

Benediction by Elder David H. Cannon.

Afternoon Session.

Singing by the choir and congregation of

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Prayer by Elder B. H. Roberts.
The choir sang the anthem:

— When thou comest to judgment.

The solo being rendered by Sister Lizzie Thomas-Edward.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW

addressed the conference. He read from a revelation (section 110 of the Doctrine and Covenants) given to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, with whom the speaker was acquainted. It was given in the Kirtland Temple, and described the visitation of the Lord Jesus Christ to those to whom it was communicated, and told of the great promises made by the Savior on the condition of faithfulness. He advised the Saints to read the whole of the section at their homes. The acquaintance of the speaker with Joseph the Prophet was quite extensive and he had opportunities of becoming aware of his sterling uprightness and honesty.

Elder Snow then treated upon the necessity of the Saints building upon the foundation of truth. Ordinary wisdom of God was not sufficient for that purpose. The possession of wisdom direct from God was essential. This was conveyed by the principle of revelation, of which every honest man might become possessed. He then showed the processes by which revelation could be secured, and delineated the operation of faith and its confirmation upon the human mind. With the Latter-day Saints there was a spirit which enabled them to understand what they read about until the truths they thus imbibed became a part of their beings. The speaker related some of his early experiences under the operation of this power, which opened up his mind to a clearer comprehension of the Scriptures and enabled him to take a wider range than ever before concerning the things of God. He had received, by revelation, a complete understanding of the divinity of the principles he had espoused. We ought to congratulate ourselves, as Latter-day Saints, on the glorious prospects which had opened up to us. While in ignorance of the Gospel, when we received our wives and children we looked forward to a permanent separation at death. Now, however, we anticipated with a perfect hope, an eternal union with them in the world to come. The speaker then treated the subject of laboring in the Temples in behalf of our dear kindred, that they might, with us, be redeemed and saved. He exhorted the Saints to give this department of the work of God special attention. There was nothing we could do that afforded more happiness and satisfaction.

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

of the quorum of Apostles, followed. He said in substance: Much gratification could be felt at the progress of the work of God in the world, which

was a continuation of the work done by the ancient Apostles. Men holding the Priesthood should bear in mind that they were fulfilling the prophetic assurances of the prophets of old. It was a wonderful thing that of the reformers, who had succeeded so well in introducing true principles into the world, it should remain for the Prophet Joseph Smith to receive the authority of the Priesthood by which the ordinances of the Gospel could be performed and its promises fulfilled. John the Baptist introduced the authority the method, and the law pertaining to baptism, which, according to the law announced to Nicodemus by Jesus, must be administered to or for all, living and dead, before they could be received into the kingdom of heaven. The Melchizedek Priesthood, with its power of preaching the Gospel to the living and the dead, and the administration of the Holy Ghost, was given by Peter, James and John, by which all things could be gathered into one, whether in heaven or on earth. All these gifts and blessings were introduced through the Prophet Joseph Smith and his associates, who were now engaged in the administration of those blessings to the spirits of the dead. In the temples of the Saints work was being done, under the approval of Christ, to bring into proper effect the preaching to the spirits in prison. Thus was being fulfilled the prophecy of Moses in Deuteronomy 28, regarding the gathering of scattered Israel under the law of God, looking forward to the personal reign of Christ upon the earth.

The Saints should keep these great principles in mind, and leave petty contentions and strife, turning their attention to the confirmation of the blessings promised to the seed of Abraham. Excessive worldly-mindedness was deplored, especially in the direction of speculation; but good advice was given with reference to extracting strength from the soil for the sustenance of man. Elder Richards rejoiced in the work of God, so promisingly instituted, and bore his testimony to its truth, declaring that in the mouths of two or three witnesses these words of testimony were established. Strangers and Saints were advised to investigate in full the principles of the Gospel, in order to find justification for them. Unity and fellowship were commended for the enlargement of the understanding and of faithfulness in the performance of the work of God. It should progress in the world, the bonds and prohibitions now checking its spread, being removed to admit of its spread. Apparent sacrifices would be found like the sowing of the seed, producing a hundred fold to the glory of God and the salvation of man. Prayer, diligence and increased faithfulness were strongly urged, for the bringing about of immortality and eternal life.

Brother Richards stated that the call for missionaries was increasing, and great faithfulness was being manifested in the performance of the labors of the ministry, to the development of strength in the ministers and of joy in the hearts of those to whom the message of salvation was being carried.

ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN,

of the quorum of the Apostles, said in

substance: He desired the spirit of the Lord to assist him, as had been the case with the previous speakers. When he listened to the report made by President Cannon in relation to the missionary work abroad, the field seemed greater to him than it had heretofore. Every man who had a desire to labor in the vineyard was called of God. Those who went to the nations in that spirit were blessed. We should be grateful that we were associated with the work of God, which had been revealed to us through the Prophet Joseph. It was, as shown by President Smith this morning, indestructible. Its organization was beautiful, and no power arrayed against it, whether the attack came from without or within, could hinder its growth. The Eternal Father maintained the Church in completeness. Vacancies were not filled by the will of man, but of God. In the selection of Elders to go abroad to preach the Gospel, the will of the spirit of the Lord was sought after. So with the filling of positions in any of the quorums. Whenever it was requisite for any man to be the mouthpiece of God, it was not brought about by the scheming of men, but by the direction of the Almighty. During the three years immediately succeeding the death of the Prophet Joseph, the Twelve presided over the Church, and when the First Presidency was organized it was done because God directed that it be done. So was it when there was a vacancy in the quorum of the Twelve or of the Seven Presidents of Seventies. God announced it. There was always a class who rejoiced when they saw a prospect of a disruption of the Church, but they were invariably disappointed and always would be, and the work would go forward. Where there were 1,300 Elders in the missionary field now there would come a time when there would be 13,000. Those who created and rejoiced to see disunion among the people were built on the sand and not on the rock of truth. When anything was announced to the people to guide them, it came at the right time, because it emanated from the Lord. If there were any who had failed to recognize the voice of the true shepherd they had need to repent. There was a reaction outside the Church as well as within, and a new interest in the things of God had been awakened. Men were readily deceived, and it seemed that in the past this deception was more easily imbibed on religion than any other subject, but light had come into the world and was attracting the honest in heart. The Kingdom of God was worth everything, and he who would finally possess all things else must be willing to sacrifice all for the sake of that which would ultimately bring them into his permanent possession. Our first attention should be given to God, and other matters could be attended to as subsidiary considerations. He spoke of the magnitude of the field abroad; there was another of equal importance at home among our kindred, and all should labor for the development of Zion. Our neighbors here should be instructed and warned. The responsibility of this labor was upon us. It was an important duty and ought to be discharged.