

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1895. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

## CHURCH ORGANIZATION.

Remarks made at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday, April 6th, 1895, by

ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN.

(REPORTED BY ARTHUR BENTLEY.)

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord may be abundantly upon us, especially our brethren who are called upon to speak; for it is an unusual task to address so large an assembly. There is generally a great deal of talk about the Church, and they speak upon it. I shall be pleased if I can speak just loud enough to be heard, and yet not waste any volume of my voice.

It seems to me a very great privilege to stand before this general conference. It is a very important matter that the people should gather together twice a year in general conference to transact the business of the Church, by common consent. We also meet four times a year in every stake to transact the business of the stake. We meet at least once a year in our wards to transact the business of the wards. Changes continually become necessary through changes and removals and other causes, and it seems essential that the organization of the Church and all of its departments be kept perfect, that there shall not be too much labor resting upon a few, but the responsibility be properly shared, according to the design of our Heavenly Father in the organization of His Church. I presume that this church organization is a perfect one, and it is kept complete, with the First Presidency and the general authorities, the labor is properly divided, and no one needs to be overworked. Then when our stakes are complete in their organization, with the Presidency and a High Council, with bishops and their counselors, and the regular help in governing, there is no need for any part being neglected. Hence I say that it is very important part of our lives and existence that we meet together on occasions of this kind, not only to transact the business and keep the Church organization perfect, but that we may receive the word of the Lord and the promises of the Holy Spirit through the Presidency and the Apostles, who hold the keys of the kingdom, and who will hold those keys to the end. When these men stand up before us to

give us instruction, they do so as the oracles of heaven. They do not speak in their own strength, nor in their own wisdom. They are not given to prepare, by the light of their own experience and judgment, discourses to be presented before the people, but they draw their minds with inspiration, with every particle of light and wisdom and understanding that can be obtained from our Heavenly Father, and they stand before you to be moved upon by the Holy Ghost. And when they speak, they speak forth scriptures, their words are scriptural, just as the words of the Apostles Peter, James and John, and the Noble Apostles are scriptural. Their words are the words of truth, the words of the Lord, and they are particularly suited to the requirements of the people at the present time. The words of the Lord, that came through His servants in olden times were important and were fitted to the condition of the people who received them. The words of the Lord given to the Nephites under the direction of the Savior when He visited this continent were suited to the requirements of that people at that time. Verily the truths announced to the people of the east and of the west, as they pertain to doctrine and the plan of the redemption, are suited to us at this time, but we find ourselves at times in emergencies and conditions that require the counsel of the Lord, and we must turn to the occasion—conditions suited to a people located in the valleys of the mountains, not to the people of Jerusalem, two years ago, and to the people in South America two years ago and more. Israel has been gathered today from the four corners of the earth, in answer to the establishment of the principles of salvation by the Savior. We have cities and towns to build; we have country to subdue, and cannot prosper to the localities and to the circumstances that surround us are needed. We have an endless variety of experience and of difficulties to meet and grapple with in this life; and it is necessary that there should be those men standing as the presiding authority of the Church upon the earth, representing our Father who is in heaven, one man being the mouthpiece of God to the whole world, and a Prophet, Seer and Revelator, such as President Woodruff is today, and such as President John Taylor, President Brigham Young and President Joseph Smith were. As these men were in their day, so are President Woodruff today, and when President Woodruff's work shall be

believed of any trouble that seems to threaten them. But if we consider their mind and it is neglected, it seems to poison the circulation of the community, and it becomes entire and wise, until it sometimes occurs that matters in a word reach such a serious stage that the Bishopric of the ward is not competent to correct the evil. It is to also in a stake. The result is the matter goes from the Bishop to the High Council, and from the High Council to the First Presidency, for their counsel and consideration.

All these men who are called to these positions are chosen men. President Woodruff is a chosen man. The Council members are chosen men. These Apostles are chosen men. These Presidents of stakes are chosen men. They are men who have been chosen by the voice of the Lord. Our Father who dwells in heaven hath made choice of every one of these men, and we may as his children be chosen men. These Presidents of stakes are chosen men. They are men who have been chosen by the voice of the Lord. These men are not in the field, applying for places and positions in the Church. And in my knowledge, there has been no such thing occurred in the history of this Church as a man applying for a position in the Presidency, in the Apostleship, or in any other position, not even as a Teacher in a ward. The Teachers have been called and chosen as well as these other men. They have been called by the voice of the Lord, and they have been chosen by the voice of the Lord. In fact, I do not think that so far as this is concerned, a perfect man has been found among us. But the Lord has taken the very best material that He could get. He may have taken all the best, there may be others that are just as good, to make Presidents, Apostles, and Presidents of stakes and Bishops, but as have been said, but as a rule, as good men as we have among us have been selected. They have been chosen for their virtue, for their honesty, for their integrity, for their love and devotion to the Gospel, and they are generally men who have been in the service of the Lord until the Holy Ghost has become their companion, and their counselor and guide in all things, as near as possible. I know in my experience, which has been considerable for a young man, that we get our heads together, we pray to God, we humble ourselves before the Lord, and in every instance we say, "Father, I am not worthy to be in this position. I have no pretensions, no brothers or kindred that we desire to promote, but thy will be done in the matter." And the inspiration of the Lord comes to us by the Holy Ghost. There is no way for it to come but by the Holy Ghost. When the Holy Ghost signifies to us that a certain man shall be placed in a certain position, we take hold of him, and the people feel and understand that he is in his place for the position. The Spirit of the Lord bears witness to the hearts of the brethren who hold the Priesthood and of the people. Those who bear the authority of the Lord and obtain from Him counsel and inspiration in regard to every mat-

