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CHARLES W. PENROSE, - EDITOR

Monday, - October 6, 1890.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

SATURDAY, Oct. 4th.

Afternoon Session.

Singing by the choir:

Behold, the mountain of the Lord
In latter days shall rise,
On mountain tops, above the hills,
And draw the wond'ring eyes.

Prayer by Elder Cyrus H. Wheelock.

The choir sang:

How swift the months have passed away,
'ne Conference again
And Zion's exiled thousands come to swell
the joyous strain.

Apostle Franklin D. Richards

addressed the assemblage. The following is the substance of what he said:

He rejoiced in the contemplation of the work in which the Lord had called upon the Latter-day Saints to engage, and the longer he himself labored in God's cause the more intense became the pleasure of his soul. To say that he knew this to be the work of the Lord was simply to repeat that which had been so often uttered by the brethren when bearing their testimony to the truth of the Gospel. He learnt it many years ago, and since then the work had gone on increasing abundantly.

It mattered not how much the powers of darkness raged against the Latter-day Saints, this fact did not alter their line of duty, but rather strengthened their faith and spurred them on to further effort. At all times they should seek to be "diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

He desired most earnestly to testify to the truth of this work, which was making such rapid progress indeed! If they looked at it carefully and in the critical light of the spirit, it would be found that it was going forward about as fast as the Saints were prepared to receive it. He urged that the strong among us should help the weaker ones, while the weak should hold on to the strong, thereby sustaining them in the trials and temptations which beset the people on every hand.

Many interesting questions were arising in the present day, among others the coming of the Son of Man, reference to which was made this morning. While this was a speculative matter, the signs of His coming were now abundantly manifest. While we could not obtain from the revelations any definite statement of the time of Christ's coming in His power and majesty, to take to Himself the Kingdom, we could learn from them a great many things which had to transpire before that great event would come to pass. It had been declared to us from on high that the hour of God's judgment had come. We had seen these judgments, more or less, poured out upon the world, manifested sometimes by terrible fatalities. But we were told that before Christ again came the sun should be darkened and the moon turned into blood. Jerusalem should be rebuilt, and many other things be performed in the land of Israel. We need not deceive ourselves, however, for God had given us a great deal of prophecy and revelation relating to the restitution of this dispensation.

After citing several of them from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, the speaker said we were blessed with many revelations, doctrines, commandments, and principles that should be a guide to us in our every day life. He counselled the Saints to think more of holy things and less of the affairs of this world. By some persons, death had been regarded as the "king of terrors," but such was not the case with the men who were filled with the Holy Ghost. Many of the righteous fell asleep in death as peacefully and calmly as did some fall into a natural sleep when they laid their heads upon the pillow at night. The terror of death lay in sin, when the conscience was burdened with guilt and a knowledge of evil deeds.

There was much to do in these last days; therefore, said Apostle Richards, in conclusion, let us be on the watch, keep diligently the commandments of God, walk before Him in all righteousness, and so train up our children that they may fear Him and serve Him faithfully all the days of their lives.

Apostle Moses Thatcher

addressed the Conference. Following is a brief synopsis of his remarks: I hope to be able to speak under the influence of the same Spirit as that which animated those who have preceded me. These gatherings result in much good to the Saints who desire to serve the Lord. We should be grounded in the truth. Those who have the Holy Ghost need not err. They walk in the light which comes from our Heavenly Father. We should be more concerned about being prepared for coming events than filled with a desire to fasten them. There are many seductive spirits enticing us into dark and devious ways. The seed of the Gospel has been cast abroad, and there will be various yields. Where it has fallen among rocks it will be destroyed by the heat of the sun. The Book of Doctrine and Covenants tells the manner in which many have fallen—they have loved the things of the world and the honors of men. These allurements endanger our hope of salvation! It is important that we know the Spirit we are following and manifest the fruits of the Gospel. Notwithstanding the efforts of the enemies of truth, it must be apparent to every observer that the Saints are being prepared for the things of the world. In this fact there is danger. I have always considered persecution as necessary. Blessings accrue to us through sacrifice. Happiness comes through being consistent and seeking to do good to the world.

I have never known a time when the authorities of the Church were more united than now. The President's cry are one, as are the Twelve. They have sought to lay aside any feeling of jealousy or envy that may have existed, and become united in Christ. I have never known a time when their union was more perfect than it is today.

