

## FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Fifty second Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened on Thursday, April 6th, 1882, in the large Tabernacle, at 10 o'clock a. m., as per adjournment.

Present on the stand: Of the First Presidency—John Taylor and Joseph F. Smith.

Of the Twelve Apostles—Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo D. Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, F. M. Lyman and John H. Smith; Counselor, D. H. Wells. Patriarch—John Smith.

Of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies—Henry Herriman, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates, John Van Cott and Wm. W. Taylor.

Of the Presiding Bishopric—Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Robt. T. Burton.

Besides Presidents of Stakes, Bishops and other leading men from all parts of the Territory.

Conference was called to order by President John Taylor.

The choir sang the hymn on page 142.

Sing to the great Jehovah's praise,  
All praise to him belongs.

Prayer by Apostle Franklin D. Richards.

The choir sang on page 265:

The great and glorious gospel light,  
Has ushered forth unto my sight.

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR

Said: We are now commencing our Conference, which is the 52nd Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Church itself, as well as those connected with it, have passed through as many changes as most men that dwell upon the earth.

We have had the Gospel of Jesus Christ revealed to us, in connection with its powers and privileges, and these have inspired us with such hopes and aspirations, as have enabled us to bear with calmness the mobbings and drivings which we have endured so many times, and we shall be able doubtless again to bear with equanimity whatever the Lord in His tender mercy may see fit for us to suffer.

Many Elders have been sent forth to dispense the unsearchable riches of Christ. The message we have borne to the nations has been that of peace and good will to man, going forth without purse and scrip, scattering the seeds of life and bringing back our sheaves with us. We have done this years ago, are doing it now, and calculate to continue doing it, the Lord being our helper, without any trembling of the knees. We have been driven from our homes five times; we have been robbed and plundered; a spirit of antagonism is in the world, it has been, is now, and always will be until He comes whose right it is to reign.

President Taylor felt well this morning and rejoiced in the work of God. He spoke with great power, and said were he to give vent to his feelings, he would exclaim, Hallelujah! the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

The discourse was reported in full and will be published.

APOSTLE JOHN H. SMITH,

Having just returned from a visit to the East, rejoiced to be home again and breathe the mountain air of Utah. We have but few friends in the outside world, but the recent agitation is preaching a loud sermon. Many honest inquirers after truth are seeking information pertaining to our doctrines from those whom they think capable of imparting it. Good will come out of the apparent evil. The work of God will prevail; Zion will grow and increase. Although clouds gather around Zion, he had firm faith in the final triumph of her cause. She may pass through trials and be sifted as wheat, but ultimate success awaits her. Let us then be faithful and true to all the obligations and duties the Gospel enjoins on us and all will be well.

APOSTLE F. M. LYMAN.

This handful of people are attracting more attention than ever before. The history of the people of God in former ages foreshadows what we may expect. When men undertake to carry out the purposes of God they necessarily encounter the opposition of the world, because there is a love of unrighteousness in

the hearts of mankind. The Gospel creates a warfare within ourselves; how then can we be surprised if it causes a warfare in the world? How many of us have learned to subdue this evil within ourselves; have learned to do always that which is right; to deal justly and walk uprightly all the time? There is in man a religious sentiment. Though all do not worship at the same shrine, yet all have some chief object of worship or attainment. When the everlasting Gospel came to us it did not materially change the object of our worship, except so far as we had formed erroneous ideas concerning the Deity. Through obedience to it we have obtained a knowledge of the truth, and its spirit has wrought in us, revealing the mind and will of God, and urging us to works of righteousness, giving us a testimony which has enabled us to gather with the Saints, endure persecution, sustain ourselves, be united, and had we been more exact in its observance, more sincere, fervent and spiritually-minded, it would have more perfectly united us and established us. We are here on earth to obtain an experience in the things thereof, and also to develop ourselves morally and spiritually that we may be enabled to go into the next world with treasures of eternal riches. The Lord has revealed the Gospel that we may, as well as get our living, develop ourselves, intellectually, morally and spiritually. In doing this God has for a long time past given us peace, prosperity and blessings that we could not have expected. And now if we have trying times what will they be for? Why was Jesus smitten, His name cast out as evil and His life taken? Not because he was wicked, but because there was a power on earth that warred against his mission. We have had to meet this before, and should be able to do so again. It is not intended that we should fight with the sword, but with the truth, and our motto should be, "peace on earth." We are to build up the kingdom, not by violence, but by the power of God who will shelter us and we shall not be scattered abroad. It is not for any evil that we do that we are persecuted, but because we are engaged in the work of God, and our strength will be in doing right and having God for our friend. May we be able to act always so as to secure that friendship, and may the peace of heaven be upon our Conference and our Territory until the kingdom of God is permanently established on earth.

