

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE



THE MISSIONARY FIELDS

Missionaries Visit the Fair.

Rotterdam, May 30, 1900.

A party of missionaries laboring here, including Elders Hinckley, Roloff, Nibley, Eardley and myself, having obtained leave of absence to enable us to visit the great Exposition in Paris, set out on May 29.

Our ride through Holland, Belgium and the north of France was a most delightful one, so different from riding on the train across the country at home. The scenery, instead of being mountainous or dry plains, is all rolling hills, and what added to its beauty was the fact that hardly a square foot of ground is uncultivated, but is simply a mass of flower gardens, or green fields. Beautiful green hedges lined each side of the track during the entire distance.

We arrived in Paris at 5:30 p.m., and quickly found a bus that took us to our hotel, where we had previously made arrangements for stopping, and which, by the way, is an American one throughout, run by a Mr. Griffin, formerly of Detroit, Michigan. It is situated in the Rue Dupont des Loges (Ave. Rapp), within two minutes' walk of one of the main thoroughfares. I tell you this for the benefit of anyone who may need such information. After enjoying a hearty meal, we strolled around Paris, taking in the many sights, and ending up the day by going to one of the numerous theaters. It would be impossible for me to describe the beauty of Paris, as she really is, so I will have to content myself with telling you of those things that particularly attracted my attention.

First, then, the cleanliness of the streets, and buildings. Everything, indeed, looked as if it had on its holiday attire. The broad streets and avenues next took my eye, as they were of everything that would mar their beauty. On one of the main thoroughfares, you can look for a distance of six miles in a direct line, and this is one of the things I noticed about all the streets, instead of twisting and turning in every conceivable shape, as is generally the case in most of the large cities, they run in straight lines.

Nearly all the streets are lined on both sides with trees, different from any that I have ever seen. They are kept well trimmed, and in appearance look like huge rose bushes in full bloom. Another thing that adds beauty to the streets is the striking conformity of the buildings; the numerous parks, statues, monuments, fountains, etc., seen on every side, lend an air of bewitching beauty to the city.

The following two days we set aside for seeing Paris before going to the fair, and accordingly secured places with a Cook's Excursion company, thinking that this would be the easiest and quickest way of seeing the principal places of interest.

The first place that we visited was the Grand Opera House (exterior), the largest theater in the world, covering a space of nearly three acres. Between the opera house and the Grand Opera House, there are five hundred houses, all of which are built to provide the site. Nearly every country of Europe has contributed materials for this magnificent structure, which cost nearly a million and a half pounds sterling. We had the pleasure of hearing a grand opera about which I will speak later on. The Church of St. Mary Magdalene must also be mentioned as one of the principal points of interest. It is built on the order of the early Greek architecture. The foundation was laid in 1764, but owing to divers causes it was not completed until 1842, at a total cost of \$250,000. Near here is the Place de la Concorde, the largest and finest square in Europe. In the center of the square stands the Luxor obelisk, which is a relic of the Egyptian empire. It is a solid piece of stone, 76 feet in height, and weighs 240 tons. There are also eight large statues in this square, representing the chief towns of France. I mention this square on account of it having such a tragic history. It was here that over 1,200 persons were crushed to death, and 2,000 seriously injured, in a panic which arose during a large celebration held there.

During the reign of terror in 1793, the guillotine was erected on this spot, and Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette with over 2,000 persons were decapitated.

The "Hotel des Invalides," founded in 1670 for decayed veterans, covers an area of 21 acres, and is here that the body of Napoleon III, his tomb being a large pit 36 feet in diameter, and 20 feet deep, made of solid granite and marble. We visited the spot where formerly stood the castle of the Bastille, which was destroyed at the outbreak of the French Revolution. Dickens' " Tale of Two Cities" was brought forcibly to my mind as I gazed on the spot where the old prison stood. We also had the pleasure of going through the historic cathedral Notre Dame, founded in 1163. This when last I said to hold 30,000 people. There were hundreds of pilgrims present, who had come from different parts of France to be "absolved." In the treasury are many old relics; they include fragments of the crown of thorns, and of the true cross, a nail from the cross, etc. (77)

We also visited the morgue wherein are exposed the bodies of all unknown persons found dead in the city of Paris. The bodies are exposed for three days, after which they are sold to medical institutions, unless previously claimed and carried away by friends.