Reference has been made to the coming of the Son of man. Brother Franklin D. Richards has cited events that must precede that great occurrence. The Book of Doctrine and Covenants says that the Lamanites must be enlightened before the Lord shall come in His glory. There are 12,000,000 of Lamanites in Mexico and Central America. This shows the magnitude of the work to be done among that race alone. But the Lord can appear on the mountain and in the Temple. He appeared to Joseph in the Kirtland Temple. President Woodruff testified that he had met and communed with Joseph at various times. This is not surprising. I look for a time to come when communications between the visible Church and the Church behind the veil will be common.

Speaking of the year 1891 being eventful, his not 1890 shown many eventful features. Accidents and other catastrophes are multiplying, convulsions of nature are increasing. Wind causes produce the terrible accidents that are of such frequent occurrence! This is a sermon of nature. Men are becoming more and more reckless of human life, being devoid of natural affection.

Our position as a people is peculiar. But we are commencing to pray for our enemies, and not return evil for evil upon their heads. It is remarkable to what lengths some men will go in their opposition to the Saints, and to attain their own ulterior purposes. There is for instance a man in the north who, when an executive officer, said he had obtained a jury who would convict Jesus Christ if he were placed on trial. That man now asks the suffrages of the people to enable him to obtain a seat in the national legislature. The treatment of the people of Utah is perfectly startling, being suggestive of all the grand principles that underlie the institutions of this government. A few years ago a person who believed that the object of the crusade was the robbing of the Saints would have been called a fanatic, yet it is now an accomplished fact. The time will come when our brethren in this nation will understand no better than they do now. When the opportunity presents itself, as it shall in the future, for the people of Utah to show their loyalty to the government, they will, I believe, not be found to be behind any of their fellow-countrymen. We shall occupy to our nation the position that Joseph, who was sold into Egypt sold in toward his brethren. The Lord will not let the labors of the revolutionary fathers fall to the ground. A class of young men will arise in these mountains who will help to rescue the nation in the day of its calamity. They are good and true citizens, although their first allegiance is to God. If we are true to ourselves, our country and our God we shall arise above everything that stands in the way of our development. The day of our calamity is approaching. It is at the door. Society will soon be convulsed, and those who will not take up the sword against their neighbors will flee to these mountains for safety, and we will receive them, afford them relief, and not treat them as they have treated us. The speaker closed with a testimony to the divine character of the work founded by Joseph Smith and predicting the final triumph of truth.

Apostle F. M. Lyman

next addressed the Conference. He remarked that the Lord was upon the side of this people, and would sustain and preserve them. The work in which the Latter-day Saints were engaged was the word of God and not of man. The Father cared for and sustained His faithful servants. It was not the judgment, skill, understanding, or cunning of man that had converted this people. The Lord Himself had done this. He had given them faith, repentance, and also baptism, by which they had received a remission of their sins. The good that the Saints had done God had enabled them to accomplish. The Latter-day Saints were not divided, but stood as one, and God was pleased with their labors. This people were rapidly becoming numerically stronger, and their faith increased in proportion. God had planted in their hearts a knowledge of the truth and given them His Spirit, and communication had been opened between us and the heavens.

Apostle Lyman spoke of the importance of prayer, and strongly exhorted the Saints to be more earnest in this respect than in the past. They should pray to the Lord often, and their supplications would be abundantly answered. Let them be prepared for the coming of the Savior in His power and glory, for the summons might reach us when least expected.

Let there be more faithfulness in Israel. Let the people cease backbitings, quarrels, contentions, cavilings, strife, and all vanities should be put away. Intemperance and other sins which beset their paths should likewise be carefully guarded against. In our associations and Societies as well as in the family circle a spirit of unity and harmony should ever prevail, and nothing be allowed to enter in any way calculated to cause a feeling of jealousy or bitterness. Every man and woman in Zion should be as a light set upon a hill, that cannot be hid. No Latter-day Saint should be ashamed of his actions, but should live a life above the slightest suspicion.

He prayed God to bless this people and the testimony borne by the speakers during Conference—that the instructions imparted might find a place in their hearts, and that every word spoken would bring forth good fruit in due season.

Elder John D. T. McAllister.

addressed the conference briefly. He spoke of his pleasure in meeting with the Saints, their early experiences in the settlement in this part of the country, from the time he arrived here, 39 years ago. He also dwelt for some time upon the importance of performing Gospel work for the dead, and asked God to bless the people.

