

the dire results that must inevitably flow from such a condition of affairs. Will the Latter-day Saints awake to the situation and try to stem the torrent that threatens to engulf those that are dearer to us than life itself?

The choir sang the anthem:

God of Israel, hear our Prayer.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Geo. B. Wallace.

Evening Session.

Service commenced at 7 o'clock.

The choir sang:

Lord, Thou wilt hear me when I pray,
I am forever Thine!
I fear before Thee all the day;
O may I never sin.

Prayer was offered by Elder Edward Stevenson, after which the choir sang:

On the mountain tops appearing,
Lo! the sacred herald stands.

ELDER ELIAS MORRIS

was the first speaker. He said he had been greatly edified by the timely teachings of this conference; many things that he had thought seriously upon had been plainly and profitably portrayed. The instructions with reference to ordinations to the Priesthood found an echo in his heart. Our young men should comprehend clearly the importance that attaches to minor positions of trust before they assume greater ones. They should be well qualified to fill any office in the Priesthood before being ordained to it. Promotions from the lower to the higher order of Priesthood should be made with the greatest of caution and according to the faithfulness and understanding of him who is promoted. The Priesthood cannot be purchased with money; individual merit and qualification alone should be rewarded.

ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON

next addressed the congregation. The instructions of the conference had been such as to reawaken thoughts upon which he had seriously reflected. Allusions had been made to the reports of the Elders' quorums of this the largest and most important Stake of Zion. In consequence of it being so conspicuous it should be an example to all the others. The general laxity in the Elders' quorums was to be deplored. What could be done in the way of curing this neglect was a pertinent question. Allusion had been made to the fact that many who had been ordained Elders were without previous experience; this was a violation of a natural and divine law—that of graduation. To confer an office of so high a character upon an untrained and consequently unqualified person was like placing an untutored child in an advanced class at school.

If a young man, desirous of being married, was unfitted to receive the Priesthood, then was he also unfitted to receive the blessings that pertained to the covenant of eternal marriage. If the union was consummated outside of that covenant, the parties had no claim upon each other or upon their children after death, unless steps should previously be taken to render the associations continuous.

The affection with which a mother regards her offspring is illustrated when the hand of death is laid upon her little one, even in cases where the separation is merely temporary. Her heart is torn with poignant grief. All

intelligent Latter-day Saints comprehend the broad significance of the bond by which the sexes are united in the new and everlasting covenant. Those who are wedded outside of it will find that the separation between themselves and children will be made perpetual unless secured to them as God had ordained.

The speaker next dwelt upon the social conditions of the community, and expressed the belief that they were leading the young people and incidentally older ones away from an appreciation of the blessings and benefits of the Gospel, and from their duties as Saints. The Lord, in the early rise of the Church, evidently foresaw the present situation, and through the Prophet Joseph warned His people to "beware of pride," lest, in the day when many of them would be rich, they should become "like the Nephites of old." That ancient people who dwelt on this continent sought for wealth and many obtained it. Because of their riches, fine clothes and superior facilities for education, they became proud and held their heads high in the air, regarding their poorer brethren and sisters as if they were made of inferior material. Similar conditions exist in our midst today among professed Latter-day Saints, and the situation was not a defensible spectacle. Class distinctions were becoming marked, and people were so proud of their finery that they delighted to have it described before the gaze of the public. This was a deplorable exhibition of human weakness. Christ, the Redeemer of the world, when He left the courts of glory and appeared in the capacity of Savior of mankind, in His meek and lowly condition, was spurned as unfit to enter what were regarded as the highest circles of Jewish society. Were He to appear now, in the same fashion as then, it is doubtful whether He would be considered fit to mingle in high-toned society of this city today. composed in part, at least, of some who profess to be His followers. Such distinctions in the community were objectionable, especially to the young. They led the youth of both sexes in the direction of frivolous and extravagant habits. A person had informed the speaker that he knew of a number of young men who spent everything they earned, and perhaps more, in order to have the opportunity of floating with the high society stream. Such an ambition was far from lofty, and exhibited a narrow view of the grand object of human existence. There were many social conditions calculated to draw people away from the path of salvation, and were greatly to be regretted, but the day of rectification would come, by the operation of God's economy in relation to His work.

PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

said that the High Council had passed a resolution to the effect that the young men should be trained and graduated in the lesser priesthood before being ordained to the office of Elders. Many who have been ordained to the latter office have been careless and indifferent. These should repent or be suspended from the Church. The Savior in His administrations to the Prophet Joseph said he wanted men who would keep His commandments and carry out His instructions.

The Latter-day Saints were a blessed people. This once barren waste had been made fruitful and productive. Our people were prosperous and happy, despite the pressure that had been brought to bear against them. One fact we should take to heart was that we were becoming more like the world. The control of our city was in the hands of strangers. Our men were no longer employed on the railroads they had built; they were being made hewers of wood and drawers of water. This was not an encouraging spectacle.

Riches were all right when put to proper use, but they would avail a man nothing if he lost his salvation. Our families were heritages from God. As their custodians we should be vigilant in our watchcare over them. We should so live that when sickness comes we could ask God for His blessings with the assurance that they would be freely given. Blasphemy should be shunned in every form. If we heard strangers speak of earthly fathers as they do of God, we would resent it as the greatest insult.

Twelve thousand dollars had been contributed towards the completion of the Temple during the last five months. More than \$100,000 would be required for that purpose. The Latter-day Saints should see to it that the sacred edifice was finished in a proper manner.

President Cannon advised the people to be honest in the payment of their tithes and offerings and the Lord would bless them, and their children would see that they were sincere in their pretensions. He continued for some time speaking on many important points, and giving excellent instructions, some of his remarks upon prevalent social distinctions among the Saints being delivered with much force and emphasis. He deplored the enticements that were reducing many of the young from the faith and duties of the Gospel, and requested all who loved the truth to exercise an influence for good. The discourse was impressive and appropriate, and a brief synopsis cannot convey an adequate idea of it.

The choir sang the anthem:

Let the mountains shout for joy.

Benediction by Apostle Abraham H. Cannon.

Conference then adjourned for six months.

DEATH OF ROBERT THOMAS.

Sunday, February 28th, at 9 o'clock, Elder Robert Thomas, of Provo, died at his residence in that town. The deceased came to this valley in 1847, entering it, in company with Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow, on the 22nd of July of that year, two days ahead of the main body of Pioneers. He was also a Pioneer of Provo. He settled on the site of that city in the spring of 1849. He was Major of the Nauvoo Legion and took part in all the conflicts with the Indians from the earliest days of the settlement of Utah. The funeral service will be held tomorrow, at 1 o'clock, in the Provo meetinghouse. Brother Thomas was a man of sterling integrity.