

country. If we would spread out a little we would be all right. People like to have a little more easy work than farming, but our young men ought to take up land and make themselves homes. If they would do that, they would become independent in a few years. This Territory is not half cultivated. Land is lying waste waiting for settlers to come and make homes on it. A time will come when our people must be self-sustaining, for the very reason that outside houses will have something else to do besides shipping provisions to us. The dying testimony of President George A. Smith was that such times would come, and the speaker firmly believed it. The producers are the main supporters of a country, not those who live upon their fellowmen. Those who are willing to build up the country will find that the blessings of the Almighty will rest upon it now, as when it was first settled. The speaker concluded by a testimony to the truth of the Gospel and wished the blessings of the Almighty upon all Israel.

ELDER ANGUS M. CANNON

said it was very gratifying to witness the ovations accorded to Prof. Stephens and the choir in the cities of the Union. The success was due to the efforts of Prof. Thomas and others, as well as to the present leader, whose efficient instructions had been given to the singers of Israel, and he felt to rejoice at the beautiful singing of the brethren and sisters who now occupy the seats of the choir. He also exhorted the Saints to be more liberal in donating to the poor.

The choir sang an anthem,  
Praise ye the Lord.

Benediction by Elder A. H. Cannon.  
Adjourned till 7:30 p.m.

#### Evening Session.

The choir sang:

Glorious things of Thee are spoken.

Prayer by Elder Archibald N. Hill.  
Singing by the choir:

Great God, attend, while Zion sings.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS

said the meetings of the conference which he had attended had been pleasurable indeed. The statistics read at the morning session were very creditable to the Saints of the Salt Lake Stake. One would have to look in vain for a similar showing in the world. The saying of the Savior that the "poor ye have always with you" seemed to be fully understood and appreciated among the people. One of the evidences of the truthfulness of the latter-day Gospel was the manifestation of the same spirit in regard to caring for the poor that existed among the Saints anciently. The religious world of this, the closing part of the nineteenth century, entertained the idea almost universally that Christian light and truth were penetrating every part of the earth. It should be remembered, however, that less than one-fourth of the inhabitants of the globe were believers in the Christian religion, and that, too, after 1900 years of opportunity and attempt to convert them. Of late years in Germany there has arisen what is termed the higher criticism—a criticism which had for its purpose the striking down of the authorship of many of the Biblical records. One by

one they were being put aside as myths and uncertain productions, thus largely destroying the Christian faith. Another class belonging to the school of so-called rational criticism accept in part the divinity of the scripture. But that portion which sets forth the immaculate conception of Jesus Christ is discarded as a fairy tale. Faith would, however, be found by the Savior when he should return to earth. He would find it among the Saints of God in these mountains. The world had need of Mormonism. Christianity would yet learn that all important fact.

The speaker here quoted from the Book of Mormon proving that the five books of Moses were known to be in existence six hundred years before Christ and therefore could not have been written after the Savior's birth and death as these modern schools of higher criticism would make believe. It was the purpose of the Book of Mormon to bear testimony of the truthfulness of the Jewish Scriptures.

The choir and congregation here sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning!

ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON

said Elder Roberts had opened up for contemplation a most comprehensive field and in attempting to fathom it we were made to feel our own insignificance. Elijah, the great Prophet who never tasted death conferred upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery the power of turning the hearts of the children to the fathers and the hearts of the fathers to the children. The proof of this was attested in the magnificent monument—the Temple—adjacent to the Tabernacle. Temples in other parts of the Territory contributed to the uncontrollable truthfulness of this statement. There was but one plan of salvation, but one faith and one baptism. This was made plain in the reply of the Savior to Nicodemus. One utility of the restoration of the Gospel was shown in what could be done for those who had died without accepting the truth. The spirit of Elijah was upon the people and an immense work was being done in the Houses of the Lord for the redemption of the dead. The Lord was present by the power and presence of His Spirit in those sacred structures. When the Saints went into them with humble hearts, all earthly trouble was dispelled and they felt as though they breathed a higher and purer atmosphere. It was the poor in the community who were doing the greatest work in redeeming from bondage their departed kindred. He did not wish to make invidious distinctions, but this was a fact which was so apparent it could not be passed by without notice. He presumed this class would humble themselves and come in after the financial flurry had gone by, when business matters did not press so heavily upon them. Already there had been more than ten thousand baptisms for the dead in the Salt Lake Temple and other ordinances a good work in proportion had been done.

The choir sang:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray.

Benediction by Elder Samuel A. Woolley.

The conference then adjourned for six months.

## THE CHOIR IN ST. LOUIS.

The following handsome notice of "the Mormon concert" given by the Tabernacle choir in St. Louis last Saturday is from the *Globe-Democrat* of Sunday morning:

Many men still in middle life can remember when the Mormon bands, driven from the Mississippi valley, turned their eyes to the great west and began the long journey that ended in the valley of Salt Lake. Although the railroads have practically abolished space and made Salt Lake City and St. Louis next door neighbors, the fact is not so well appreciated but that a thrill of surprise was felt at the announcement that a large band of accomplished singers from the Mormon Tabernacle would appear in St. Louis en route to Chicago, there to contend for a prize of substantial proportions. The idea of musical culture in the heart of the Rocky mountains is new to most people not familiar with that region, and yet the fact was emphasized with no little force by the appearance of 250 singers, Mormons all, the trained choir of the principal church in the Mormon country, who gave an entertainment that may justly be pronounced one of the events of the season.

The choir was large as intimated, and the parts are thoroughly well balanced. The training to which the great chorus has been subjected is of the most substantial character. From the start it could be perceived that the leader, Mr. Stephens, was thoroughly in command of his forces, and had the situation at the end of his baton.

The solo and duet work was admirably done and to the intense satisfaction of the audience. The Mesdames Nellie Druce Pugsley and Bessie Dean Allison were singularly happy in their rendition of the "Consolation" duet, and received a warm encore. Mrs. Agnes Olsen Thomas rendered the Norwegian ballad in a style that took the audience by storm, while Mr. Easton was no less fortunate in the Scotch ballad, his selection being "Annie Laurie." The prison scene from *Travatore* was given with great cleverness by Mrs. Nellie Druce Pugsley and Mr. George Pyper, and not often is it better done. The audience was extremely sympathetic and gave the singers full credit for every effort to please. The voices of the soloists were all of excellent quality, and the music selected was well suited to their capacity.

But the main feature of the entertainment was the chorus singing. The voices displayed before the audience of last evening are of the best. Of course, they are picked voices, but the fact that so many voices of such a degree of excellence are to be found in a city the size of Salt Lake is an admirable tribute to the purity of the Rocky mountain atmosphere. Good as they evidently are by nature, they have received no little benefit from the careful culture received at the hands of Conductor Stephens. The control of the conductor was perfect, and the mastery obtained over the compositions rendered was a revelation. The three contest choruses are of widely different character, so different indeed as to be different types of music, but even a captious critic would hardly hazard the declaration that the Mormon