. B. H. Stenhouse.

The singing was in charge of the Tabernacle choir, led by Elder Robert Sands, with the new organ, played by Joseph J. Daynes; a combination of the Springville, Spanish Fork and Payson choirs; and a few singers from Brigham City, Box Elder Co., and Smithfield, Cache Co., led by Elder Fishburne. Captain Croxall's, Captain Eardley's, the Ogden, and the Nephi brass bands made music as occasion offered, at the close of the meetings near to the Tabernacle, and at various times and places through the city during Conference. The new Organ, which was played with the singing of the Tabernacle choir, will be a magnificent and splendidly toned instrument when fully completed. Of its quality of tone and compass satisfactory evidence was obtained during Conference. Its opening music was given through seven hundred mouths; when completed the pipes will number two thousand. Its size will be twenty-three feet wide, thirty feet deep, and forty high.

Before opening Conference President B. Young, in behalf of all the Apostles, and all the brethren and sisters belonging to the Church, returned most sin-

cere thanks to the workmen who had been engaged on the Tabernacle, for their steady perseverance and faithfulness in working on and completing the building so far. He also spoke of the labors of Elder Ridges on the large Organ, and of the difficulties he had labored under in his work.

Conference was called to order, and the following hymn, composed by E. R. Snow for the occasion, was then read by the clerk, and sung by the Tabernacle choir.

Praise, praise, O, praise the Great I AM!
Sing glory, glory to the Lamb!
Let ev'ry heart a tribute bring,
And join to praise our God and King.
O God, who form'd the heav'ns and earth—
Who sends the gushing fountains forth—
Who built the sky and made the sea,
Thou art our God: we bow to Thee.

Thy servants, Lord, assemble here,
To praise and pray—to speak and hear:
O, let Thy Spirit on them rest,
And ev'ry humble soul, be blest.

While we convene from day to day,
Be in our midst, O God, we pray:
And let Thy mighty power be felt,
The dross, to burn—the gold, to melt.

On mountain tops, a beacon stand:
Its light is seen in distant lands;
Like burning lamps, Thy Truth, O God,
And righteousness go forth abroad.

Praise, praise, O, praise the Great I AM!
Sing glory, glory to the Lamb!
Let ev'ry heart a tribute bring,
And join to praise our God and King.

Prayer was then offered by President B. Young; after which "Soldiers of Christ arise" was sung by the combination of the Springville, Spanish Fork and Payson choirs, led respectively by Elders Frederick Weight of Springville, William Jones of Spanish Fork, and William Clayson of Payson.

President H. C. Kimball reasoned that the elect of God hear His voice and keep His commandments. To be Saints we must shun evil of every kind, and live in righteousness before the Lord so as to have the Spirit of truth with us continually. Our position in these mountains is the very best we could occupy for accomplishing the purposes of the Lord in the gathering of His people and building up the Kingdom of God. The work is spreading and will continue to grow; there is no fear of its failing or being retarded in its progress; and our duty is to watch and pray lest we should not be progressing with it. He blessed the men who have been engaged in working on the New Tabernacle; blessed Bishop Edward Hunter, his Counselors, the Bishops and their assistants, Pres. Young and those associated with him, and all Israel; and spoke upon the power and principle of blessing. If our eyes could be opened to see things as they are we would see angels with us to-day to bless us, as we can feel the power of God with us to bless us and do us good. The Lord has led His people continually; and President B. Young and himself were as much led by the power of God in coming to these mountains as any men were ever led to accomplish anything by inspiration and the Spirit of God. Here we have grown to be a great people, and the Lord has not forsaken nor forgotten us. We have built this house to worship God; and now our duty is to prepare ourselves for the blessings to be obtained in the Temple by building one, and building it in purity of heart and sincerity of soul, as the Temple of Kirtland was reared in the midst of privation and poverty. When that building was dedicated, it was visited by Peter, James and John, and by hundreds of angels, who were seen of many. He again blessed the people, and prayed that the peace of God might be and abide with them; and urged them if any of their families were sick to use mild herbs, let the doctors alone, and call for the elders to anoint them with oil and pray over them.

Pres. D. H. Wells said it was with deep feelings of gratitude to the Lord that he arose before so large a congregation of the Saints to speak of the things of the kingdom. The erection of the building in which they were assembled he looked upon as a great achievement worthy of the people of the Saints. We are gathered to these valleys of the mountains to learn to build up the Kingdom of God, and it makes no difference what we are called to do—whether to raise wheat, build factories, raise flax, or any of the products of the earth, if we only understand our calling and are faithful. We have to reclaim the earth and make the place of His feet glorious before Him. The great work of the last days is to gather out the honest-in-heart, establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth, and reclaim the earth from the thralldom of sin and darkness. The Lord has led forth His people in might; He has led his servant Brigham in might and in power; He has planted us in the midst of these mountains, blessed the land for our sakes, and caused it to bring forth for the sustenance of His people. He has turned away the evil designs of our enemies, and frustrated all their wicked plans. The Latter-day Saints are a good people, but there is room for improvement, and it is our work and mission to improve and progress in righteousness.

