

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, April 19, 1891, commencing at 2 p.m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding. The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join
In work so pleasant, so divine.

Prayer was offered by Bishop William B. Preston.

The choir sang the hymn:

He died! the Great Redeemer died,
And Israel's daughters wept around.

The Priesthood of the Twenty-first Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER WILLIAM SPRY

Was called to address the congregation. He said it was pleasing to gather together on such occasions as this and listen to the Word of God, to the principles of the gospel of life everlasting as uttered by those who spoke to the congregation under the influence and power of the Holy Ghost. As Latter-day Saints, understanding the Gospel as it had been revealed again from the heavens, they felt that inasmuch as the promise was made unto them that if they would do the will of the Father, they might have a claim upon the promptings and inspiration of the Holy Ghost. The Gospel was sweet to the Latter-day Saint; it was joyous to his ear, and he delighted in living it in his everyday life; for it was "the power of God unto salvation."

No other people on the face of the earth entertained the same ideas pertaining to spiritual things as the Latter-day Saints. So far as religious matters were concerned they occupied a peculiar and distinct position. He presumed it was designed in the providence of Almighty God that this should be the case. They believed in many things which were not accepted by Christendom; at the same time, they held that they had followed the admonition of the Savior, who, addressing the multitude, said that if they would but do the will of the Father they should know of the doctrine whether it was of God or man. As Latter-day Saints they claimed that they had obeyed the commandments of Almighty God and exercised faith in the promises which He had made unto the children of men. Their Elders who went abroad among the nations made the same promises to the people as did the Apostles anciently; and there were numbers ready to accept their testimony and believe them to be men of God. As a result of this thousands had gathered together in the valleys of these mountains.

A peculiarity among the Latter-day Saints was their belief in the communication between the earth and the heavens—that God was just as capable in this age of making known to us His mind and will as He ever had been since the days of father Adam. They saw nothing irrational in this. They did not claim, however, as did the Christian world generally, that the various gifts and blessings enjoyed by the Church were

placed in it to give it strength and popularity among the people; but they did claim that the gift of healing by the laying on of hands, the casting out of devils, the speaking in tongues, and prophesying were not confined to any particular age of the world—that whenever the true Gospel had been upon the earth these gifts and blessings accompanied it.

The Latter-day Saints had been persecuted and all manner of evil spoken falsely against them because of their belief. They had been brought out of the world because of the principles they had espoused. They had left its ways, laid aside their traditions and false notions in regard to religion, and accepted the truth when presented before them. They had come out on a platform of their own, and stood prominent among all other people today. Because of this prominence and distinction they were looked upon as separated from the rest of mankind and hated because of their belief in the name of Christ and the acceptance of the principles which He promulgated. But there was nothing mysterious in connection with the belief of the Latter-day Saints, and when the light of reason was thrown upon it, it was made so plain that, in the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "A wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein." The honest in heart accepted the true Gospel with gratitude when they heard it from the lips of the Elders, and to all Israel today it was a familiar sound. The Latter-day Saints accepted the Bible as far as it was correctly translated. They did not believe in mystifying its sayings, but took it literally, for no man had the right to construe it to suit his own individual notions.

In this great latter-day work the Lord had a dispensation to usher in, and following the course He had always pursued in relation to the children of men He selected some one to whom He could communicate His will, giving him instructions which should be followed in order that they in this age might be brought to a knowledge of the truth. While men in our day held that this was strange and contrary to their views, yet at the same time it was the Lord's way, and He always did what seemed unto Him best. So the Lord revealed himself unto the Prophet Joseph, just as He did to Adam, Moses, Abraham, and all the other Prophets who had had communication with the heavens. It would remain the same so long as there was a soul to redeem. The principles believed in by the Latter-day Saints were superior to those entertained by the world, because they came direct from God; they were based upon truth, righteousness, honesty and virtue, and hence were superior to man-made doctrines.

The Lord was no respecter of persons, but He was desirous that men everywhere should repent and come to a knowledge of the Gospel, and it was because of this that their Elders went forth to proclaim the true plan of life and salvation. There was a religion that had something tangible about it; it was not a myth; it was something which concerned them both now and hereafter. The Latter-day Saints could not afford to lay down their convictions or prove recreant to the trust committed to their care

in order to place themselves on a line with the world and obtain its good will. Something better than the praise of men awaited the faithful among them, and therefore they declined to yield up their manhood and integrity just for the sake of popularity. They should find satisfaction in the knowledge that their course was accepted by Almighty God.

The speaker concluded by bearing personal testimony to the truth of the Gospel and the divine mission of Joseph Smith, who, he said, was one of the greatest Prophets that ever lived. This work would triumph notwithstanding every obstacle thrown in its way.

The choir sang the anthem:

How beautiful upon the mountains.

The benediction was pronounced by Elder E. Beasley.

LECTURE ON THE NILE.

After an adjournment of two weeks, the Students' Society convened last Friday evening at the Social Hall, Instructor J. J. Walton presiding. After singing by the College Male Glee Club (a selection entitled: "Hall, Silent Night" and the invocation) a piano solo, entitled "Caprice Hongrois" was rendered by Miss Cumorah Smith.

Mr. C. R. Savage then gave his lecture on "The Solution of the Nile Mystery." The speaker referred to the mystery which anciently involved the sources of the Nile, also to the tradition that that large volume of water originated in some of the mountains existing in the moon. A general topographical outline of Africa was then given and brief reference made to the most important explorers of the dark continent. The great adventurer and explorer, Dr. David Livingston, was spoken of as a God-fearing man, and of his being inspired by a heavenly influence to perform the work which he did. His character, a brief sketch of his life, his travels, and his discoveries in Africa were delineated, and of his being lost to the world during the years 1869-70-71, while in the heart of Africa investigating the sources of the Congo. Mention was made of the anxiety which prevailed the world over concerning the sudden disappearance of Livingston, and of the proposition made to Mr. Henry M. Stanley by Mr. James Gordon Bennett of the New York Herald to go to Africa and find him. Mr. Stanley accepted the proposition and said, "I will find him God being my helper." The life and character of Stanley were laconically treated upon, the lecturer mentioning the principal events of his life. At the age of fifteen years he became a school teacher; worked his passage across the Atlantic as a cabin boy to New Orleans; his return to England; his account of the Abyssinian war, and the part taken under General Wolseley in the Ashantee war. Attention was next drawn to the natives of Africa, of their vast number, there being 130,000,000 south of 10.0 north latitude, of their secluded condition, their woful ignorance, and their wild and barbaric state. Zanzibar was referred to as possessing the scum and the offscouring of the whole continent as well as all elements necessary for the production of a hades in very deed. It was here