The choir sang a selected hymn

Great Spirit count.

Benediction by President George Q. Cannon.

SECOND DAY.

SUNDAY, Oct. 5th, 10 a. m.

The choir sang:

The morning breaks the shadows flee;
Lo! Zion's star in full is seen!
The dawning of a brighter day
Rises in love on the mind.

Prayer was offered by Elder Jos. E. Taylor.

Singing by the choir:

Sons of Michael, the approaches
Know! the Eternal Father greets
Minister before His feet;
Hail the Patriarch's exalted reign,
Established now for ever and ever!

President George Q. Cannon

Was the speaker. After beseeching the faith and prayers of the large congregation attending conference for those who might be called upon to address them, he remarked that such an occasion as a general conference was full of interest to the officers and members of the Church, who naturally expected to receive counsel and instruction concerning their duties, and information of the progress of the work in which the Latter-day Saints were engaged.

We were living in peculiar times. The work of God was being assailed in various directions. However, this was no new thing. It had been the lot of the Saints from the beginning to contend with difficulties and overcome obstacles. They had had to pass through scenes which had tested their faith, integrity, and fidelity. The Elders, who had been faithful in preaching the Gospel, had not neglected to tell the people whom they baptized the character of the difficulties which they would have to encounter when they espoused the cause of God. They were warned to expect the same fate which attended the ancient disciples of Jesus Christ, how their names would be cast out as evil.

The Elders had no desire to draw people into the Church merely for the sake of increasing its numbers, but were filled with the hope every time they baptized a soul, that he or she would be faithful all the rest of their life. Others might be content with a certain degree of happiness, a glory with a certain amount of salvation; but there were to people upon the face of this earth—and he doubted whether there ever had been since the creation—who possessed higher conceptions and better views regarding their future than the Latter-day Saints. That which would satisfy ordinary persons would not, with the views they entertained, satisfy the Saints. Others might court ease and seek for worldly profit; but not so with this people; they could not turn aside from the path which God had marked out for them in order to promote any worldly end or to gratify any worldly ambition. The promises of God to His faithful people were infallible, as boundless as eternity itself. They were made to every one who entered into a covenant with the Lord in the way that He Himself had pointed out. Should they therefore not bear patiently with meekness and humility all the trials and difficulties which been their lot? He thought he could answer yes for the Latter-day Saints.

There was a living testimony of the truth in the hearts of this people, and it was this which constituted the great strength of their work. But for this they would be a very weak people, and could be easily broken up, for it was not the President of the Church or his Counselors, the first Presidency, it was not the Twelve Apostles, President of Stakes, nor any other body in the Church upon whom the people depended or upon whom they looked solely for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. The Saints could go to God themselves, if they had doubts upon any question or point—pray to Him in their secret places and ask Him to reveal to them whether or not what was taught unto them was in accordance with His mind and will.

Many things in this Church had come in contact with the traditions and preconceived ideas of men. There were many things today which perhaps conflicted with the previous views of the Latter-day Saints. There was scarcely a thinking man or woman in the Church of Christ who had not indulged in reflections concerning the future of this work, and some of those views had been rudely upset by the development. God was the author of this work and He would conduct it to suit His purposes, and not those of man.

Let them think of how many doctrines had been taught that were new to the world which God had revealed in our day. How would they understand these unless the Spirit of God bore testimony to them? Who on the earth believed them? They were not sanctioned by tradition, they were not upheld by the common belief of men. They were new to this generation, and yet, though they shock the prejudices of mankind and perhaps startled the Latter-day Saints, when they sought of God for a testimony concerning them, He never failed to give unto them His Holy Spirit which gave the assurance that they were of God and not of man. And so it will be to the end. The President of the Church have to walk just as the Saints walk; they have to depend upon the revelations of God as they come to them. They had their faith tested as the Saints have and so with the Twelve Apostles. All that they could do was to seek the mind and will of God.