Singing by the Tabernacle Choir.

Prayer by President D. H. Wells.

2 p.m.

Singing by the combination choir, "Awake, put on the strength," led by Wm. Jones; prayer by Elder B. Young, Junr.; singing by Tabernacle choir.

Elder Orson Hyde said it was the largest congregation he had ever addressed in his life and it seemed to be the largest religious assembly he had ever seen, though he had traveled considerably in the four quarters of the earth, and had an acquaintance with the large religious gatherings of the world. In 1848 a meeting was held at Hyde Park, Pottawatamie County, Iowa, composed of the Twelve Apostles, and at that meeting a power was felt which he had never experienced before; and the Lord spoke from heaven and declared to them that President Brigham Young should be the leader of His people and His mouthpiece to them. This was the second time he had borne this testimony; and he thought it was a privilege and a duty to bear it before this vast congregation. There are those present who can bear testimony to this who were not in that house, for they declared that the earth shook and trembled around, and they ran out of their houses to see if there was not an earthquake. Since that time these valleys have been settled, and settled under the guidance of him who was appointed to guide the people of God. We are called fanatics; but who can look at this congregation to-day, gathered from the various cities and settlements of this Territory, and intelligently say they are the fruits of fanaticism. The influence which draws them together is not of man, nor of the world, but from the Lord of Hosts. In speaking of the accusation of fanaticism urged against us, he showed that there is a people here who love God, who love one another, and who manifest in their lives the existence of the principles taught in the gospel, and which the world possess only in theory. He encouraged parents who have been bereft of their children by death, assuring them that if faithful they will receive them again, and receive the same ones who have been taken from them. Speaking of the resurrection, and of those who come forth in it, they are laid down corruptible, they rise incorruptible; they are laid down with blood in their veins, they rise with spirit in them. He said that about twenty years ago he had held some views concerning the resurrection which were incorrect and only vain philosophy; but now with more matured views he saw their error, and was sorry for having ever uttered them;

and asked the people to forgive him for ever having preached them, quoting the scripture "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man I put away childish things."

Singing, "The Mountain Brave" by Elder Fishburne's choir.

President B. Young said that no man can explain the resurrection except he has received the keys of it, as John Wesley could not explain the gospel and build up the Kingdom of God because he had not the priesthood nor the authority and power of God to do so. He said if he were asked did he understand the resurrection, he would say he did not; but he understood as much concerning it as any man living. Every component part of the creature comes forth in the resurrection. The parts that form the organization of man endure for ever unless he forfeits his right to them; and he shall possess them when he is resurrected. Jesus is the First-born from the dead; the first fruits from the earth, and as he was raised complete and incorruptible, so will every Saint be who is raised in the resurrection of the just. We differ from the rest of the world in many things, for we have been called out from the world that we may put away sin and evil and cling to righteousness. We differ from all the world in principle and doctrine, for we believe in and practice the gospel; and our views, hopes, desires, wishes and objects—to spread the gospel and gather out the honest-in-heart—are so different from that of other people that we cannot associate with them and assimilate our feelings. With us our religion is, or should be, the great topic of conversation, the great subject of thought. The people have gathered here from the various nations of the earth, not drawn together from the countries where they lived by old sermons and the traditions of the priests, but the power of God which accompanied the gospel taught unto them exercised an influence over them, they were touched in their hearts, and they forsook all to gather to Zion and be one with the Saints of God. We will preach the gospel, gather the honest, build tabernacles and temples; and teach those who will serve God to sustain themselves, and to help build up the Kingdom of God. He instructed the newly arrived immigrants to watch their own hearts, serve the Lord, be prayerful, and be full of love and kindness to one another and to the whole human family. He pointed out the happy state of society resulting from union and harmony among the people; and showed that as we present such a condition of society, and are called deluded, our delusion must be an exceedingly happy and successful one. The manner in which the people have progressed; the degree to which education is fostered and encouraged; and the way in which they have advanced in the science of life, show the wisdom of the policy by which they have been guided. He instructed mothers to teach their children principles of life and to love and be kind to one another.

To understand fully the remarks made and appreciate them, read the discourses when they are published.

Singing by the S. S. and P. choirs. Prayer by Pres. D. H. Wells.

Monday, 7th, 10 a.m.

Singing by the Tabernacle choir; prayer by Elder John Taylor; singing by the S. S. and P. choirs.

Elder Orson Pratt referred to the thoughts and suggestions which were brought to his mind by the appearance of the building just erected, and in which he was speaking, as it looked to him when he issued from Parley's Cañon on returning from his last mission. He saw it towering above the surrounding buildings like an artificial mountain, something like those mounds which are found in the Mississippi valley that were raised by the ancient inhabitants of the country; and he thought of the words of Isaiah and Micah, "The mountain of the Lord's house shall be