ter of chance. This kingdom is organized by the inspiration of the Almighty. It is so organized, and will be to the end. It will never grow less than it is today, but it will increase in numbers and spread abroad. As the people increase in numbers and faith the Church will increase in strength and power. Individuals may fall by the way; political and financial trials and a variety of other things may come upon us; sin, secret and public, may come upon us as it does now; but the Church of Christ will go on forever, increasing and going forth in strength and power. And it will be brought to the notice of the world more plainly and potently than it is today. The word will be brought to light upon this people as a marvel in the north compared with all other people, and the world and the great sons of the earth will come here to visit the Latter-day Saints, who are not a despised people, but an impenetrable people, but a simple, plain people, gathered from the humble, humble and contributing of the world. The strength is in Jesus' God, and in the people; not in any hereditary greatness, but in our simplicity and our honesty and purity.

I speak of this that we may have a comprehensive view of the organization of the Church and of the importance of the business that we must endeavor to transact in our conference. It is necessary for the health, the preservation, and advancement of the Church that this labor should be performed. Every quarter, every organization, and every association should be cared for, so that none shall be neglected, and that the Church may live in healthy condition, and that when the forenoon comes, we shall have all in our hands. That we may do the will and keep His commandments, and be worthy of His love and blessing. His salvation and exaltation is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**CHEROKEE CONFERENCE.**  
An Interesting Time in One of the Civilized Indian Nations.

MANARU, I. T. Jones and, they, Elder Daniel Neal.

As most of our Indian Territory conferences have received a notable place in your columns, I would ask that a brief space be given to one of the most interesting meetings of the mission, here at Manaru.

Our conference convened at ten sharp, June and, with Elder G. S. Ashton presiding, and Elders S. P. Green, E. S. Saunders and P. H. Margrett on the stand. Our attendance was not large, but the Spirit of God was with us. All looked forward to a day of rejoicing, and it is happy to hear that the mission of those present at the close would indicate their feelings, all were well repaid for time and trouble in coming so far, as was the case with some.

After singing the hymn, "Come ye

messengers of glory," prayer by Elder Stephen P. Green, singing, "How let us rejoice in the day of salvation," Brother E. S. Saunders took the stand, and dwelt on the last four principles of the Gospel, defining the duties of the children of God, that they may perfect themselves for a future exaltation. He spoke in a clear and forcible manner, and in such a spirit as should leave no doubt as to the blessings that are in store for the faithful.

Elder P. H. Margrett next spoke on the divine authority of Joseph Smith in re-establishing the Church of Christ as it was in primitive times, and also on the blessings promised to those who worship God in spirit and truth.

Singing, "We thank thee O, God for a Prophet," Benediction, Elder G. S. Ashton.

Afternoon meeting, Elder P. Margrett presiding. Singing, "Oh, my Father," prayer by Elder E. S. Saunders, singing, "How great the wisdom." The sacrament was administered by Elders Green and Saunders.

Elder Ashton then addressed the meeting, and he briefly drew attention to the ordinance of partaking of the Sacrament, proving by the scriptures, that it was a commandment from Jesus, and showing that those who shrank or partook of it unworthily were doing so to their own condemnation. He exhorted the people to examine themselves and see if they were in a fit condition to partake, and if so, to do it with a contrite spirit, believing that God would give them a portion of His spirit to accompany them through their daily walk in life.

Elder S. P. Green was the next speaker, and his subject was the great coming of the Savior. He exhorted the people to live as upright life, that when the Lord appeared to judge all according to the deeds done in the flesh, that they might be found in the list of their duty. He also said that God had never promised His judgments against His people without sending an appointed messenger to warn them. He has sent, and is sending His servants to all parts of the world, proclaiming the everlasting Gospel as taught by the Apostles of old, and when this is done, then shall the end come. He then referred to the restoration of the Gospel in this day and age, and that we could now have the privilege of going through all the ordinances that would perfect us for eternal life, by obeying the commandments that are taught by His servants from day to day. He hoped that people in this part of the world would investigate the Gospel as laid down in the scriptures, and not be led by every wind of doctrine.

After singing and benediction our conference was brought to a close, all feeling that the Spirit of God had attended our meetings.

P. H. MARGRETT.

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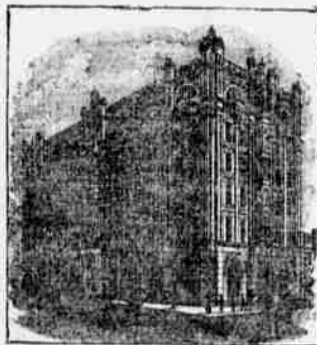
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