

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

SIXTH DAY.

SUNDAY MORNING, April 21.

According to adjournment of Sunday, April 14, the Forty-second Annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reassembled at 10 o'clock, in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake city.

Conference was called to order by President GEO. A. SMITH.

The choir sang:

"May we who know the joyful sound,
Still practice what we know."

The opening prayer was offered by Elder LORENZO D. YOUNG.

"The great and glorious gospel light
Has ushered forth into my sight."

was sung by the choir.

Elder ROBERT F. NESLEN addressed the Conference. He rejoiced that the kingdom of God was organized for the permanent benefit of humanity at large. The principles of the gospel were efficacious in bringing happiness to mankind, but through the perverseness of the latter, those principles had not been so very extensively beneficial. The speaker quoted some passages of Scripture, indicating the organizing of the kingdom of God in the latter times. The knowledge received by the Latter-day Saints through obedience to the gospel of Christ had enabled them to overcome almost insurmountable difficulties, and the result of these things was that they beheld to-day, in the valleys of Utah, a God-fearing, industrious and happy people, and we also saw bursting into bloom the realization of the hopes, aspirations and prophecies of the ancient prophets and apostles.

The speaker continued for some time, showing that the gospel net gathered of all kinds, brought together the opposite elements of humanity and made a homogeneous and united people. He stated that the principles embraced by the Latter-day Saints would eventually obtain all over the world, and through their agency would be brought about the reign of universal peace which was so frequently alluded to in holy writ.

Elder M. B. SHIPP was the next speaker. He saw a congregation before him, among whom were representatives from nearly every nationality, who had been gathered together by the command of God. He spoke for some time on the gathering of the Saints, showed the progressive nature of the principles of the gospel, and commented upon the magnitude of the work we were engaged in. He predicted the ultimate victory of the principles of truth because of their superior power and efficacy. They would gain ground in proportion as they were put into daily practice by their exponents. He exhorted all to beware of the subtle insinuations of vice now appearing here, which had been introduced by the people of the world, and were calculated to lead astray the young and unwary.

Elder Shipp spoke of the promise made to all who desired to become members of the Church of Christ, that they would receive for themselves a knowledge that what they had obeyed was of divine origin. This was a promise that could not be given by another class of men professing to be the servants of God.

Elder EDWARD STEVENSON addressed the assemblage. He spoke of the agency given to man by his Creator, to choose good or evil, and showed that those opposite powers were constantly striving with man to lead him the one way or the other. The Latter-day Saints were on the side of the powers of good, and by adhering to so noble a cause they would be the means, in the hands of God, of turning the tide of wickedness which now flooded the earth. The people of God must of necessity be a people of sacrifice and self denial, for they only will be the ultimate victors who learn to govern themselves. The speaker commented on the benefits which invariably accrued from an observance of the Word of Wisdom, and exhorted the Saints not to neglect to take a course by which they could secure to themselves those benefits.

He alluded to a prediction uttered by the prophet Joseph Smith shortly before his martyrdom, that the Saints would yet be established in the Rocky Mountains, and there become a great nation, and also of his own and others' martyrdom. He concluded by bearing testimony of the truth of the latter-day work.

President GEO. A. SMITH gave out a notice that the funeral services of the

deceased Elder Daniel Garu would be held at the latter's late residence, Sugar House ward, Monday, April 22nd, and stated that his making this announcement brought to his mind a long line of history, among the incidents of which was the saving of the life of the prophet Joseph Smith by Brother Garu.

The choir sang:

"I will praise him."

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

Prayer by President D. H. WELLS.

2 p. m.

"Though deep'ning trials throng your way,
Press on, press on, ye Saints of God."

was sung by the choir.

Prayer by Elder C. W. PENROSE.

The choir sang:

"Arise, my soul, arise,
Shake off thy guilty fears."

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered.

Elder REUBEN MILLER addressed the Conference. He had had the privilege of meeting with the Saints at every General Conference during the last twenty-two years. He first heard the gospel thirty years ago, and obeyed it then, and had never regretted doing so. He never felt to murmur because we were persecuted, for opposition always followed obedience to the mandates of heaven. The speaker bore testimony that when he obeyed the first principles of the gospel he received a knowledge of the truth by revelation from the Almighty, and which enabled him to know that Joseph Smith was divinely inspired to usher in the great last dispensation, and he enjoyed the same spirit of revelation then, which enabled him to know that the inspiration of the Almighty was also with those who now led the church.

Elder Miller showed that the means by which men could regain the presence of God the father had been restored to earth and were inculcated in the principles enunciated by the Latter-day Saints, and concluded by exhorting the people to live righteously.