From here we went to a "Child's Inebriate institution," where we saw about a dozen babies being brought up on the chicken plan.

Our second day's trip was to Versailles to see the palace of by-gone royalty.

Here we saw the apartments of Napoleon and Josephine, besides many old relics belonging to them. The gardens surrounding the palace are exceptionally fine, and are filled with numerous statues and fountains.

There is one large fountain here that costs \$2,000 every time it plays, which it does once a month, but for only twenty minutes.

One of the wings of the palace of Versailles is a fine collection of pictures that are said to be unrivaled by any in the world, and to have cost \$2,000,000. It is estimated that if all these pictures were placed side by side they would reach a distance of five miles!

the length of this palace is about the same as two of our city blocks.

After having returned to Paris we hired an automobile, and took a spin around the city. The rest of our time while in Paris, except Sunday, we spent in the fair. In general appearance the form of the exhibition platform is the outline of the exhibition platform as it does the two sides of the river Seine, their extremities broadening out in irregular shape. For the most part the buildings are completed, that is, outwardly. It seemed to me that they had the outside of the buildings, but the inside was not yet open to the public, and even in those that the exhibits were not all on display. The blame for this would seem to rest with the management in not having the buildings ready as I was told by several exhibitors that their goods had been on the ground for weeks. Enough was in readiness, however, to make us go at a pretty lively rate in order to see what we could see within the short time that we had at our disposal. I can only imagine how grand it will be when all is completed. Six weeks to two months will, I believe, see everything finished and in good running order. We were present at the opening of the American building Saturday, the 12th. Sousa's band was in attendance and there were also present hundreds of Americans. Hearing their voices and shouts of applause as the band played some of our national tunes and with "Old Glory" waving proudly above us, I can tell you I was proud with patriotism and made us feel quite as if I was in America once more.

In connection with the fair, I should mention the rolling platform, which runs around part of the exhibition, and which, being elevated, a good view of the exhibition can be had. It is a double platform, and these two platforms or footways, run at different speeds, being so calculated as to render it possible for the passenger to pass from the quay to that platform which runs at a lower speed, and thence to that running at the higher speed. It takes just three quarters of an hour to make the round, a person in order to keep up with it would be all but running.

We also ascended the great Eiffel tower, 986 feet high, surpassing anything of the kind, hitherto erected. The new building construction in the world is the Washington monument, which is 555 feet high. From the tower a splendid panorama of the surrounding country can be had. The view extending for over 50 miles. While we were there the wind was blowing a perfect gale, which made the tower sway as a reed. We had to go through it in such a hurry that my mind is all in a muddle as to what I saw.

Old relics, historic paintings, sculpture, art works, etc., are to me now a confused mass of things. I do not remember of seeing the Regent's diamond, weighing 133 C., and valued at \$250,000. A man guards this all the time. Also a few noted statues, and old paintings by artists of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, that I made notes of as we went along.

Monday night we went to the grand opera house, where we heard Wagner's "Tannhauser." I'll not try to describe to you the interior of this magnificent opera house. A person must really see it in order to appreciate its grandeur. The broad marble stairway and the large promenades are what particularly attracted my attention. Of the opera itself nothing can be said as it is so different from what we are used to. The order of instruments. Several times I found myself all but standing up in my seat; so carried away was I by the music.

We had an English program, which explained each song, so that we were enabled to follow the story, thereby making it much more interesting.

