

The Pathway to Dominion, Sovereignty, Power.

Address by
ELDER NEPHI L. MORRIS.
At the Seventy-Sixth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church
Of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Assembly Hall,
Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 8, 1905.

At the conclusion of each meeting of this conference I have felt in my heart a deep sense of gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the personal assurance he has given me of his presence with the saints in this great conference. I don't know that the Church ever saw more splendid exhibitions of unity, perfect harmony of feeling, a more magnificent display of priestly influence than that which has been exhibited during this conference. The days of small things are past. The Kingdom of God shall not again be reduced to anything like its infancy; year by year we see it moving onward, increasing in strength and power, increasing in intelligence and in the virtues of the Gospel, until it has become a light unto the world placed upon a hill top, and it cannot be hid. No matter what circumstances may surround the Church, no matter what attitude the world may maintain toward it, no matter how devoutly some work for its destruction, all that the world must admit is that "Mormonism" is moving steadily onward in the face of the opposition of the world.

I rejoice in this exhibition of power and progressiveness, but I have the book of God is dear to me, and is, in fact, the dearest thing I know. There is nothing on earth which has from me such reverence, such an abiding confidence, as this Latter-day work. I can easily conceive of institutions of the earth going to pieces, of nations falling, of races being annihilated or absorbed by stronger nations. But it is not within the scope of my mentality to conceive of the destruction and annihilation of the work of God. Where that conviction or that feeling comes from, I do not know. I judge whether it be from a steady growth of faith, from tradition or parental teachings, I am not, perhaps, prepared to say definitely. But there appears to me to be nothing so strong as this and so abiding, and so certain of triumph as the work of God. This too in the face of all the predictions that are made to the contrary.

COMPLIMENTS FROM THE ENEMY.

The remarks of Elder Stohl regarding the compliment which is paid by our friends, the enemy, to the Latter-day Saints as a people, wherein they say "we have nothing against you Mormon people; in fact you are a very good people; you are industrious, you are honorable; you are, indeed, a good people; but your leaders are bad." What a silly piece of sophistry this is. "Your leaders are bad, but you are good." Do you pluck grapes from thistles? Where do these grapes come from, are they not the fruit and the product of the people? When we desire to install one in any quorum to preside, do we go outside of the Church to find him? Invariably we take him from the ranks and file of the priesthood, from the people, and they are the fruit, the outgrowth of the people. What gives me great encouragement is that the people are good, and the leaders are bad, then so are the leaders, they are the same kind and kind. The same thing characterizes the people that characterizes the people as a whole. What their complaint could be paid to men mean to say, that the great body of the Latter-day Saints have unlimited confidence in their leaders? This is the compliment which the opposition pay to the leaders, when they say the leaders are bad, for the people, four hundred thousand strong, represented by leading men of every ward and quorum in Zion, assemble and in their hands, 18,000 strong, to support those leaders whom the world say are corrupt. I wonder if as much could be said of the leaders of the opposition, if there are people who have confidence in them to trust their tithes, and if necessary their lives, in the hands of those leaders? From my personal acquaintance with the Latter-day Saints, I doubt if anybody on earth has confidence in them; I know I have not. I have traveled with them, corresponded with them, conversed with them and have had business associations with some of them for years, but I have absolutely no confidence in them, and I know whereof I speak. Among us things are taken care of. It is the most inconsistent proposition I ever heard made that a people have had leaders when those leaders are taken from and out of the people. Now to the Latter-day Saints, to some of our old members, these compliments which we pay to ourselves may be a little offensive. I admit we might go to the extreme in defending ourselves, but we must not forget, my brethren and sisters, that we are put on the defensive. The war which is waged against the Latter-day Saints compels them to speak in their own defense, or they stand condemned in silence; and since it is their right to speak no one can object to their speaking if they wish. We do not look upon our leaders as being without blemish and perfect. We know they have weaknesses, and for their weaknesses we have sympathy and charity, and we know like weaknesses exist in us. If the leaders and the people were perfect there would be no use for the Gospel, so far as we are concerned, for the Gospel is the power of God unto perfection, or salvation. It is a means to an end, and it has imperfect beings to deal with, and that is why we have the Gospel to correct our evils and improve our lives. We do not admit, however, that the leaders of our people, or that the people themselves, are in the slightest degree below the average of Christian morality and discipline. I was thinking while the brethren were speaking of a familiar passage found in the Gospel according to St. Matthew. They are a few of the sentences which were told from the Savior's lips while delivering His great sermon on the mount. Let me read three verses:

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye which men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted were the prophets which were before you."