If there were any who had joined the Church with the expectation of enjoying ease and worldly profit, they were laboring under a wrong impression, yet he did not believe that there was another people on the face of the earth so blessed as the Latter-day Saints, notwithstanding their trials and persecutions. He believed—and he did not say this with any disposition to exaggerate—that a happier and more prosperous people did not exist. Look at the results of the lives of those who have been faithful as compared with those who have left the Church and been unable to endure. He was sure that those who did so would be perfectly satisfied with the course they had followed. God did not forget the sacrifices of this people. When he thought of the hundreds who had gone to prison willingly to show to the world that they were conscientious, true and faithful men and not cowards, covenant-breakers and recreants, he felt thankful to God that he lived among such a people. However much the world might think the Latter-day Saints had been mistaken in their views, the time would come when their conduct during the last five years would stand out as the brightest page in the history of humanity, in modern times at least. He believed that this people were capable of undergoing any sacrifices that they may be called upon to make. They could bow with submission when it was necessary and right as easily as they could stand erect and resist that which they esteemed to be wrong. Therefore God yet show mankind more abundantly that the Latter-day Saints were a people of truth and uprightness, who were loyal to God, to the country of which they were citizens or ought to be citizens, to the institution which He had permitted in His providence to be established; loyal in all the relations of life; strong in their fidelity, and above all things, pure and virtuous.

He would lose all hope for humanity but for the Latter-day Saints. It filled him with horror when he saw the course which men and women were taking outside of this Church, and witnessed the fate which was coming upon the people of this and other nations, and felt thankful to our Heavenly Father that He had established a Church whose standard of purity was unequalled, and in which all impurity was denounced and dealt with. Virtue among the people was of a low standard outside of this Church. The Latter-day Saint who indulged in sexual sin would be dismissed if he did not repent. There was no greater curse of apostacy and there never had been in this Church than the want of virtue. God would have a virtuous people, for His Spirit would not dwell in unholy tabernacles. They must be pure not only in deed but in thought, in order to retain the Spirit of God.

The Elders, when they went abroad, wondered why the people did not gather as numerously as was the case formerly from the various nations of the earth. It was due to the abominable wickedness which prevailed. Luxury was indulged in to such an extent that young men found themselves unable to marry, and, consequently, some of the oldest blood in America was disappearing. Those who practiced unhoulsingly one of the besetting sins of the age, fornication, would stand before the bar of God as murderers and murderesses and would be damned. Hear it, all ye Latter-day Saints! This was the cause which was coming upon our country in portions of this country. In Southern States it did not prevail to so great an extent as in the north, but it would creep in there after a time if care is not taken. The speaker regretted to learn that that sin had made its appearance, somewhat among the Latter-day Saints. The curse of God would rest upon those guilty of such abominations.

God had chosen the Saints to inaugurate a new condition of things on earth, to arrest the tide of evil. He had selected men and women who had the courage to carry out what he told them and they tried to do it. But the nation intervened and said stop, and they would bow in submission, leaving the consequences with God. They would do the best they could; but when their actions came in conflict with the constituted authorities, and the highest tribunal in the land cried "stop," there was no other course for the Latter-day Saints to pursue, than to be in accordance with the revelations which God had given to them, telling them to respect constituted authority and yield submissively thereto. Nevertheless they could stand as a living protest against the evils of the age, cry out against them and by their lives proclaim that they were determined with the help of God to effect a change in affairs and redeem the world from its wickedness as far as possible.

Brother Cannon rejoiced that God in His providence had permitted the Saints to remain in the land to which He had led them, and trusted that He would give them courage and patience to bear all trials uncomplainingly. Those who fought against this cause might be prominent for a time, but when they ceased to occupy the positions which they filled and which gave their voices some importance, they would drop out of sight as hundreds before them have done in this land. Let not the Saints disturb themselves about the utterances of those men who imagined themselves with the idea for a time that they are important personages and were going to do some great things against them. We have seen many of those creatures pass away and sink into oblivion.

President Cannon then took up another theme, in which he spoke as follows:

Before I sit down there is one subject that I have felt I wanted to speak about. I think it of some importance to us Latter-day Saints. It was referred to yesterday by two or three of the brethren. It is in relation to the events of 1891, and connected with the coming of the Lord. It was intimated by Brother Roberts that some people thought that such an event might perhaps happen, and he was anxious that the Saints should not be disappointed if nothing did occur during that year that would fulfill expectation, because a great many anticipations have been indulged in connected with that year, and I believe there has been altogether too much agitation upon this subject. I have seen a great many times in our history when sanguine men have attached a great deal of importance to certain dates. I remember when 1888 was coming in, I heard on all sides that there was something remarkable connected with that year. I fully endorse what Elder Thatcher said yesterday upon this point—that 1890 has been as important a year as we have ever witnessed. And I believe it will be so with every year. I do not think it is wise for us to fix our minds too much upon any year as bringing to pass some very wonderful things. Perhaps it will be so. I do not question that; for every year comes to us freighted with great and wonderful chances. It is not one year alone; but all the years between us and the coming of our Lord will be big with events. They will be crowded with stupendous occurrences. God has thus spoken. Judgments will be poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth, and will increase until the Lord Himself shall come.