Tuesday night we went to the "Sarah Bernhardt Theater" and saw her in "D'Aragon." We couldn't understand a word of what she was saying, but she was so beautiful, and her voice was so sweet, and her acting was so good, that we were all the more interested.

Wednesday we returned to Rotterdam and I was glad to get back to my work.

In conclusion I will say that you do not have to be able to speak French in order to get around, an English is spoken on every hand, sufficiently at least to make your wants known.

T. L. WHITNEY.

"Josephite" Opposition.

Denver, Colo., June 19, 1900.

To the Editor:

The people generally treat us with much consideration, but some are very bitterly opposed to our testimony, and so that they can't thwart the efforts of the servants of God.

Saturday night, the 16th inst., we met as usual to hold a meeting. The people who were assembled, with few exceptions, paid great attention to our remarks, and all seemed to be peace and harmony. But after the benediction, the storm which had been threatening burst forth. A gentleman of the Josephite persuasion, told the people to remain, and he would tell them some "Mormon" doctrine, or Brighamism, as he never preached. He told them much of the history of the Church, and much that was not its history. The same old stories were brought forth and exploded, but the report was not very loud, for, as some of our friends told us, there was not the necessary force.

Our friends are still loyal to us, and the little opposition that has been manifested, has created a desire in the hearts of many for investigation. "Truth is mighty and will prevail."

The work in the mission is in a prosperous condition, considering the few we have to assist us.

We were informed that there was a scheme laid to steal some eggs at the last meeting, but they did not come. The "News" is a welcome visitor.

Your brother, J. A. McRae.

In Wyoming.

Tie Sliding, Wyoming, June 16, 1900.

To the Editor:

We are six Elders in the Wyoming conference of the Colorado mission, we are all in the best of health and trying to bring the Gospel before the people. Up to the present time there has

been but very little missionary work done in the Wyoming territory, but with the help of the Lord, the good people of Wyoming will have the privilege of hearing the glad tidings of great joy. We find the people very hospitable and willing to read our tracts. Many are anxious to learn something of the Gospel. We have the past few months had the pleasure of baptizing a number into the Church and have made many friends. The past few weeks we have been doing some work in the city of Laramie, Wyo., held several meetings on the streets, and had large audiences. Your Brother, CHRISTIAN PETERSEN.

In Regent's Park, London.

To the Editor: London, May 27, 1900.

A lovely warm morning in London, and the Sabbath day. After the Bible class held at 36 Penton street, presided over by Elder Hinton, we made a rapid walk to Regent's park, for our open air meeting.

The park is lovely, dressed in its dainty green dress, with beds of beautiful flowers. The hard, smooth walks are all nicely sprinkled, and many people are walking around in the happy sunshine, enjoying a beautiful spell from the close, dusty streets of London.

Elder Hindley leads the way, and we walk along to the place chosen for the meeting. We had met Elder E. T. Stevenson and L. Holbrook returning missionaries from New Zealand, and engaged in conversation. The two and a half miles are soon gotten over, and we take our place in a circle, in a pretty spot under the trees, where two other meetings, just a short distance away, are in progress. As soon as we commenced drawing the most of the ladies proved to be the redoubtable Schaler, stood up in a chair almost close to us, and began his harangue of abuse. In a few minutes one of the park guards went up to him and told him to move further away. He refused to do so, and still we could hear much of what he said. The people began to crowd around both us and him.

All were respectful who were listening to us but one man, who occasionally interrupted by sneers, and "O, is that what you say?" "Ambassador of Christ, O, is that what you say?"

Stevenson, then, ex-Senator Frank J. Cannon, who by his testimony and fervent preaching, drew the most of the ladies from the Jarman camp. Schaler was telling about Jarman, how he lived in Utah twelve years, but asked to have his name taken off the books, when he found what a wicked community they were. He said, "I do not want to be associated with you. You are a wicked community, and I do not want to be associated with you."

