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THE CONFERENCE.

We have been present at many conferences during the last twenty years, but we do not think that we ever felt so much satisfied with the general instructions and with the spirit in which they were delivered as we experienced during the conference that terminated on Sunday evening.

The conference opened on Wednesday the 6th, at 10 a.m. and terminated on Sunday the 10th, about 5 o'clock in the evening. During five days, the people had assembled twice a day, and on Wednesday and Friday evenings there were two additional meetings of the Priesthood, yet, from the beginning to the end there were no indications of that exhaustion in the hearers that might have been looked for with such continued sessions.

Prevented by the claims of other duties, we had not the opportunity of attending all the meetings, but what we had the privilege of listening to was of that plain, clear and lucid character which afforded us more than ordinary pleasure, and we trust profit as well. From the minutes published elsewhere the Saints will readily catch the character and spirit of the teachings, and no doubt will be guided by them as much as if they had listened to the full discourses in the Tabernacle. All the members of the Quorum of the Twelve were heard and the First Presidency spoke on several occasions. There was a diversity of teaching yet but one spirit, and a word on everything, for the present guidance of the Saints, was given by one or by the other. We can think of nothing that was left undone, nor can we remember anything that was spoken of, without seeing its direct practical utility: in brief, the conference was thoroughly practical and free from everything narrow and circumscribed. There was a freedom of thought with a freedom of expression that indicated the conscious strength of right, and a reliance upon that Almighty arm that ever giveth the victory to those who trust in Him.

In these days of darkness, infidelity and corruption, it is one of the most glorious positions that men can occupy to stand in holy places and hear the truth unsullied as it flows from a tongue inspired for the guidance of the righteous. How widely different the language of policy, expediency and scheme to that of the visible exponent of the facts of the hour? Measured, weighed, and balanced for effect is the former, while the latter is clothed with the weight and power of "Thus saith the Lord," and carries home to the heart and soul of the pure and uncorrupted. "Be thou steadfast and know that God reigneth."

The spirit of every speaker manifested deep personal confidence in the Divinity of the Work in which we are all engaged, of the overruling power of the Almighty for its protection, and its certain ascendancy to power and dominion. The gist of the instructions was purity in the Saints, no fellowship with wickedness, fidelity to God, peace and goodwill to all good men throughout the world, self preservation and increasing vigilance in the maintenance of our rights and liberties—politically, socially and religiously.

We would that the world could have been assembled to have listened to the address of President Young last Sunday morning—it was not the man but the servant of God. We feel assured that the Saints saw not the President, but listened to the counsels of heaven and received them as if they had emanated from the mouth of the Lord. As we listened and looked around upon the orders of the Priesthood there represented, and beheld the silvery heads of many of the first Elders, and of many who had gathered from the far distant nations of the earth to congregate and worship God together, listening with that calm, believing air—conscious of their own integrity, and then looked abroad over the congrega-

tion and saw in every direction where our eyes traveled men and women whom we knew to be tried and faithful, we thanked the Lord for existence in this momentous age, and for a place and part in the Kingdom of God.

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, Forenoon.

The Saints assembled in the Tabernacle, at 10 a.m.

On the stand were President Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells, of the First Presidency; Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Geo. A. Smith, Charles C. Rich, and Franklin D. Richards, of the Twelve Apostles; Joseph Young, Levi W. Hancock, Albert P. Rockwood, and John Van Cott, of the First Presidency of the Seventies; Edwin D. Woolley, and Samuel W. Richards, of the Presidency of the High Priest's Quorum; Daniel Spencer, David Fullmer, and George B. Wallace, of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion; Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy, and Jesse C. Little, of the Presidency of the Bishopric; George D. Watt, and John V. Long, reporters, and a large number of Bishops and Elders.

President Young called the meeting to order, and the choir opened the services of conference.

Elder George A. Smith offered the opening prayer.

President Wells addressed the Conference on the claims of the Public Works: urged the necessity of the Wards in the Territory furnishing teams to haul the granite rock from the quarries during the present spring and summer, for the Temple, in order to meet the demands of workmen for labor during the fall, winter and following spring, and also called attention to the rock and timbers required for the erection of the New Tabernacle this coming fall. Reviewing the work before the Saints, he terminated his remarks by expressing his gratitude and thanksgiving to the Lord for His favors to Israel, for the protection of His people from the power of those who sought their overthrow, and in conclusion bore his testimony to the great work of redemption which the Almighty had commenced in this generation.

President Kimball occupied the remainder of the session in imparting instruction and counsel to the people. Br. Kimball spoke some very plain truths in his usual interesting manner.

Elder John Taylor dismissed the meeting.

AFTERNOON.

