

this valley in 1847, they found it a barren desert, without a single mark of the Anglo Saxon race. The Latter-day Saints upon their arrival here set to work and did the best they could to change its condition. They plowed, planted and watered the ground, built cabins and other habitations, and so went on until that Tabernacle, the Temple adjoining it, and three other temples were reared in the midst of the people. It had taken millions of dollars to rear these holy places, and, he asked, who had to do it? Why the leaders and Elders in Israel—the Latter-day Saints, the Relief Societies and the women of Zion; all had contributed of their substance which God had given them. Did they call upon their enemies—those who were opposed to them and seeking their destruction—to help them in their work? No, and they would not have responded if they had. Was it wrong for the Latter-day Saints to engage in these things? It was not; they could not carry out the purposes of Almighty God unless they did.

He would say before the Lord that he believed in his heart there was not one among the Presidency of this Church, or among the twelve Apostles, but who, if required to do so, would lay down his life willingly for the Gospel's sake. Moreover, there were thousands among this people who would be ready to do the same. Of course, we should not set our hearts upon the things of this world, nor suffer them to turn us from our duties.

With regard to their position temporally, their history was before the whole world. The United States government required their property—what was called Church property—and receivers were appointed to take it. They delivered it up to them, according to their demands, and property that had already been sold and the proceeds of the sales used for the benefit of the people had been included in the seizure.

He thought there was no particular harm in his naming this. President Taylor delivered into the hands of the various Bishops throughout this Territory a certain quantity of wheat and other grain as trustee-in-trust. It amounted to considerable; but all this with the other property was required at their hands. The authorities went to work and had to give their notes to the amount of about \$300,000 in order to satisfy the government. They still trusted in God; but it took some money to discharge the demands made upon them. They had to borrow some money to meet those notes; and still they owed something with regard to them.

President Woodruff alluded to the many thousands of dollars which it had also been necessary for the Church to expend in order to help the people in some of the settlements, in the erection of school houses, meeting houses, to supply the wants of the poor, etc.

What was the cause of this great gathering of the people? he asked. They heard the Gospel of Christ proclaimed by His Servants, and believed it. They came to Zion without counsel from anybody, because they had the spirit of gathering within them, and it was this that had made Utah what she was today.

Let them be patient, faithful to their covenants with God, full of charity one towards another, and all would be well. He counseled them to go forward in the good work which they had begun, and they would assuredly conquer and overcome the obstacles which beset their path. God would be pleased and soften the hearts of men towards them; hundreds and thousands would yet visit Utah, to behold the work of the Latter-day Saints, and see they were in earnest and meant what they said.

President George Q. Cannon

said he rejoiced exceedingly in the instructions which we had received that day. He trusted that everyone who had attended the Conference that morning and afternoon felt repaid for the time spent there, and that this would be the case as long as their Conference should last. It was a good thing for them to withdraw from worldly affairs for a short time on such occasions, to come here, wait upon the Lord and receive His Holy Spirit. It would refresh and revivify them, and they would pursue their various avocations with increased zest when the Conference was over. In a pecuniary sense, too, they would lose nothing by the time so set apart.

They had been endeavoring ever since they came to these valleys—President Young, his counselors, the twelve Apostles, and those who since the death of some of their leading men had occupied their places—to convince the Latter-day Saints that the policy which God prompted them to indicate to the people to pursue was the true one, and the one which, in the end, would result in great benefit and prosperity to them. It was that they should remain here in Utah instead of yielding to temptations to go where the prospect seemed more alluring. Especially was this the case in the early days in regard to California, and those who took the counsel of President Young in this matter had since seen the wisdom thereof. It had been so in other temporal things; but it had required faith on the part of the Saints sometimes to believe that the counsel given them by God's servants was the best. There had occasionally seemed to be a conflict between the counsel of their leaders and the inclinations growing out of the traditions of the people; but had the latter pursued a course different to that marked out they would never have prospered as they had. There were now thousands of Latter-day Saints, some of whom had had an experience of forty-four years, since coming to these valleys, who could bear testimony to the fact that in nearly every instance where the people had followed the counsel of God's inspired servants they had invariably prospered and been blessed, and that where they had departed from it they had lost not only in faith frequently, but financially.

Referring to the Irrigation Congress recently held in this city, the speaker remarked that the universal testimony of the many delegates who attended it was as to the prosperity of this people. Every one of them whom he had met had spoken in terms of unstinted admiration of the wisdom and success

which had characterized the settlements and the building up of this Territory. Those gentlemen actually admitted that they had profited by what they had seen in operation here, and had returned to their respective homes deeply impressed with the value of the lesson they had learned. They called it an "object lesson." There had been no great monopolization of land and water here, as was the case elsewhere—men taking up large tracts and occupying them to the exclusion of honest settlers; and in no other part of this great continent did the poor man enjoy such facilities and opportunities as in Utah Territory. He did not believe there was another place in this broad country where, in proportion to the population, so many men occupied their own homes. The testimony of visitors concerning what they saw here is the beginning of the end—the beginning of that which the servants of God had foretold and the Prophets had predicted concerning Zion. President Cannon mentioned also the abundance of free water for the use of the people, and said it was their privilege to continue under these favorable conditions if they would. If the people would take the course pointed out to them by God through His servants they would see yet grander results in these matters.

President Woodruff had made mention of the expenses which they, as a Church, had had to bear; but they had been growing in wealth all the time, notwithstanding the trials and persecutions which they had had to endure. They did not seem like persecution now, and he had no words of reproach nor condemnation to utter. The Lord had overruled them for good, and such would be the case to the end.

The speaker next touched upon the great changes which had taken place of late years in this Territory, particularly in this city, Ogden and in this county, and said these would probably extend to other counties.

He had a great desire in his heart at this Conference to impress upon the Latter-day Saints the importance of taking steps looking to the permanent relief of the needy or destitute in our midst, that in our prosperity we might not forget the Lord's poor. We were very likely to have an inclement winter, and therefore out of our substance we should see that none of God's creatures wanted for food or shelter.

After a parenthetical reference to the marvelous productiveness of Utah's soil, President Cannon said it was their duty as a people to so organize that the poor in their midst who needed help should have their wants relieved. Bishops and others in authority should see to it; but while doing this, care should be taken to prevent the abuse of charity, and the indolent from taking advantage of it. All men should work to the extent of their ability and not live in indolence. He besought the Latter-day Saints to impress upon the minds of their children that all labor was honorable. They had sometimes been criticised because they had spent so much money in the building of temples and meeting houses, and people had said if they had erected colleges instead it would have been better. He believed that the results would prove the wisdom of the course that