Elder GEORGE TEASDALE commented on the predictions of the ancient prophets, who saw, through the vista of ages, the restoration of the gospel plan in our day. We had received the message and the testimony of its truth, and it remained to be seen whether we would continue faithful and be redeemed; for only those who endured to the end would be saved. A great work had been performed, and it was often said it had been all done by the great mental abilities of President Brigham Young. What President Young had done he had been inspired to do by the Almighty. The great secret of the success that attended the efforts of the Latter-day Saints was that each individual identified with the work had a testimony of its divinity for him or herself, and the people were blessed of the Lord in their labors.

Elder Teasdale spoke of the bitterness manifested by those who were once of us and had turned against us. The cause was that when a man embraced the gospel it appeared he must either adhere to, preach and sustain the truth, or fight against it. President Young had been slandered and maligned by such because he was a servant of God and had striven to keep the church free from false doctrine.

Elder MILO ANDRUS addressed the assemblage. He spoke of the peace enjoyed by the Latter-day Saints, and contrasted their condition in this respect now with circumstances through which they had passed in times gone by, and adverted to incidents which were calculated to cause them to appreciate peace when they had it. The reason the elders of Israel were enabled to declare the truth with boldness was because it was the power of God unto salvation. When we looked at the handiwork of God as displayed in the planetary system, etc., we beheld a portion of the gospel of Christ, because such things showed forth the power of God.

It was easy for people to know whether we were impostors or not, for we promised that all who complied with the requisitions of the gospel would receive a knowledge for themselves of the truth. If people subscribed to the conditions and the result did not follow they might reasonably conclude that the Latter-day Saints did not tell the truth. The speaker had been identified with the work of God since 1832 and he had never had any reason to repent of his obedience to the truth.

Elder Andrus stated that he once, when

in a congregation of the Saints, was meditating on the power of the Holy Ghost, and felt a desire to understand its manifestations, and the visions of his mind were opened by the power of God and he saw, over the heads of the people in the congregation, cloven tongues of fire, and many of the people arose and spoke in various tongues and prophesied. He continued to speak of the nature of the work of God, its indestructibility and organization, and predicted the ultimate and glorious triumph of the same. He concluded by bearing testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the living God, and that Brigham Young was his legal successor.

Elder ORSON PRATT said:

I do not rise before this large assembly to enter into any particular investigation of any doctrinal point or subject, but as I have a few moments granted, I desire, with all my heart, to bear my humble testimony in regard to the divinity of the work which you Latter-day Saints have received. In the first place I would say that from my youth I have been a member of this church, having embraced the gospel when 19 years of age, in the State of New York. Forty-two years, lacking only a few months, have expired since that time, and I have grown up in, and with, the history of this church. I know that this is the church and kingdom of God, I mean the latter-day church and kingdom predicted by the ancient prophets in the Bible. I know that the Almighty has set up this kingdom, that this church was organized by his express direction and command, that the day was appointed by revelation on which it should be organized, that the officers that should be placed within this church were named by revelation, that by revelation the duties of those officers, so far as it was necessary, were made manifest on the day of the organization. I do also know, and bear testimony, that this book, called the Bible, is a divine revelation. I know this from God, it having been revealed to me; and no person can know this book to be true unless it is revealed to him. I also know that the Book of Mormon is a sacred record, a sacred history of ancient America, from the days soon after the Flood for some twenty-six hundred years. I know that combined with this sacred history and included within it are many great and important prophecies revealed from God to prophets who once dwelt on this continent. I know that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, whom we worship and serve, and whom we receive as our Redeemer, was also the redeemer of the ancient inhabitants of this country inasmuch as they gave heed to his sayings. I know that the Book of Mormon is the Bible of the western hemisphere as the Old and New Testament is the Bible of the eastern hemisphere; that one is equally as sacred as the other, and that God is the author of both, having revealed both unto a succession of prophets and inspired men. I know, also, that God has raised up, in our day, not only a church and kingdom, but men, filled with the Holy Ghost, inspired from Heaven as the ancient prophets, seers and revelators were inspired; and that these men, being directed by the Holy Ghost, have given revelations directly to this kingdom; so that we have the Jewish record, or eastern Bible, the record of the ancient inhabitants of America—the Book of Mormon, and inspired writings given to living oracles in our day, all for our light, guidance and instruction in reference to our duties and to show us the path in which we should walk, and unfold to us those divine and heavenly principles that are needful for the government of our every-day conduct. It is a great thing to have knowledge of this kind, and to have the authority to bear testimony to that which we assuredly do know.