After prayer by Elder W. Woodruff, Elder John Taylor delivered a discourse—mainly on the gathering of the Saints. He cursorily noticed the crude notions and theories of professing Christians on the predictions of the ancient prophets respecting the gathering together of the Saints, in the latter times, into one, to learn the laws of God and to carry out His purposes upon the earth. Elder Taylor showed that the words of the prophets could not fall to the ground unfulfilled, that the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ would gather the honest and humble from all nations, and make them one people. There was no coercion needed to gather the Saints—the spirit of truth and light led them as it were instinctively to seek the body of the Church, and when that light, through transgression, became darkness in professed Saints it was as natural for them to seek other society, and they could leave as freely as they came—the world was large enough for them all. The Almighty had spoken from the heavens and revealed the organization of His latter day kingdom, and the Saints acknowledged His right to rule and reign over them; they would acknowledge Him ruler, honor Him and observe His laws. The Saints had been baptized with one baptism and participated of one spirit, it was the work of the Great God and no mercenary speculation. It was boundless in extent, from eternity to eternity, embracing the worlds that have been, the world that is, and the worlds to come. This was the greatest work the Lord had ever introduced upon this earth—the labors of to-day uniting the present generation with the past generations of the righteous and laying the foundation of a work for all the posterity of the Saints. The kingdom of God was onward, and the powers of the earth could do nothing to retard its progress, it would continue to advance and increase in numbers, in power, light and influence, till the kingdoms of this world should become the kingdoms of our God and His Christ, and until the Creator's rule, authority and sway should extend from the rivers to the ends of the earth.

Elder George A. Smith expressed the satisfaction he experienced in attending the Conferences of the Saints, as they brought together the authorities of the Church and many of the Saints face to face to feel the spirit that exists in Zion—for as iron sharpeneth iron, so does the face of man gladden his friend. He reverted in his remarks to the days of gloom in Nauvoo, and spoke of the spirit of light, integrity and intelligence that was ever manifested in Joseph and Brigham notwithstanding the efforts of their enemies to destroy them. He reminded the Saints of their obligations to pray for themselves as well as to pray for the Presidency of the Church, and to watch over their own actions, remembering that it was just as necessary for the members of the Church to be good, to be

just, to be upright, maintaining the dignity of their calling in everything, as it was for those who ruled over them. He alluded to the influences of the world that darkened the minds of the Saints, and exhorted them rather to lay up for themselves treasures in heaven, instead of allowing the love of earthly treasures to corrode their souls and overcome the love of truth; for these would perish with the using, while the course of the righteous would be crowned with everlasting honors and the gift of eternal lives. He exposed the seducing influences of gold, and pointed to the wreck of men who had fallen victims to its idolatry; while nobler examples were before them of those who used their success in life for the building up of the Kingdom of God. He closed his remarks by assuring the faint hearted that "Mormonism" would never be made easy and palatable to the wicked world. The powers of earth and hell might unite to destroy the Saints, but God and His Saints would ride over all opposition, and the wicked, the apostates, the fearful and the unbelieving would be scattered to the four winds, as the chaff of the summer thrashing floor.

Elder W. W. Phelps dismissed the congregation.

EVENING.

A meeting of the Priesthood was held at 7 o'clock.

THURSDAY APRIL 7th, Forenoon.

Elder Samuel W. Richards offered prayer. Elder Geo. A. Smith delivered a discourse on the influence of false spirits. The gospel was preached to accomplish the salvation of the people, and with that object they received it, and knew that they had the world afterwards to contend with; yet many had permitted some trifling, unimportant object thrown in their path to cause them to stumble. He had been acquainted with the Church almost from the beginning, and dark clouds had almost constantly attended its growth and progress. In such times there had always been some ready to prophecy evil against Israel; but the history of the past stood forth a monument of their folly—on which Balaam was prominently noticeable. In the early history of this Church, the development of false spirits was very attractive, and quite a number had received the gift of tongues from that source which had led them astray, as they were not able to discern between the influence of heaven and the influence of the devil. Wherever the work had been extended there had been opposition from the spiritual powers of darkness. He instanced the opposition to the first American Elders who went to England, particularly the attack made upon Prest. Kimball, at Preston, Lancashire, and what he had experienced himself when he labored in London. He considered it good for the Elders of Israel to be acquainted with historical facts relating to the power of evil, that they might live so as to be beyond their reach. After the first endowment was given, some sixty persons apostatized and essayed to form a new church, that would get along easier with the world than the church established by the commandment of God; but they had dropped into oblivion. Spiritualism, table turning, rapping, and writing mediums were all emanations of the evil one to distract the minds of the children of men from the gospel of salvation, and it had been the experience of the Saints of the present generation that whenever men corrupted themselves they became an easy prey to these spirits, and to the cunning devices of men, who to serve personal purposes banded together in opposition to the kingdom of God. The Lord had organized the Priesthood and through that channel He would reveal His will to the Church. A few months, or a year or two, might pass along and enquire for those who had been led astray by evil spirits and they would be numbered among the things that were, while the steady stream of Mormonism would flow on unceasingly. The duped and deceived with the designer and the wicked would perish without hope, while the Saints were blessed with a testimony and hope, rich with immortality and Eternal Life.

