

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Dec. 29th, 1889, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang:

Mortals, awake! with angels join,
And chant the solemn lay.

Prayer by Elder O. G. Workman.

The choir sang:

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

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

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT

was called to address the congregation. He said the Saints met together often to be strengthened in the knowledge of the Gospel. It was as natural to partake of spiritual food to keep the Saints united as it was to receive temporal food to sustain their bodies. They should go to meetings with an earnest prayer to be benefited—to receive something that will give them strength to walk in the right path. Sometimes we have a feeling to reject counsel, and we go away feeling that we have not received any benefit. But if we are keeping the commandments of God, then all teachings in harmony with those commandments are pleasant to us. Sometimes when we have been doing wrong and receive a rebuke, we do not like it. No man in the pulpit has any right to direct his remarks to persons, but he should speak on the principles of life, as they are applicable to all. If an Elder does this by the light of the Holy Spirit, he does not stop to question who is hit by his remarks, nor direct them at any one. Those whose faults are pointed out are the ones who receive the most benefit, if they are wise.

The Saints should strive to know their faults, and then seek for strength to overcome. We all know we are all far short of perfection. I doubt whether there is a single individual here who thinks he has kept the commandments of God as well as he knows how. But if we strive continually we will increase in power to do right. The work of God is onward, and there is no power that can prevent it. It is for us to say whether we will keep pace with it through all tribulations. We have been warned of persecution. We have been warned that our liberties would be taken away, and unless we have the light of the Spirit we will not be able to bear up under our trials. But with that Spirit we can show our sincerity by suffering for the testimony of Jesus Christ. There is but one path of duty—the straight and narrow path. It is the path of virtue, of honor, of faithfulness to God and our fellow-men.

Because the Latter-day Saints are united, and are not wayed by every wind of doctrine, the world say we are guided by a few cunning leaders, and that the mass do not think for themselves. There is nothing that

is more untrue than such a statement. The history of the Saints gives the lie to the claim. Through all the sufferings of the Saints, all that has been asked of them to escape suffering has been that they relinquish their faith. No people who had not minds of their own would have suffered the pains the Saints have when they could have escaped so easily. Their course in this respect has been one of the strongest evidences of the truth of the mission of Joseph Smith. They were not promised beds of ease; but they were given the same promise that Jesus gave His disciples, that they would suffer persecution, and some of them would have to sacrifice their lives for the Gospel. No reasonable person can look at the history of the Saints and not give them credit for acting on individual knowledge and conviction. Friends and relations have turned against them, and their names have been cast out as evil. Would we allow this if we had not a sincere conviction of the truths of the Gospel? Would people with no force of character stand up against the world? Would they submit to being driven from homes and patiently bear persecutions, for religion's sake? They would not. The Saints are united because they have tested the Lord by keeping His commandments, and they have received His testimony, which makes them one with Christ. Having received of the testimony of Jesus Christ, we should at all times be honest, virtuous and upright, that men and women, seeing our good deeds will glorify God and seek to serve Him. There are no words that have the same effect as a God-like example. May He help us to be faithful to Him in all things.

APOSTLE MOSES THATCHER

was the next speaker. He said that when the Elders speak by the Holy Ghost, they edify all who enjoy that Saints and the people rejoice in its gifts. Never, at any period in the history of the Church, has it been more necessary to have the guidance of the Holy Ghost than at the present time. We are in a position that we have to walk largely by faith. The conflict between darkness and light is growing very intense. When we are left alone, the mockery and scorn of the world make us, when looking at things from a human standpoint, feel very weak; but when we have the Holy Spirit, and realize our duty and destiny, fear is banished and we stand up and glorify God even for the tribulations we pass through. Our faculties are strengthened by use, and spiritual strength comes by the closest tests. Every effort of the ungodly, of the enemies of human liberty, will but aid in developing a class of people that will be worthy of their high and holy calling.

The evidences of thrift, of courage, of progression, are in our midst today. We may make more rapid progress in the future because of our increased wealth; but honest men cannot fail to give the true meed of praise to the "Mormon" people for the great work they have already

performed. They are admitted to be moral, temperate and industrious—attributes not possessed by many who antagonize them—and they will survive when their accusers and slanderers have passed away. The destiny of Utah in this nation is marked out by the Almighty, and the day will come when her strength will be welcomed by her sister commonwealths. Her destiny cannot be interfered with.

The measures now directed against us may, in the near future, prove to be not an unmixed evil. I remember the unjust rulings of Judge Howard, in Arizona, which caused a number of residents of that Territory to wander to a foreign land, where they were almost on the verge of starvation. I remember when, in this condition, through the influence of "American gentlemen," an edict was issued that in fifteen days they were to leave the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, where they then were. This was regarded as a great calamity in their destitute condition; but it called the attention of the national authorities to their situation. The result was a great blessing, and today the "Mormon" people are looked upon as the most successful colonists that Mexico has. They were very poor when they went there, but the prosperity which has attended them has been a marvel. There was a question in regard to a water supply, but an earthquake two years ago solved that problem, and greatly increased the quantity of water. Where formerly vegetables could not be produced, they now grow in abundance. So, wherever the Latter-day Saints go the blessings of God abide, and sterility is turned into fruitfulness. If the pressure is so great as to crowd some of us into Mexico on the south and Canada on the north, the blessings of the Lord will attend us there as well as here.

This nation has reached the zenith of great glory and power. The progression in the arts and sciences is unsurpassed elsewhere. Our nation was based upon the broad principles of human liberty. These principles are being tested. There are questions arising in the nation that will cause the "Mormon" question to sink into insignificance. All eyes are upon Utah today, but other issues are looming up, such as the labor question, race problems, etc. Political parties may have intrigues, but the masses of the people are growing poorer, and the few richer. These issues must be met and dealt with, and grave ones they are. We are today on the highway to the enslavement of the masses of the people, in the great wealth that is being amassed by monopolies. The fault is in the system, and the day must come when a remedy must be provided. The Lord gave what we have, and it is not for us to say that the producer shall have comparatively nothing, and the non-producer have nearly all. Eminent financiers have dealt with these questions, and have shown the dangers of the present financial system. The inequalities existing between capital and labor must bring disaster,