I took occasion to have the sermon that Brother Joseph preached handed up, and I will read a little from it to show you what he said upon this very subject, and to show you also that we need not expect that 1891 will bring any such thing as the coming of the Lord. It was said yesterday that no man knoweth the day nor the hour. This is true. But I will tell you what men can know. They can know that such and such a time is not the time. Men can prophesy that 1891 is not the year. Although they cannot tell you the day nor the hour, they can tell you that He will not come this year or next year, according to the words of God already given. There are several revelations which speak plainly upon this point, although to which was made yesterday by the brethren who spoke. There are a great many events to take place that have not yet occurred, and the Savior will not come until they do take place. Be assured of this, and be not concerned in your minds and agitated on these matters, because it is easy to understand that there are many things yet to be fulfilled before that grand and glorious event will come. Yet, as He has told us, He will come as a thief in the night. He will come when the inhabitants of the earth are unprepared for him.

Joseph said:

"I was once praying earnestly upon this subject (that is, concerning the coming of the Son of Man) and a voice said unto me, 'My son, if thou livest until thou art 85 years of age, thou shalt see the face of the Son of Man.'"

This was what the voice said to Joseph:

"If thou livest until thou art 85 years of age, thou shalt see the face of the Son of Man."

He continues:

"I was left to draw my own conclusions concerning this and I took the liberty of concluding that if I did live to that time He would make His appearance. But I do not say whether He will make His appearance, or I shall go where He is. I prophesy in the name of the Lord God, and let it be written, the Son of Man will not come in the clouds of heaven till I am 85 years old."

Now, at the time Joseph made this prophecy, Miller, of the Millerites, was making predictions about the coming of the Son of Man—about the years 1832-3-4. In those years, as you who have been kept informed will doubtless know, there was great excitement throughout the United States about the coming of the Son of Man, and Joseph prophesied that He would not come for the next forty years.

He goes on and says:

"The coming of the Son of Man never will be, never can be, till the judgments spoken of for this hour are poured out, which judgments are commenced. It is not the design of the Almighty to come upon the earth and crush it and grind it to powder; but He will reveal it to His servants, the Prophets. Judah must return, Jerusalem must be rebuilt, and the Temple, water-cursed for many years, the Temple, and the waters of the Dead Sea be healed. It will take some time to build the walls of the city and temple, etc., and all this must be done before the Son of Man will make His appearance. There will be wars and rumor of wars, signs in the heavens above and on the earth beneath, and the sun turned into darkness, and the moon to blood, earthquakes in diverse places, the seas heaving themselves beyond their bounds. Then will appear the grand sign of the Son of Man in heaven. But what will the world say? They will say it is a planet, a comet, etc. But the Son of Man will come at the sign of the coming of the Son of Man, which will be as the light of the morning coming out of the east."

Now, the Prophet explains this in connection with his statement as to what the voice had said to him. He did not assert that Jesus would come in the clouds of heaven even if he lived to be eighty-five; but he was told that he should see Him, and he qualified it, so that there need be no misapprehension upon this subject.

I might read to you many revelations in this Book of Doctrine and Covenants (having the book in my hand) upon this same subject, in which the Lord plainly says that these things shall take place. Nations were made partaking to some of them.

"And again, verily I say unto you, that the Son of Man cometh as the thief in the night, neither is a man traveling on the earth. Wherefore be ye ready, for ye know not the hour the Lord your God cometh. Wherefore, be ye also ready, for the hour cometh, and the earth is ripe, and the harvest is passed, and the vineyard is almost wasted, and my servants have scarcely warned the people, and the people have not repented, and Babylon is fallen, and is desolate, and her plagues are sent forth, and are not to be stayed, for she is ripe, and the Lord your God is hastening his coming, even at the door."

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