There were five ladies from Utah standing by him, who would have been glad of the opportunity to tell the people who were listening to him that he was a falsifier and the truth not in him. He has never been to Utah himself; only tells what somebody told him—the old rehash against "Mormonism." Some of the sisters wanted to answer, but the missionaries who have had to stand similar treatment ever since engaging in the work, realized it would be as useless as breathing out on the summer air. Seeing his listeners leaving, he preached and his Gospel, there Satan is by his side. Elder Hindley closed with forcible proof of the restoration of the Gospel, and warning the people to repent and be baptized. We stood a few minutes listening to the closing of the meeting, and then we left. We could hear Schaler tell about the "Mormons" killing the women in Utah in cold blood. As we turned to leave, he tauntingly cried out, "Will you come again next Sunday?" One lady from Utah indignantly said, "Why don't you go and hit him?" But that is not the province of the missionary.

This is Schaler's first appearance for the summer, but from now on truth and error will stand side by side, the one meek and lowly, the other bold and defiant, even as it was in the morning of creation.

Your Sister in the cause of truth, L. D. ALDER.

Signs Following Believers.

Oldtown, La Fayette Co., Florida, June 1st, 1900.

To the Editor:

On the 16th of February, myself and companion, Elder F. P. Jones, crossed the Suwannee, at what is known as Hatch Bend, into this county, on the 16th of February. We were assigned to this county at the Jacksonville conference, and left Jacksonville on the night of the 12th of February. After dark we rode thirty-five miles. Then came a walk of over six miles, and we arrived at our destination safe and sound. We have preached the Gospel to all that would listen, and have been well paid. Twenty-one have been baptized; three children blessed and the most of them are now members of the people in this county. The Lord has showered down blessings and signs have followed the believers. Many have been raised from beds of sickness and one man, who has been totally blind in one eye for two years, has been restored to his sight. We will leave this county on the 6th of June. There are many faithful Saints here.

Your brother, N. A. DECKER.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

Morgan Stake.

The Saints of the Morgan Stake of Zion assembled at the Stake house, Morgan City, Sunday and Monday, June 10th and 11th, 1900, in conference capacity. Elders John W. Taylor and Reed Smoot, of the Council of Apostles, were the principal speakers. The main topics upon which they spoke were: Tithing, the Word of Wisdom, and the existence and personality of God. They implored the young people to be virtuous and upright and unpolluted from the sins of the world.

The General and local authorities were presented to the people and sustained by unanimous vote.

Besides the above named Apostles, there were present in the stand, the acting counselors (the president of the Stake having recently died), the High Council, Bishops of the various wards and the officers of the associations; also Elder Richard Lambert of Salt Lake City.

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Although the Stake has been deprived of its president, through death, and of the president of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, of the president of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association, and of the president of the Elders' quorum, through removal, yet Counselor Samuel Francis reported the Stake and its organization as being in a flourishing condition, and the people trying to serve the Lord.

H. K. PORTER, Clerk.

Davis Stake.

Centerville, Utah, June 19.—The quarterly conference of the Davis Stake, held on Sunday and Monday, June 17 and 18. The meetings were held in a large bower. A short session of the Sunday school of the Centerville ward was held on Sunday morning. There were present during the two days of conference, of the general authorities, President Joseph F. Smith, of the First Presidency; B. H. Roberts, of the First Council of Seventies; and on Monday, Elder Heber J. Grant, of the Council of the Apostles. There was a full attendance of the Stake and local authorities. At the morning session on Sunday, 10:30 a. m. Elder John W. Hess made a few opening remarks. He expressed his gratitude for the privilege of being able to attend conference, he having just recovered from a severe sickness. He knew that he had been preserved through the goodness of God and through the faith and prayers of the Saints. Elder J. H. Grant, of the Stake presidency, reported the condition of the Davis Stake. He said the people of the Stake are united and striving to keep the commandments of God. The majority of the Latter-day Saints are tithing payers. There were a few not yet fully converted to that principle.