"Blessed are ye when men revile you, and persecute you." Have we not been taught throughout this conference, and throughout our lives for that matter, the principles of forgiveness and charity and loving kindness? If the world did not persecute us and revile us we would have nothing to forgive, and we would suffer a great loss if we had no one to offend or oppose us. "Blessed are ye when men persecute you," because you then may exercise the highest virtues in the human soul, the virtues of forgiveness and charity. Our blessed Savior, the man of sorrows, came to earth to teach us how to live that we might live more abundantly, that life might be made large and beautiful in its manner; it might be progressive in its course;

and His life above all other lives teaches us the sublime principle of forgiveness. He, however, was not always meek and submissive. Not always did He seem to allow evil and sin and iniquity to pass by unrequited. Sometimes His soul was stirred to indignation, and in nobility, yet sublimity of character did He denounce the hypocrite, and all who loved iniquity and unrighteousness, calling them hypocrites who garnished the sepulchres and so on, made the external look clean and white and beautiful, but within they were full of dead men's bones, and their hearts were corrupt and their inner lives unholly. They were not what they seemed or professed to be. But as we reach the climax in His sublime career, I fancy He almost needed this quality of denunciation and rebuke, and in the garden of Gethsemane, on Golgotha hill, He opened not His mouth but to utter the sublime words which made Him very God, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." This is no doubt the highest ideal ever given to the world, and every true disciple of Christ must strive to attain to that beautiful holy type of discipleship, to forgive who offend, to be long-suffering and charitable, not only with offending brothers, but with the enemies who avow their wrath and hatred for you. There, in this light, for a moment, contemplate the unique position which the Latter-day Saints occupy in this world. Where is there such a people, who have an opportunity of forgiving and blessing those who revile and who would persecute. There is only one thing upon which the Christian world are united, and that is in persecuting and denouncing the Latter-day Saints. The love of God has been unable to unite the Christian world for two thousand years, but the hate of the work of Christ has at last united them. Now, this is a rather strange doctrine, but that is how it appears to a Latter-day Saint, and we claim the right to speak as we feel, so long as we respect other people in the same capacity.

I am reminded of an incident, or rather of a few remarks made by President Smith not many months ago, during the recent tirade of slander, of which he has been the extreme object. He came into a convention of Sunday school workers, was weary and exhausted from his day's toil, but was asked to speak to the convention, and during his address he gave expression to these thoughts, these feelings, rather: "To answer our enemies in the same angry spirit with which they attack us, would be to take the poison of the adder into our own hearts, and thereby debase ourselves to their level. It is better for us to say, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.' But he added, 'I know that they do know what they are doing.' Now, President Smith (since we are not in his presence, we may speak freely of him, for he is not here) is a man who possesses in the virtue of modesty, and in his presence I should not feel free to speak of him in this light; knowing him to some degree at least as I do, I thought I say in such an expression as this a splendid triumph in his character, for he is not a man like our friends out in alabaster; he is a man whose blood is warm within, filled with impulses, passions, strong in intent in his nature, and after he had endured the most furious assault which has been carried on for months together, he could arise in public and speak with such meekness of spirit, I thought what a splendid victory he has gained over himself. How blessed is he in being able to say, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do,' and he would not debase himself to answer back in the same angry spirit which characterized the assault made upon him. And then, as this is his experience, so it is the experience of every Latter-day Saint, for we are one, and we all have similar opportunities of exhibiting these true marks of discipleship, forgiveness and charity."

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH OPPOSITION.

There is still another phase of this opposition which is developing quite a philosophy among us, the philosophy concerning opposition, for the Book of Mormon has told us that there must be opposition. We are to begin to appreciate the benefits of opposition. We now see that the curse that seemed upon, which was pronounced upon Father Adam and Mother Eve, was a blessing in disguise, the disguise is removed and we see it plainly. The Lord, when He cast Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, would make it his purpose to bring them to the earth, and have dominion. That was no curse. That was the greatest blessing which ever came to the human race, when He told them to get to work, to till the soil, and to subdue the earth. He showed them the pathway to dominion, to sovereignty, to power. What a splendid journey mankind has traveled from that day to this! We are to begin to see his purpose; how the beasts of the field and all the creatures of the earth are a service to man, because he has conquered the earth and made it his domain, and through all the vicissitudes of human life, opposition, resistance has been a cause of development in men of powers and faculties which they would not have known had it not been for this opposition. Does not the eagle dash his hawk harshly on a rock before the big man comes, but with the help he takes on new life, increased powers are developed, and he is made stronger and heroic for the vicissitudes through which he has passed. In national life, the same principle holds. Where will you go for your ideals as American citizens, to which particular period will you appeal for the highest types of American citizenship, for the finest samples of patriotism? You will not go to the long period of prosperity. You will go back to the dark days, to the crisis in national history to a Nathan Hale, or an Ethan Allen, who, when called to the scaffold and asked if he had anything to say, his words were, "My only regret is that I have but one life to give to my country." You will go back to the Birmingham conference of 1863. The Birmingham conference was his field of labor, where he reports the work progressing more rapidly than it has for years.