Prest. Young made a few remarks and the congregation was dismissed by Prest. Wells.

AFTERNOON.

Prayer by Elder Albert P. Rockwood. Elder Orson Pratt preached on the Gospel of Eternal Salvation, comprehending within the scope of his subject the pre-existence of man, the object of his creation and destiny as revealed through the prophet Joseph. His remarks closed in referring to his approaching mission to Europe, and bore his testimony to the divinity of the work of God.

Elder C. C. Rich spoke on the practical duties of life, and the labor required of the people to bring about the purposes of the Lord in the establishment of righteousness on the earth, and of the salvation from the evils of this world.

Meeting dismissed by Elder Franklin D. Richards.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8th, Forenoon.

Elder Geo. D. Watt prayed. Elder F. D. Richards reviewed past history, spoke of the wandering of the Saints in the wilderness from the persecutions of men. Many had thought that it was hard to be thrust out from the nation, as was the case in '46; but to-day they could readily see that it was one of the greatest blessings that could have been conferred on the Saints. He gave very prudent counsel to the people in urging

domestic economy for self-support and social independence, foreseeing the time when the Saints would require to rely upon their own labors for maintenance.

President Young spoke on Tithing. He wished it to be distinctly understood that he would hold no men in fellowship who would amass to themselves fortunes from the hard earnings of the people in this Territory, by selling them goods at enormous profits, and at the same time shirk paying their Tithing. He spoke of some who had paid freely and others who had not at all, and very pleasantly announced his intention to call upon all the merchants, whether Saints or Gentiles, to contribute of their abundance for the benefit of the city and the people from whom they had made their riches.

Prest. Kimball dismissed the meeting.

AFTERNOON.

Prayer by Elder W. W. Phelps.

Elder Woodruff spoke on the riches of the Gospel. The citizens of the world sought after what they called wealth, and high places; but there was no wealth to compare with the wealth of the grace of God, and no honor like to the honor of membership in the Church of God. The safest thing for the people was to keep the commandments of the Almighty and to seek to possess the Holy Ghost. When men violated the commandments, they were easily purchased for the service of the Devil. He encouraged home labor and on home products, the sources of true wealth and independence.

Elder W. W. Phelps said the Lord had never turned away from a people who kept His word. The nations of the earth were at war and vied with each other in the manufacture of the most powerful engines of human destruction. So there would be no peace but in Zion, and the words of the Prophets would be fulfilled that predicted that he who would not take up his sword against his fellow man must needs flee to Zion. The Saints were exhorted to do right and ever be ready, for they knew not the hour when the thief cometh that might seek to despoil them of their virtues and possessions.

Elder George A. Smith spoke of the advantages of prosecuting their labors on the Temple and Tabernacle during the present season.

Elder Daniel Spencer dismissed the meeting.

A meeting of the Priesthood was held in the evening.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9th, Forenoon.

Elder Orson Hyde prayed: and preached on the triumph of the work of God, and Elder John Taylor presented the names of the authorities of the Church who were unanimously sustained in the following order:

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Heber C. Kimball, his first, and Daniel H. Wells, his second counselors.

Orson Hyde, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, sen., John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, and George Q. Cannon, members of said Quorum.

John Smith, Patriarch of the whole church.

Daniel Spencer, President of the Stake of Zion, and David Fullmer and George B. Wallace, his counselors.

William Eddington, John V. Long, John L. Blythe, George Nebeker, John T. Caine, Joseph W. Young, Howard O. Spencer, Caudius V. Spencer, Thomas B. Broderick, James H. Hart, John Squires and William H. Folsom, members of the High Council.

John Young, President of the High Priests Quorum, Edwin D. Woolley, and Samuel W. Richards, his counselors.

Joseph Young, President of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herriman, Albert E. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, members of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies.

William Squire, President of the Elders Quorum; James Smith, and Peter Latter, his counselors.

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop; Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, his counselors. Samuel M. Moore, President of the Priests' Quorum; Richard W. McAllister and George Openshaw, his counselors.

Adam Spiers, President of the Teacher's Quorum; Henry I. Doremus and Martin Lenzi, his counselors.

John S. Carpenter, President of the Deacons' Quorum; Samuel G. Ladd and Warren Hardie, his counselors.

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works; John Sharp, his assistant.

William H. Folsom, Architect for the Church.

Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor; Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells and Edward Hunter, his assistants and agents for said fund.

George A. Smith, Historian and general Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff, his assistant.

Meeting dismissed by Elder John V. Long.

AFTERNOON.

Elder John W. Hess prayed.

Elder John Taylor spoke on the Constitution of the United States and the unwavering determination of the people of Utah to sustain it inviolate. He then presented the names of