President Joseph F. Smith spoke of the Spirit of the Lord's prayer and the object of the Savior giving this prayer to His disciples. He referred to the Council of the Seventies and the revelation of the Lord's prayer, and the need of our Savior's time and to the prayers of the hypocrites of our day. President Smith told the people to have no set prayer but to pray with their hearts, pray for what they need; pray as a child would ask a favor of its parents.

Session 2 p. m., Sunday.—After the opening exercises and the administering of the Sacrament, Elders Israel Willey and Ezra Hatch who had lately returned from the Society Islands, after an absence of eight months, were called on. They spoke briefly of their experience while on their mission and testified to the truth of the latter-day work. President Joseph F. Smith then addressed the congregation. He alluded to his mission while in his youth to the natives of the Sandwich Islands. He also spoke of the spirit of the Gospel and the letter of the Gospel. He exhorted the Saints to seek the spirit of the Gospel which is the spirit of love, the spirit of edification, the spirit of humility. Elder B. H. Roberts made a few remarks, testifying to the truth of the words spoken during the day and endorsing them with all his soul.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Elder John W. Hess was the first speaker. He spoke on the subject of the Spirit of the Lord, and good judgment. Elder Heber J. Grant spoke very forcibly on the duties of a Latter-day Saint. President Joseph F. Smith spoke on the lives and testimony of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon.

At the afternoon session the General and Stake authorities were presented and unanimously sustained. President Joseph F. Smith spoke on the temporal duties of the Saints, the law of tithing, and the need of the Saints to be united and striving to keep the commandments of God. Elders J. H. Grant and B. H. Roberts, of the Council of the Apostles, were called on. Elder Lorenzo Schofield furnished excellent singing and music during conference. Conference adjourned for three months to meet at Farmington.

JOHN J. SMITH, Clerk.

Pocatello Stake.

Pocatello, Idaho, June 17.—The Pocatello Stake conference was held in the church owned by the Latter-day Saints at the upper end of Center street. Present were Elder M. F. Cowley, of the Council of the Apostles; Elder J. Kimball, of the First Council of the Seventies; also Elders Wm. C. Parkinson and Hyde, of the Stake presidency; and a number of the leading authorities from the Stake.

The conference was held at 9 a. m. Elder Cowley's sermon to the young was one that must be reported in full to do justice.

The conference was continued at the close of the Sunday school. Apostle Cowley called attention to the presence of Elder Sherr, who is here in the interest of the "News." That paper, he said, should be in every family. The speaker knew of one lady in Montana who said that while her husband had not been in the Church for seventeen years, she had been a faithful member, and her faith was found in her Desert News.

Elder J. G. Kimball spoke upon the duties and responsibilities resting upon the people. Remember, he said, that there is no greater honor that can be conferred upon men than the Holy Priesthood.

At the afternoon meeting Elder Parkinson reported that the ten wards of the Stake were in an excellent working order, and that union and good feeling prevailed. The Stake was in numbers, and now as the reservation will be opened, our Stake will also grow.

Bishop Levi Wright said he had made a thirty-five mile trip to attend this conference and reported the Marsh center ward as a first-class mission, scattered over twelve miles. Still the people attend Sabbath schools, and all organizations have had a grand success. Bishop McCannan Wards also reported his ward in good condition.

Cowley's sermon to the young was one that must be reported in full to do justice. He gave a brief history of the rise and progress of the work of God in these last days. After singing and benediction conference adjourned till p. m.

Elder J. G. Kimball organized the 15th quorum of Seventies for the Pocatello Stake of Zion, with the following seven presidents: A. W. Henderson, of Garden Creek ward; A. M. Boyce, of Dempsey ward; J. H. Hinkley, of Cambridge ward; J. B. Hinkley, of A. L. Edge-

ley, of Pocatello, and Lester Thorne, of Rockland. This organization took place on Sunday afternoon after meeting.

