

exile, nor expatriation, nor imprisonment, nor bonds have yet developed its full strength as it will be developed. God decreed in the beginning of His work that it would test His Saints to the uttermost; aye, He promised that He would test them even to the laying down of their lives, declaring, in addition, that those who were not willing to sacrifice all earthly things—the honor and applause of men, place and position in society, the wealth of this world, and even life itself—for His sake, were unworthy of “that exceeding weight of glory” which He had in store for His faithful children.

I do not wish to discourage those who have resolved to raise their hands against this work; but I do desire to testify to them this afternoon—if any be present—that they will despoil the Saints of their goods in vain—I mean the accumulated goods of this community upon which they have laid their hands. They may strip us of our individual belongings, and when stripped and bleeding they may drive us off into these mountains, to wander in the dens and caves of the earth, as the Saints of God in former ages were driven. But all that will not rob us of that divine faith which the Gospel of Jesus Christ has implanted in our hearts. It will not deprive us of the knowledge that God has spoken from heaven and revealed the eternal principles of salvation; it will not rob us of our glorious anticipation of eternal life in the presence of our Father, with the privilege of mingling with the righteous who have lived on the earth before. These are things that the world cannot touch, be their hands ever so strong. But does it not seem more than passing strange that in this boasted age of enlightenment any people should have cause to refer to their having been persecuted for their religion?

Having referred at some length to the history of the past, and to the religious freedom once enjoyed in this nation, Elder Roberts remarked that presently, from the wilds of the western part of New York, a lad in his teens declared to the inhabitants of the earth that he had received a communication from heaven. The neighborhood in which he resided rose up against him, and finally the people of the whole State of Missouri, in which hundreds of his followers had gathered, drove away the Church *en masse*. The speaker also touched upon the subsequent expulsion of the Saints from Illinois and their trials and sufferings since that time. But the day has come, he said, when God’s purposes are to be accomplished, and we have no need to fear that Satan will prevail against His work.

APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

was the next speaker. He dwelt first upon the subject of charity, a characteristic which, he said, should largely predominate among the people of God. The far-reaching power of the Gospel was referred to, and the desire of the

Latter-day Saints to carry the Gospel into all the nations of the earth. He next spoke upon the future state of mankind as understood by the Saints, and denied that they were an exclusive people, as had often been asserted by the world. We need have no concern, added the speaker, as to what the world may say or do against us, for we can stand and triumph in the truth. We love our nation and revere its great Constitution, which was revealed of God for the benefit of His children; therefore we must not submit to the sacrificing of our honor and the Gospel for the satisfaction of others.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

endorsed the testimony which had been borne by the several brethren during conference, and urged the Saints not to be discouraged by the trials and difficulties which beset them. The work in which they were engaged was the work of God and He would carry it to a successful issue.

The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Ye who are called to labor and minister for God,
Blest with the royal Priesthood, and called by His word.

The benediction having been pronounced by Counselor Daniel Seegmiller, of Kanab Stake, Conference adjourned until 10 a. m. on Monday.

SECOND DAY.

Conference reconvened at 10 a. m. The choir sang the hymn commencing:

“For the strength of the hills we bless Thee,
Our God, our Fathers’ God.”

Prayer was offered by Elder George B. Wallace.

The choir sang:
“Though deepening trials throng your way,
Press on, press on, ye Saints of God.”

Counselor Charles W. Penrose read to the congregation the statistical report of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion. Also of the fast offerings and charity accounts; also reports from the Relief Society, Sabbath schools, Young Men’s and Young Ladies’ Mutual Improvement associations, which were received and adopted by unanimous vote.

ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS

addressed the congregation. He referred to the importance of accuracy and completeness in such reports as those which had been presented to the conference. Otherwise they would lead to false deductions upon which arguments were often based to the detriment of the people of God. He spoke of the assurance possessed by the Saints that in spite of all their troubles and trials the end and issue of all would be glorious and gratifying to those who endured unto the end. The great claims put forth by this people implied and involved a corresponding responsibility, and it was of the utmost importance that we should faithfully sustain and bear off that responsibility. There was no fault in the Gospel—God’s plan—but there was fault in ourselves, and danger in deviating from the path He has marked out. The enc-

mies of the Saints were fond of pointing to isolated instances of depravity among the youth of Israel—the result of outside influences and teachings—as legitimate results of the practice of the principles of “Mormonism.” And yet such things, when properly viewed, were in reality a testimony of the truth of the religion from which such persons have departed. The Gospel comprehends all that is good and wise and pure and praiseworthy—there is no wrong that it will not right; it is a panacea for every ill. But if we do not practice our principles we cannot reap the results which flow from obedience. A mere nominal standing in the Church will not suffice. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation unto all who believe and obey. To all others it is a dead letter. We are living in momentous times and Priesthood and people should be united and work together for the success of the great cause committed to our care. We are told that all things shall work together for the good of those who love and serve the Lord. Were it not so, we might say, with Paul “we are of all men the most miserable.” What man today has wisdom, awarded of God, to lead this people out of their present troubles? If in man were our trust we should fail, and fail miserably. But we are not so left. God has not ceased to reveal his will to his servants, and out of darkness will spring light; out of chaos will come forth order. It will yet be found that all our persecutions and perplexities have been for our best good; that the wrath of man praised God and that to him belongs all glory.

ELDER ELIAS MORRIS,

by request, reported the condition of the High Priests quorum, over which he presides. There were at present about 400 members. The monthly meetings were well attended and were made interesting by the delivery of lectures from brethren of intelligence and experience. The Presidency of the Stake, the High Council, and the Bishopric were regularly represented at the meetings. But the attendance could be much better than it is, and there was still great room for improvement. He exhorted the Priesthood to renewed diligence. He felt a little ashamed at the small attendance this morning, and thought there was a lack of faith exhibited by those who remained away from this conference, or supposed they were fulfilling their whole duty by attending the Sunday meetings. Referred to the universal practice of misrepresenting the Saints, and the fewness of their friends in the outside world. But God was our friend, and His work would triumph in the end.

COUNSELOR C. W. PENROSE

expressed his pleasure in the remarks made during the meetings of the conference. Some people, he said, go to meetings just for the sake of going; other for the instructions they receive and the spirit they enjoy. We may not be able to remember all that is said by the vari-