Elder John A. Humphries of Virgin City, Washington county, passed through this city March 2, 1906, on his return from the Southern States mission, for which he was set apart Nov. 13, 1904. The Kentucky conference was his field of labor, where he states the work of the Lord is progressing, and the people are getting more friendly towards the Elders and many are embracing the Gospel.



THE HISTORIC AND FAR SPREADING "BRIGHAM YOUNG TREE."

The above picture represents the "Brigham Young" tree at Florence, Nebraska, (Winter Quarters), six miles north of the present site of Omaha, Nebraska. This tree is pointed out by the residents of Florence as being produced from a cottonwood stake driven in the ground by President Young during the spring of 1847, and is famed for miles around as being the largest tree in the country. Under its shades have been held numerous gatherings of the Saints from in and around Omaha, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, and all Elders who come to this section pay a visit to Florence and look with admiration on the gigantic tree. Six "Mormon" Elders are shown in the foreground. They are, reading from left to right, Alma Radmell, Moroni A. Miner, Roy Sirrine, George H. Butler, W. H. Telford, and James P. Baxter.

what has been our history in this respect. We have spoken of the increased number, the increase of territory which is occupied by our people. We speak with pleasure and pride of the vast expanse of territory occupied by the Saints of God. We point to Mexico on the south and to Canada on the north, and the splendid stretch of land between that is more or less within the domain of Mormonism. How did we happen to acquire our foothold and standing in Mexico? Not because we wanted to, but because we were compelled to, because things were uncomfortable in Utah, and we had to go to Mexico. How did we discover and acquire our foothold and standing in the domain of the South American States mission, where, since Oct. 20, 1905, he has been laboring in the Mississippi conference. The work of the Lord is progressing nicely there, he says. The people as a rule are very hospitable toward the Elders, and prejudice is abating.

Elder John Fredericksen of Vernon, Idaho Co., also arrived in this city March 5, 1906, on his way home from the Southern States mission, where, since Oct. 20, 1905, he has been laboring in the Mississippi conference. The work of the Lord is progressing nicely there, he says. The people as a rule are very hospitable toward the Elders, and prejudice is abating.

Elder Isaac Albert Smoot of Provo City, Utah county, returned March 5, 1906, on his way home from the Southern States mission, where, since Oct. 20, 1905, he has been laboring in the Mississippi conference. The work of the Lord is progressing nicely there, he says. The people as a rule are very hospitable toward the Elders, and prejudice is abating.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

Elder William D. Phillips of Salt Lake City returned Feb. 22, 1906, from the California mission, for which he was set apart Jan. 11, 1905. The San Francisco and Los Angeles conferences were his fields of labor. The work is progressing in California. Many friends are being made for the cause of truth, through the efforts of the Saints and Elders located there. The Elders are united and the Saints are living exemplary lives. Some converts are being made, and the mission in general is in splendid condition.

Elder David Andrew of Salt Lake City arrived home March 2, 1906, from the British mission, whither he was sent in September, 1903. The Birmingham conference was his field of labor, where he reports the work progressing more rapidly than it has for years.

Elder John A. Humphries of Virgin City, Washington county, passed through this city March 2, 1906, on his return from the Southern States mission, for which he was set apart Nov. 13, 1904. The Kentucky conference was his field of labor, where he states the work of the Lord is progressing, and the people are getting more friendly towards the Elders and many are embracing the Gospel.

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

The matter in this column is edited and prepared by ladies of Ogden interested in temperance work.