In regard to Joseph Smith, I knew him when he was a young man—soon after the translation of the Book of Mormon I became acquainted with him in the rise of this church. I boarded with him in his family; I was with him for weeks and months together, and know, not only by what I saw and heard, and what from my natural ability I was able to comprehend, but also by the revelations of Jesus Christ, that he is and was a prophet of the true and living God. I will go still further. I know that these men who sit upon these seats—the Twelve Apostles, who have been ordained under the hands of those who had the authority by revelation from heaven to confer this office, to be men of God, inspired to build up this latter-day kingdom and church upon the earth. I know that one part of their duty is to send forth this gospel unto all people, nations and tongues, first to the Gentiles, to fulfil their times, that they may be left without excuse; and then the commandment of the Most High will be given to them to carry this gospel to all the dispersed remnants of the house of Jacob. Then the work of warning the nations will be completed, and the purposes of God, so far as this is concerned, will be accomplished; then the fulness of the Gentiles will have come, the house of Israel will be gathered from the four quarters of the earth, Zion will rise upon the great western hemisphere in all her glory, power, and greatness, while Jerusalem will rise on the eastern hemisphere, clothed with the glory of her God and with the power of his might. Then the heavens will no longer stay themselves, but the curtain will be

rolled back, and their woe grand course will be revealed, and they will come down and meet the Saints of God here upon this globe, and a day of everlasting rest will be ushered in. These, in short, are the few items to which I wish to bear my testimony this afternoon.

May God bless all the Latter-day Saints assembled in this Conference, and all dwelling in the regions round about, who have not this privilege. May his blessings rest upon all of his people throughout the whole world; and may Zion enlarge herself, and the glory of God be made manifest in behalf of his people, in my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

President GEORGE A. SMITH presented the names of the following brethren, who were unanimously sustained as home missionaries:

Samuel Pitchforth, Nephi,
M. B. Shipp, Salt Lake City,
James P. Freeze, Salt Lake City.

President GEORGE A. SMITH spoke as follows:

We have great reason to be thankful for the peace we enjoy. Nobody feels free to smash in our windows and to break up our meetings, or to drag us about or abuse us, as they have done, in times past, in some other parts of the world. Our pilgrimage to, and our labor of twenty-five years in, the heart of the great American continent, have made us a home where even the intolerant spirit of Christian hate and persecution, stirred up by ignorance and falsehood, has not been permitted, materially, to disturb us. Without fear of molestation we can have a meeting, a prayer circle, a conference; the elders can bear testimony—and I rejoice in their testimony and know it is true—that this is the work of the Almighty, and that God has commenced, in these last days, a work for the redemption of the human race, from the thralldom and misery and degradation into which they have fallen. I thank the Lord for the privilege of participating in this work, and for being one of the number who are laboring, under his direction, to lay a foundation, in these valleys, for the enjoyment, by the whole human race, of peace and of civil and religious liberty, so that men, under their own vine and fig tree, may worship God and none dare to make them afraid. We thank God for these blessings, and we expect a good many more.

We thank God, too, that our country has in it sufficient of the elements of honesty and integrity, that even principles of law may be determined by high tribunals unbiased by religious intolerance. We praise God for all these things, and we know that he will bring off his people victorious.

The choir sang:

"God be merciful."

Conference adjourned, by unanimous vote, till Sunday, April 28th, at 10 a.m. Benedictory prayer by Elder WILLIAM G. YOUNG.

JOHN NICHOLSON,
Clerk of Conference.

McKEAN'S MUDDLE ENDED.—In accordance with universal expectation, the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that Judge McKean's mixture of courts, juries, statutes and indictments in the Territory of Utah, invalidates all the work undertaken by that zealous but unreasoning Daniel. The criminal verdicts against Young and his minor constellations, on the charge of polygamy, are declared null, because McKean persisted in making the indictments under a Territorial statute, a United States jury, a Territorial court, and a United States Judge. The righteousness of the decision will be applauded throughout the country, despite the regret equally universal that such a decision must carry with it so many mortifying consequences. McKean's zeal overleaped itself; and the \$30,000 expended uselessly under his dictation have contributed to Mormon material wealth in the past, and must now contribute many fold more to Mormon jubilation.

It is unnecessary to suggest, perhaps, that Judge McKean's usefulness in Utah as an evangelizer is not in the least impaired. He may still prove a Daniel to convert, but he cannot longer be a Daniel to convict. The Supreme Court of that Territory should now be placed in the hands of an experienced judicial officer who has more or less appreciation of the distinctions between local and general courts; and will not summon juries by statutes under which they cannot act.

The law of the United States against polygamy is sufficiently explicit for interpretation without attempting to accomplish its object through an outrageous distortion of a Territorial law.—Chicago Post

WHAT THEY SAY.—It would be amusing if it were not so utterly ridiculous and absurd, to see Chicago, and other papers, now that the highest tribunal in the land has exposed the wicked conspiracies and infamies of McKean & Co. in Utah, clamoring for his removal. After doing all they could to egg him on in his lawless course, now that he is crushed, they affect the most empty indignation over his past course and present discomfiture.—Omaha Herald.