On June 17, at 8 p. m. a very large audience attended this service. Elder Wm. A. Hyde, of the Stake presidency, was the first speaker. He said he desired to bear his testimony to the truth of the Gospel. He knew that the Lord had spoken in these last days, and that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was established. He further spoke upon the gifts and graces of the Gospel, and advised all to keep the commandments of God.

Elder Arthur Edgely bore his testimony of the divine mission of Joseph Smith, and that the signs and wonders which he had seen, and that he followed them that believe. Elder J. G. Kimball read the Revelation given 1831, in Jackson Co., Ill., and spoke upon the necessity of men using the talents that God has given them. He warned the young people against the prevailing sins of the generation, and related several cases of persons who had disregarded this counsel to their deep and lasting sorrow.

Prof. Spillman and company sang a quartet. Elder Cowley congratulated the choir on their beautiful singing; also the Pocatello Sunday school, which was a great credit to the ward. He then adjourned conference till 10 a. m. Monday and pronounced the benediction.

On Monday, June 18, Bishop Cannon reported the Pocatello ward, as increasing in number and good works. There is a wonderful increase in our tithing, he remarked. Every Bishop of this Stake attended the conference.

Elder C. A. Shaw said he had been a member of this Church for nearly fifty years, and that he had seen the signs and wonders which he had seen, and that he followed them that believe. He had never been without a living testimony of the divine mission of Joseph Smith, and that this Church came from God. It was born on American soil, and needed no naturalization papers.

Elder J. G. Kimball spoke upon the restoration of the Gospel to the Prophet Joseph. We love, he said, the Priesthood, but we do not trust in the arm of flesh, but we respect and honor the Priesthood. He urged the people to sustain their leaders, and gave many instructions in regard to the building up the Kingdom of God.

Elder Parkinson stated that this meeting would be the conference. A Relief Society conference was announced for the afternoon, and a public meeting at 8 p. m.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder H. J. Fowler, of this city, returned home on the 18th of this month from a mission to the Southern States. He was set apart on the 10th of May, 1898, and was assigned first to the Middle Tennessee conference, where he labored for sixteen months. He was then transferred to the North Carolina conference, where he remained six months. After that he returned to the Tennessee conference, where he stayed the remainder of the time. He says he had a most enjoyable time, notwithstanding many trials. He found many investigators and honest friends. He has enjoyed good health during his absence.

Elder F. A. Gay, of Joseph, Sevier county, returned on the 18th of this month from a mission to the Southern States, for which he was set apart on the 10th of May, 1898, and was assigned first to the North Carolina conference all the time. He had good health most of the time and enjoyed his labors very much. He found a great many hospitable homes and made many friends among the people.

Elder J. P. Fugal, of Pleasant Grove, Utah county, who was set apart to a mission to Scandinavia Oct. 15, 1897, returned home June 18th, in good health and spirits. He labored for three months in the Scandinavian States, and returned on the 18th of June. He found the people very friendly and the work making favorable progress.

Elder Isaac William Perry, of Cedar City, Iron county, returned on the 18th of this month from a mission to the Southern States. He was set apart on the 10th of May, 1898, and was assigned to the Middle Tennessee conference, where, he says, he enjoyed his labors very much. The work is prospering there. He was set apart on the 27th of April, 1898.

Elder Christa Hyldahl, of this city, returned on the 15th of this month from a mission. He was set apart on the 12th of May, 1898, and went first to Chicago, where he labored for six months. He was then called to go to the Southern States, where he has been laboring in the Chattanooga conference, where, he says, he enjoyed his labors very much. He was set apart on the 27th of April, 1898.

Elder J. A. Robinson, of Fillmore, Millard county, who was set apart on the 10th of May, 1898, for a mission to the Southern States. He was assigned to the East Tennessee conference, where he remained all the time. He returned home on the 17th of this month. He says he enjoyed his mission very much, and had a very good time.