When Dr. J. Willbur Chapman was holding evangelistic meetings in Toledo, he received a one-dollar bill to which this note was attached: "I had \$50,000, a wife and child. This is my last dollar. My wife and child have left me—have left me on account of whiskey. Take my advice, young men, and lead a sober Christian life." Whenever the note and the dollar are exhibited by Dr. Chapman at his meetings a profound impression is created.

The tragedy of a life, such as this, is a thing to make one shudder. But tragedies as awful as this one are being acted every day. Men and women are draining the bitter cup to the dregs. Some are the victims of their own evil lives and some suffer because of the evil done by others.

The other day a man who had lived a dishonest life and brought evil and trouble to many who trusted in him was sent to prison. A few days later a senator of the United States, who had been sentenced to prison for his evil deeds, died with his case pending in the supreme court at Washington. A day or two after that a young man took his own life in Newark, N. J. He was the son of a brewer who "had made millions out of his brewery and dreamed of the perpetuation of the business through his son." This is his story as a daily paper tells it: "He could desire few things which were not at his command; his money brought him everything excepting immunity from the slavery of fast life and liquor. His family would have devoted fortunes to the cure of their youthful member's passion for gay company and its adjuncts; his mother would have sacrificed in vain to keep him from the temptations of the money her husband had made in its production. The young man made every effort to conquer himself, but his determination was too weak and he plunged back again into the butterfly existence. The curtain dropped Saturday night. His fall had been deliberately prepared. The ray of light had lost another good fellow."

A Swiss life insurance company has taken action which indicates that "temperance" has money value. It has undertaken to insure members of a temperance society composed of railway employees for 4 per cent less than employees who are not members of it. For some time past a Swiss accident insurance company has given total abstinence a reduction of 10 per cent in insurance rates. So well satisfied is the company with results that after January 1, 1906, it intends the reduction to total abstainers 15 per cent.

DEATH RATE IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO.

During November and December, 1905, one-fifth of the deaths in New York and Chicago were from pneumonia. Foley's Honey and Tar not only stops the cough, but heals and strengthens the lungs and prevents pneumonia, and thus takes chances on a cold wearing away when Foley's Honey and Tar will cure you quickly and without serious results. Sold by F. J. Hill Drug Co.

CHEAP RATES TO MEXICO.

Daily after February 15, until April 7, the Colorado Midland will sell tickets Salt Lake City to City of Mexico and points north thereof for \$44.00. For information and literature call Ticket office, 77 west Second South, Salt Lake.

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We collected \$300.00 yesterday for Mr. J. C. Coad, the mining lawyer. It was a bad debt, but now it is good. We can collect some for you if you turn them in.

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"SOME PEOPLE DON'T LIKE US"

Elder George A. Prescott of Francis, Summit county, passed through this city March 5, 1906, on his return from the Southern States mission, for which he was set apart Dec. 1, 1903. The conferences of Mississippi and Kentucky were his fields of labor. The Elders are making good progress; many friends are being made, who are investigating the Gospel.

Elder Charles A. Montgomery of Yost, Boxelder county, returned March 5, from the Southern States mission, for which he was set apart March 18, 1904, in the North Carolina conference, where he labored, the Elders are making friends and a few are embracing the Gospel.

Elder Joseph G. Nielson of Mantt City, Sanpete county, passed through this city March 7, 1906, on his return from the Scandinavian mission, for which he was set apart Feb. 22, 1904. The Christiania, Sweden, conference was his field of labor. In this field the meetings are well attended, and the work is progressing nicely.

Elder Arthur Ellish Walker of Safford, Graham county, Ariz., passed through this city March 7, 1906, on his return from the New Zealand mission, for which he was set apart April 21, 1905. The Canterbury conference was his field of labor. The work of the Lord, he states, is progressing there slowly; the people are quite indifferent to religion, but the Elders are allaying prejudice, making a number of friends and baptizing a few.

INVALUABLE FOR RHEUMATISM.

I have been suffering for the past few years with a severe attack of rheumatism and found that Ballard's Snow Liniment was the only thing that gave me satisfaction. It has been used for years, and is the only thing that gives me relief. March 24th, 1902. John C. Egerton, Kinman, Wyo. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept. 115 and 117 South Main Street.

Humors

Come to the surface in the spring as in no other season. It's a pity they don't run themselves all off that way, but in spite of pimples and other eruptions, they mostly remain in the system. That's bad.

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Plantersville, Miss. I have prescribed Kodol quite often in my practice, and have found it a very efficient remedy for all stomach ailments. It has always given the best of results. J. T. MAY, M. D.

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