

had followed the Latter-day Saints in past years, and their prosperity even in the midst of the greatest opposition and persecution. For all this we should feel grateful to our Heavenly Father. A number of men, who once held high positions in this Church, apostatized because of their ingratitude for the blessings and gifts with which they had been endowed; among them were several of the first Apostles in this dispensation. The Saints should feel thankful for the blessings they enjoy, instead of murmuring and complaining of things which they do not possess, for the Lord knows better than we what is good for every one of His sons and daughters, and will give to us all according to His great wisdom and pleasure.

Apostle Moses Thatcher

Said that a careful reading of the predictions made in regard to the second coming of the Savior would enable the Saints to understand their meaning. Christ had already appeared—first to the Prophet boy Joseph Smith in the woods of New York and afterwards in the Kirtland Temple, but the time when He shall appear in His glory and come to reign upon the earth has not been revealed. Others of the Saints cannot be reconciled to the fact that their sons and daughters are taken away from them by death in the prime of youth, and yet those same parents will, in some instances, not hesitate to give their daughters and sons in marriage to those who are infidels and wicked at heart—an act which places them in a most deplorable condition, compared with which death is but a small calamity. The Saints should be wise and act consistently in this as well as in other matters, and not cut themselves or their children off from the blessings of the Temples by being unequally yoked with unbelievers.

The choir sang the anthem, "Daughter of Zion."

Benediction by Apostle Heber J. Grant.

PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

A meeting of the Priesthood was held in the Tabernacle at 7:30 o'clock, on Sunday evening. It was the largest assemblage of the kind ever held. Annexed is a brief synopsis of the remarks made, merely sufficient to indicate the nature of the subjects treated:

Bishop William B. Preston

Spoke upon the duties of those who are called to officiate in the Lesser Priesthood. He defined the functions of the offices of Priest and Teacher, whose quorums should be fully organized. Bishops complain sometimes that it is difficult to obtain experienced men to operate in these offices, as they are called to labor in so many other directions. The young men who are active in the Sunday Schools and Mutual Improvement Associations should be selected and trained in the duties of the Lesser Priesthood, that they may be prepared to go forward by a process of gradation for advancement. If this is done and the time comes when they want to get married, they

will be in a proper condition to receive the Melchisedek Priesthood. The support of the poor was a matter of much importance. In some wards not more was donated for this object than ought to be contributed by one family. The record proves this to be the case.

Apostle Heber J. Grant

Said we have much to contend with in the opposition of the world, but this is not nearly so discouraging as the opposition which is occasionally met with within our own ranks. Our duties belong to us as individuals. Those who contribute their fast offerings to support the poor will receive the blessings associated with that act of obedience. So with every other obligation. Blessings are predicated upon obedience to law. This is the largest Priesthood meeting I ever attended in my life. I expect the one held next April will be larger than this. This is the way the predictions of those who have asserted that "Mormonism" was soon coming to an end are fulfilled. It simply keeps extending. The First Presidency and Twelve are united, and this union is increasing among the people. I have no fears of any man or set of men having power to impede the progress of this work. No such power exists.

Apostle John W. Taylor.

Brother Grant in his remarks has referred to the growth of the Latter-day Saints, and has shown that "Mormonism," instead of coming to an end, as has often been predicted, has grown and that the Saints have increased. In nearly all the older settlements, old meeting houses have been replaced by larger ones.

It has been said that not more than one-fourth of the Latter-day Saints pay a full tithing. If this is true, it is very unfortunate. When the Saints first settled here, they made a solemn covenant that, if the Lord would bless the land and make it productive, they would pay a tenth of their increase to the Lord. The promise is that if they will pay their tithing this shall be a land of Zion unto them. I admonish you, brethren, to pay your tithing. You will be blessed according to your faithfulness in doing so. When presiding officers do not themselves pay tithing, they cannot preach tithing to the Saints, effectively—their mouths are closed on the subject.

Apostle Mariner W. Merrill.

I look upon this meeting as the presiding authority of the Church; that is, it embraces the local presiding authorities of the various wards and stakes. Reference has been made to the union of feeling that exists among the Twelve and First Presidency. I testify that this is true, and it is an example that should be followed by all the organizations of the Church. Where there is not union among the local presiding authorities, the people are affected. Such a condition tends to keep them away from meeting, and has a bad influence.

The speaker dwelt at length upon the necessity of union and harmony

among the members of Stake Presidencies, the Bishops under them, and the presiding officers of the various organizations in the Church. He spoke of the necessity of restoring good feeling where it did not exist, and of the necessity of taking such steps as might be required to secure that end, and continued:

I have always thought, in respect to Bishops' and High Councils' courts, that it was wrong for me to have a case in them. I ought to remove the cause of trouble before it reaches either of these courts. I have thought it was in vain for us to ask the Lord for favors until we have removed hard feelings and differences from among us.

When the presiding authorities of a Stake are united, a power can be exercised by them among the Saints.

I never enjoyed myself in any calling better than when I was laboring as a teacher and went forth in a spirit of humility. The teachers should not be in a hurry. They should take plenty of time in visiting the people. It is often the case that they delay making their visits till the last day before report meeting, and then make hasty calls so as to be able to say they have visited all the families in their district. This is wrong. It is not performing the duties of a teacher according to the spirit of that calling.

We should be patient with our children, and not deal too harshly with them because they are a little wayward. We should exercise a constant watch-care over them, and seek to prevent them from going astray, for we cannot tell what temptations may beset them.

President George Q. Cannon

Spoke upon the importance of union. Where there were differences among brethren they should get together, and fast and pray and thus bring about a reconciliation. When men possess the Holy Spirit they are softened and are tender in their feelings, and good results follow. One subject treated upon by Bishop Preston—the support of the poor—is frequently mentioned and enjoined in the revelations. One of the objects of the Gospel is the elevation of the poor. It is no matter that a man has brought destitution upon himself by his own acts, the obligation to extend help to him still exists. By extending aid it is not necessary that we should pauperize the indigent. While aiding them we should also seek to put them in the way of supporting themselves.

It is a false idea that Latter-day Saints cannot compete in business life according to the light of the Holy Spirit that the Lord may favor us. Make all things right with each other, and make restitution to each other where you have wronged any one. There was a time in our history when we did this and when we confessed our sins. When this is done, let us set our quorums and houses in order, and the peace of the Lord will be with us.

We should fulfil our obligations and covenants with each other. Some of the people are living beyond their means and fail to meet their engagements at the proper time.