Elder E. E. Willey, of Bountiful, Davis county, who was set apart in April, 1897, for a mission in the Society Islands, returned home June 18th, in good health and spirits. He was the first Elder to labor in the Leeward Islands, going from Tahiti, the mission headquarters, where a number of converts were made. He labored in the mission office, and assisted in the translation of the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants into the Tahitian language. The work in the Society Islands, he says, is in a prosperous condition. A \$1,000 chapel is now under way on the island of Huahine, which is already paid for and will soon be completed. Elder A. T. Hatch, also of Bountiful, returned with Elder Willey from the same mission. He also left for his mission with Elder Willey.

Elder Le Preston of Benson, Cache Co., returned on the 19th of this month from a mission to the Southern States, for which he was set apart on the 21st of April, 1898. His field of labor was first in the East Kentucky conference. When the North Kentucky conference was organized, he was called to that part, and he remained there until released. Elder Preston says he had good health and enjoyed his mission. His labor was on the frontier, figuratively speaking, and he returns with the highest recommendations for faithfulness in the work.

Elder Parley P. Jensen of this city returned, on the 20th of this month, from a mission to Scandinavia, for which he was set apart on the 8th of October, 1897. On his arrival in Copenhagen he was assigned to thealborg conference, where he remained three months. He then went to the Christiania conference, Norway, where he labored until released. The last two months he travelled in Germany, Belgium, France and Great Britain. He says he had enjoyed his mission, having had a good time during his absence.

Elder John H. Bott Jr. of Brigham City, Utah, was honorably released on the 18th of this month, from his missionary labors in California. He was set apart on June 29, 1898, and labored in the northern cities of the State with marked success. He says the mission at present is in a better condition than ever. It is prosperous, and all the indications are for a good harvest. The mission at present is in a better condition than ever. It is prosperous, and all the indications are for a good harvest. The mission at present is in a better condition than ever. It is prosperous, and all the indications are for a good harvest.

The Kingdom of Heaven.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

Remarks made at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, May 20, 1900.

by

ELDER JOHN NICHOLSON.

I ask you to give me your faith and sympathy, that I may be able to say something that shall be of profit. I have listened with interest to the remarks that have been made by Bishop Clawson. They are suggestive in their character. I noted with pleasure the faith that he exhibited in God taking cognizance of the actions of His children here, whether they be good or evil. It is our faith, as a people, that all the inhabitants of the earth are under the eye of Omnipotence. The Almighty penetrates the recesses of the human heart; He knows the purposes of men, and rewards them accordingly.

This is a wonderful community, unique from every standpoint. But the Latter-day Saints are not understood, neither is the character of their work comprehended by the people at large. We claim that this is the beginning of the establishment of the kingdom of God upon the earth. Ever since the days of Christ those who have believed in Him have been praying in reference to that kingdom; for the Savior taught His disciples the correct manner of petitioning the Father. All are more or less familiar with this special prayer which is the most remarkable petition of which we have any knowledge. It comprehends much in a few words. "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." It is evident, however, that the majority of those who have been thus praying have done so without understanding, because it is a prayer for the establishment of a system upon the earth that is commensurate with the will of the Father. The Kingdom of God may be done on earth. The Kingdom of heaven must come from heaven, because subjugation to God's will is a condition that exists there and is not of earthly origin.

The Kingdom of heaven has been offered to the inhabitants of the earth at different periods in the history of this planet; but it has invariably been rejected. Why has it been rejected? Because the people have not understood the agency of mankind. Men are free agents unto themselves, having power to reject or accept anything that is presented to them, whether it be beneficial or otherwise. In the exercise of this prerogative men in former dispensations have arrayed themselves against the establishment of the government of God upon the earth. They have slain the prophets and those who were sent into them with a message direct from heaven, and have been obliterated from the earth the power and authority of God.