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*Delivered at the Davis Stake Conference,
Farmington, Saturday, Sep-
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PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

It is a great pleasure to meet with the Latter-day Saints this morning in this place, and I trust that in our meeting together the prayer that has been offered will be fulfilled, and that the Spirit of God will rest down upon those who speak and those who hear, so that we may have a time of rejoicing. Personally, I never want to talk unless I can have the Spirit of the Lord, and it is not very edifying or profitable to listen to a person trying to speak who has not the Spirit of God with him.

As Latter-day Saints, we need constantly the guidance of Jehovah. We have the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants; but all these books, without the living oracles and a constant stream of revelation from the Lord, would not lead any people into the celestial kingdom of God. This may seem a strange declaration to make, but strange as it may sound, it is nevertheless true. Of course, these records are all of infinite value. They cannot be too highly prized, nor can they be too closely studied. But in and of themselves, with all the light that they give, they are insufficient to guide the children of men and to lead them into the presence of God. To be thus led requires a living Priesthood and constant revelation from God to the people according to the circumstances in which they may be placed. A great many people fall into error very frequently by quoting and seeking to apply to present conditions, revelations which were given to the Church in early days and which were especially adapted to the circumstances then existing. Of course, it is appropriate to quote from the revelations concerning principle; but in many instances the revelations that are contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants are not, I may say—and I say it with some degree of care—suited to the circumstances and conditions in which we are placed. They were given to the Church at a time when just such revelations were required. Nor must we fall into the idea that the world has adopted, that the Bible is all that is necessary for man's salvation. The Bible is of exceeding great value to us. The Book of Mormon is likewise of inestimable value. The Book of Doctrine and Covenants is also beyond price. And these records are of great advantage to the people, on the same principle that

the Lord made known to Lehi. Lehi was commanded of the Lord to send his sons back to Jerusalem to obtain the records on the brass plates, in order that they might carry with them to the new land whither God was leading them a knowledge of the revelations of God and an account of the prophecies and other matters contained in those records. It is recorded in the Book of Mormon that without these plates they might have fallen into unbelief and degradation. The bad effect of being without records is shown in the case of the people of Zarahemla, who left Jerusalem under the guidance of one of the sons of King Zedekiah, after Lehi and his colony left, and they landed on the eastern side of this continent. After the lapse of a long period the people led by Mosiah, a prophet of God, came to where the Zarahemlites were, and they found that the language of the Zarahemlites had become corrupted and they had lost a great many of those distinctive traits that belonged to the Jews, and that the Nephites had preserved because they had with them the brass plates and the records of their fathers containing the books of Moses and of the prophets down to and including some of the prophecies of Jeremiah. So that it is, as I have said, of infinite importance that we should value and preserve these records, because in them is contained the revelations of God to His children in former times. But with all these, my brethren and sisters, there is still something more needed for our salvation—and that is, the living word of God. We need the revelations of Jesus adapted to our condition and circumstances day by day, and for the guidance and control of the Church of Christ in the various circumstances in which it is from time to time placed. When men get into the dark, through committing adultery or some other sin that grieves the Spirit of God and causes it to be withdrawn from them, you will frequently find them falling back upon the Book of Mormon, and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and quoting therefrom to show how the authorities of the Church are departing from the word of God as revealed in these books. I have often noticed it, and no doubt you all have. They appear to be oblivious to the fact that the Lord gives revelations, suited to the circumstances and conditions of the people. There are revelations in that book concerning counsel and the management of affairs that are not binding upon us, only so far as they are applicable to us. When, however, it comes to the revelations concerning principle, then those revelations are unalterable and they will stand

as long as heaven and earth will endure, because they are true. I wish you would see this distinction, my brethren and sisters, and in reading the book have it in your minds. Seek to become familiar with the conditions of the people at the time and with the circumstances in which they were placed, and then you will see that many things that are said there were necessary in those days, but are not intended for us at the present time.

As I say, we need continued revelation. It is needed today, and will be until we are led back into the presence of the Lord Jesus. Now, Elders come and ask for counsel. That counsel, when given under the inspiration of the Lord, is revelation, just as much as if it were written. There are some people that attach a great deal of importance to something that is written. We have heard it stated by men who are in the dark that the leaders of the Church do not have the same revelation now as in the days of the Prophet Joseph. I have not heard it about President Woodruff; but I have about other leaders. Now, this is a great mistake. We err when we indulge in any such idea as this. I want to say to you, that this Church would stand still, it would not progress, we would lose the power of God, if the spirit of prophecy and revelation were not with us now. Brother Brigham Young used to say—and I always have appreciated his remark—that he did not want to write revelations because the people would be held to a stricter accountability than they were. The Prophet Joseph wrote enough for the guidance of the Church in many directions. At the same time the spirit of revelation is wanted constantly in addition to these written revelations. What written revelation is there concerning the organization of these Stakes as we see them? Here is this Davis Stake with a Presidency and High Council; what is there written in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants to sustain this? In the 102nd section we find a plan given for the organization of the High Council, and over that High Council the Presidency of the Church presided. But as we are now organized there is nothing specially written concerning it. How then have these Stakes been organized? Did President Young organize them out of his own mind, or did he organize these Stakes according to the revelation of God? He organized them by revelation, just as much so as if he had written the revelation. God did not require him to write it, and yet the Stakes are organized. And Zion is now as perfectly organized as circumstances will admit. We have our ward organizations, and our Stake organizations, and they extend throughout