BISHOP JOHN SHARP

Felt much pleasure in being present at this Conference, and had enjoyed the remarks made by the previous speakers. His mind reverted to the time when he first heard the principles of life. After embracing those principles the peace and joy that the Spirit of the Lord brought to his heart, had never forsaken him from that time to the present. Speaking of the present of the times he said, we know not what lies before us, but the only safeguard we have is in keeping the commandments of God. He felt no concern or dubiety about the result, but had implicit trust in the overruling power of the Almighty. Prayed for the blessing of God to be upon the Saints.

ELDER W. W. CLUFF

Was pleased with the privilege of being here. We know that this is the work of God. We know that if we keep the commandments of God we have nothing to fear. Trials and tribulations are not new to the servants of God. The preaching of righteousness provokes persecution from the wicked. By embracing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we signify our willingness to have our names cast out as evil. Prejudice against us as a people is wide-spread, and most of it is through ignorance of our motives and aims. We are accused of hostility to the government of this nation, and yet there are no people in all this broad land that are so law-abiding and true to the Constitution of our country. We have nothing to fear if we do right and pursue the path that is marked out for us by the Lord. It is our duty to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people. Let us be pure in our lives, humble and thoughtful and do all the good we can while we remain on the earth.

ELDER A. HATCH

Realized to some extent the magnitude of the work in which we are engaged and the great labor that devolved on the early Elders of this Church, when the members were

very few and apparently feeble. Now we number many thousands. He wished to say that though the National Legislature saw fit to pass bills restrictive in their nature, and deprive us of our political rights, yet he realized that this was their act and not ours. We therefore have only to maintain our integrity to keep the commandments of God and leave the result in His hands. He was a native born citizen and was fifty years of age, yet had never had the privilege of voting for the President of the United States. So much for political liberty. He felt that what was coming upon us would finally result in a status that we have never reached before; and while the Government is seeking to oppress us, let us hold out to them the olive branch of peace. He rejoiced in the spirit made manifest thus far in this Conference. Let us one and all continue to build up Zion and all will be well.

The choir sang an anthem:

Angels from the realms of glory.

Conference adjourned till 2 p. m.

Benediction by Apostle Wilford Woodruff.

April 6, 2 p. m.

The choir sang on page 117:

All praise to our redeeming Lord,  
Who joins us by his praise.

Prayer by President Joseph F. Smith.

The choir sang on page 13.

Praise to God immortal praise,  
For the love that crowns our days.

APOSTLE BRIGHAM YOUNG

Said he was pleased at the opportunity of attending another annual Conference. He endorsed the remarks of the speakers of this morning. His feelings had been a little wrought upon at the actions of those who ought to foster and encourage us, for we are bringing the poor and down-trodden to this country, and teaching them how to live and improve themselves, and develop the resources of this wild and barren waste. This people have done more to establish and prepare this western region for capitalists to come to and build fine houses than the rest of the United States all put together. He then spoke of the suicidal policy we had been guilty of by sustaining and making rich those who had refused to render one act of succor or utter one word of remonstrance when troubles assailed us. He hoped to be sustained in observing the laws of God. The watchword to-day for us was peace and good will. He had faith in God, and had no fears for the result. We must not be deterred by obstacles, but press forward in faith and a way would always be opened and a ram would be found in the thicket. If we put away from us the principles that God has given us, this people never can prosper, but let us serve God with renewed energy, and if we have neglected our quorum meetings or other duties, let us repent and do better, and trust in God, and the persecutions now threatening will do us no harm, but all will work to our advantage and for the building up of the kingdom of God at large.

He felt it incumbent on him to keep the commandments of God, and through not strictly living up to the duties and responsibilities of our religion he attributed, the chief cause of the troubles and calamities this people had been called to pass through.

ELDER L. J. NUTTALL

Then read the statistics of the various states of Zion, also a half-yearly statistical and financial report of the Relief Societies.

APOSTLE WILFORD WOODRUFF

Felt as when he was first baptized into the Spirit of the Lord might give him to speak to the people, regardless of the feelings and views of the outside world, that he had always spoken, and hoped to continue to do. He wished to say to the Latter-day Saints that with us it was the kingdom of God or nothing. Outside of the kingdom of God there is no exaltation. The God of heaven has set His hand to establish his kingdom. All the Prophets of bygone days have prophesied of these days, and of the setting up of the kingdom of God. He had watched and marked the progress of this work for near half a century. The God of Heaven called Joseph Smith to lay the foundation of this great latter-day work, and God stood by him to the day of his death. We need not expect to pass through this world in connection with this work, without being persecuted, for all men in every dispensation

who held the Priesthood had to contend with it more or less. If God was not the author of this latter-day dispensation we should not meet with persecution. The world would love its own. He could remember nearly 70 years back, and the change that had come over the Christian world was wonderful. They had become infidel, and had discarded nearly all the ordinances of the gospel. They have no faith in God, and utterly repudiated and would laugh at the very idea of new revelation. If the world do not believe there is a God, we do. Over 100,000 persons living in these mountains, believe in God, and He will protect and defend us, for we know that God rules and reigns, and He is our friend.

A Congressman said lately to one of our Elders, "If Congress pass that Edmunds bill, God have mercy on you Mormons." But I say, God have mercy on the outside world, for they are in the hands of God as much as we are, and He will have with them a fearful reckoning. If the world persecute us, we need not fear and tremble, but put our trust in the Almighty. There is no principle or commandment that God has revealed for us to observe that we can afford to give up. Our business is to keep the commandments of God regardless of the consequences. He then called on every man and woman in Israel to enter into their closets and pour out their souls and petitions before God, and the thousands of fervent, honest prayers going up before the Lord will be sure to bring down blessings upon the heads of the Saints and sanctify to our God all that we may be called upon to pass through. The God of heaven is going to exalt Zion and make His people great in the earth. The Prophet Joseph had said the time would come when the principles of the Constitution would be forsaken and that instrument would be rent asunder, and this people would then step forward and rescue it from entire destruction. The government of this nation are fast preparing themselves for the severe chastening hand of the Almighty, for He holds them responsible, they have got to foot the bill for all that they do. We have been called to a great and mighty work; let us keep the commandments of God and fear not. He was willing to risk his life, his honor, and his eternal salvation, on the result of obedience to the principles of our holy religion. We have appealed to earthly courts in vain, let us appeal to the court of Heaven, and let us prepare ourselves for the work that lies before us and live so that we may finally inherit eternal life, for Jesus' sake.

The choir sang the hymn on page 260:

How firm a foundation ye Saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.

Conference was adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock a. m.

Benediction by Apostle Lorenzo Snow.

SECOND DAY.

Friday, April 7th, 10 o'clock a. m.

The choir sang a hymn on page 209—

Come, O thou King of Kings,  
We've waited long for Thee.

Prayer by Bishop David H. Cannon.

Come listen to a prophet's voice,  
And hear the word of God.

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW

Read a few verses from the 14th chapter of Exodus. He described the condition of the children of Israel, with the Red Sea in their front and the army of the Egyptians in their rear, and compared it with the circumstances that the Latter-day Saints have passed through, and may possibly in the future be placed in, where, to all human appearance, there can be no deliverance unless the Almighty steps in and displays his power in their behalf. He referred to the persecutions and trials in the early history of this Church, when our enemies were numerous and strong and the Saints few in number and feeble in strength, yet in the midst of their deepest troubles very few were inclined to give up their faith in God, and return to Babylon. When impediments rise up to stop the work of God, which no human power can avert, the Elders of Israel must not stop, but move forward, trusting in God, and in the own due time of the Lord when necessity requires it, the Lord may inspire his servants as he did Moses of old to say to the people "Stand still and see the salvation of God. The purposes of God can never be thwarted or set aside. No human agency can prevent the es-

tablishment of the kingdom of God upon the earth. Let not the Elders stop their labors, and let the watchword be, "Do not stand still, move on!" Let there be no moving back. Let the farmer pursue his agricultural work; let the mechanic go on with his labor; let Israel continue to build their temples, their houses of worship and schoolhouses; let the Elders preach the Gospel and gather Israel; we must not stand still, but go on improving. Let us continue sending out our missionaries to preach the gospel, and in every way to push forward in labors of love in the building up of Zion. We must never stop while we have strength to move, and a voice to speak. When Christ was nailed to the cross his enemies thought they had gained the advantage, but the purposes of God were being fulfilled. So it has been in all the persecutions and drivings of the Latter-day Saints, and so it will be in the future. As an example of moral courage and sterling integrity to God and the blessings that resulted therefrom, the speaker instanced the three Hebrew children and the Prophet Daniel, who in the face of the king's decree, continued to serve God who delivered them from their perilous situation. The Saints of the latter-days possess the same kind of integrity, and would rather suffer all kinds of persecution than relinquish any of those principles of righteousness which God has revealed for the salvation of the human family. Sometimes we see that rulers and men in high places are moved upon to confer privileges and powers upon the Saints, as in the Nauvoo charter and in the appointment of President Young as Governor of Utah, and then they are permitted to chastise the Saints, and then God can soften their hearts and dispose them to bestow favors upon us, however unexpectedly they may come. If any one had predicted, when the Saints were driven from Nauvoo that our Prophet would be appointed Governor, and some of our Elders to other offices in the Territory, he would at least have been counted a false prophet. God moved in ancient times upon infidel kings for the good of His people and we may yet be able to see that good can yet "come out of Nazareth." He then spoke of plural marriage, as a principle of our religion, which was so explained to him by Joseph Smith, and personally revealed to him from heaven as a correct principle of the Gospel. The Edmunds bill though so obscure as not to be easily understood, creating quite a division of opinion among Congressmen as to its meaning, had some good provisions. It legitimized the offspring of plural marriages up to Jan. 1, 1883, if those marriages were performed according to the usages and customs of the "Mormon" Church—no others were included. This was quite unexpected and we shall appreciate it.

After offering some very encouraging remarks to the Saints, he exhorted them to live so as to secure the blessings of God and finally the fulness of His glory.

ELDER L. J. NUTTALL

Then read the reports of the Temple donations for the past half year, also the reports of the Sunday School Union, Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association, and the Primary Associations as follows:

Deerest Sunday School Union.

No. of schools reported,	291
No. of schools not reported,	14
Total No. of children,	34,119
Total No. of officers and teachers,	5,686
Total No. officers, teachers and children,	39,754
No. Theological classes,	157
" Bible classes,	961
" Book of Mormon classes,	377
" Doctrine and Covenant classes,	170
" Juvenile Instructor classes,	156
" Catechism classes,	181
" Miscellaneous classes,	1,630
Total No. of classes,	3,641
Total No. of books in library,	23,166
Geo. Q. Cannon, General Supt.,	
Geo. Goddard, Asst. Genl. Supt.,	
S. W. Richards, Secretary,	
Geo. Reynolds, Treasurer,	

Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association.

Meetings held,	1,449
Number of members,	4,644
Number of chapters read from Church works,	88,803
Miscellaneous reading,	9,459
Manuscript papers,	115
Books in library,	149
Elmina S. Taylor, President,	
Louie M. Wells, Secretary,	

Primary Associations.

Number of members,	22,347
" meetings held,	5,627
" chapters read from Church works,	26,284
Number of miscellaneous recitations,	11,594
Manuscript papers,	15,140
Essays written,	37
Louie B. Felt, President,	
Lillie T. Freeze, Secretary,	