

May peace abide with you, and may the blessing of God our Heavenly Father abound in our midst; may the earth be blessed for your sakes; may you be prosperous in the labor of your hands and in the desires of your hearts in righteousness before the Lord. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

also spoke. He said he felt that this was a happy day for Zion. The Lord had indeed been very kind to them, and he knew that there was a feeling of thanksgiving and rejoicing in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints at having the privilege of again seeing in their midst and hearing the voice of President Joseph F. Smith. It was an occasion that they had all long desired to witness, and they could therefore understand by their feelings what were those of President Smith, and his emotions at once more having the opportunity of meeting in that tabernacle in freedom with the people of God. It seemed almost like a dream when they remembered that upwards of seven years had elapsed since Brother Smith met with them before. Nevertheless, seven years had gone by, and during that time great and eventful changes had taken place. The Church of Christ had passed through an exceedingly stormy period. It had seemed, perhaps, at times, that it would be overwhelmed, and that they would never emerge, as a people, from the difficulties which environed them. But the promises of God had thus far been fulfilled, and would be fulfilled as faithfully in the future as in the past.

He believed that he only echoed the feeling of all the leading brethren, and of the brethren generally—certainly of the faithful ones—when he said that in the darkest hours of their affliction—if they might be so termed—when everything appeared to be enveloped in gloom and there was no light, apparently, very far ahead—there existed but one feeling in their hearts, namely, that a better day was about to dawn upon Zion, when they would emerge from all their troubles stronger, purer, better understood and more influential—speaking in relation to the Church itself—than had ever been the case before. He himself had never had any other feeling, not for one second. To him the future had appeared radiant with hope. It had seemed a long period for Brother Smith to be absent from them; it had been a constant source of regret to them that he could not have the liberty which they desired him to possess. But he (the speaker) had felt much encouraged by the thought that the day would soon come when they would again enjoy his society in public and hear his voice lifted up in defense of the principles of truth and righteousness. He could bear his own testimony to that which Brother Smith had said concerning his own unswerving devotion to those principles. No man could have shown more devotion than he in this regard. No one who knew him would question his integrity, his valor, or his firmness for a moment. His presence would again add strength to the First Presidency and to the authorities of the Church. Seven years was a long time—nearly half as

long as the Prophet Joseph lived after the Church was organized, and the First Presidency had not appeared in public as a First Presidency during that period. Therefore, he repeated, this was a happy day for Zion, and one in which to rejoice exceedingly before God, who had so blessed them. He regretted greatly the death of President John Taylor, because he had desired very much that he might live to regain that freedom which he had been compelled to seek elsewhere than here. It would have been a joyous day to the late President Taylor to have had the privilege of meeting again with the Saints in that tabernacle; but God in His providence ordered it otherwise. He was glad that Brother Joseph F. Smith was left, and with the rest of them had lived to behold this day and to rejoice at the liberty which they now possessed. The Latter-day Saints had learned much by the experience through which they had passed, and he trusted that this would prove not only profitable to them individually but as the people of God. It was a cause for great thanksgiving that the Lord still poured out His Holy Spirit in power upon them, that the voice of inspiration and revelation had not ceased, that there was still communication between God and man. When he looked back upon his own life and thought of what God had done for him through revelation, communicating to him His mind and will, his heart swelled with great gratitude.

How long would this Church endure unless God bestowed these blessings upon those who guided the people? It would tumble to pieces quickly. Although the path might not be open to them to the full extent of their desire, though they might not be able to see any great distance ahead, and somethings might appear very strange to them in the course of their daily life, yet there had not been a moment since the organization of this Church until the present when God had left His people without the Spirit of revelation and inspiration to guide them. They had never been required to take a single step in their past career, and would not in the future, without having the voice and will of God at hand to direct them. He heard their prayers, and led them in the path of safety and of peace. The mind and will of God were more and more plainly manifested unto them. The course which they should take was made clear, so that they might not stumble or become a prey to uncertainty and doubt.

Did they suppose that Wilford Woodruff or his counselors in and of themselves could guide this Church or hold this people together for one week. He well knew that they could not. How then were they held together? By the Spirit and power of God, and that alone. They would be broken into fragments in a very short time but for this. The unfaltering trust and confidence of the Saints in God in all the trials and sorrows which they had endured from the time when in destitution they trod their weary way across the almost illimitable plains—with insufficient raiment and scarcely enough food to eat—was a wonder to many. And it was indeed a wonderful thing—one of the wonders of the nineteenth century.

As an eminent literary man once said to him, the grandest book of the age might be written upon what had been done by the Latter-day Saints on coming to Salt Lake Valley. No man that ever lived, unless inspired of God, could have led a people broken into fragments and stripped and destitute as were the Latter-day Saints when they entered this valley in early times, and especially in the year 1847.

The speaker referred to the great inducements offered to the people at that time to go and seek their fortunes in the gold diggings of California, but despite their poverty-stricken condition, the bright prospects held out had no attractions for them, and they preferred to remain here and serve God. Would any other community, he asked, religious or otherwise, on the face of this broad earth, have done this under the same circumstances, with such uninviting prospects before them? He answered, no. Was it the influence of President Brigham Young as a man that held the people together? Not at all. No human being could have done this of his own power alone. It was the power of Almighty God that did it, the outpouring of the Spirit of God; and when President Brigham Young gave counsel to the people, there was a response in the heart of every faithful man and woman; for they knew that that counsel was from God.

The Latter-day Saints knew when men were speaking sound doctrine and giving correct counsel, and vice versa, because they had the testimony of the Spirit of God with them.

After showing that the same gifts, promises and blessings accompanied this church as that of primitive times, the speaker dwelt upon the duties and obligations resting upon the Saints and expressed the earnest hope that they would always live so close to God as to know at all times His mind and will. Let them pray unto Him fervently and humbly, asking Him to give them knowledge and to guide them continually by His unerring counsel.

The choir sang the anthem:

From afar, gracious Lord, Thou hast gathered thy flock.

The benediction was pronounced by President Joseph F. Smith.

MEXICO AND THE "MORMONS."

EASTERN papers have published pretty extensively reports of the success of "Mormon" colonizers in Mexico, with more or less exaggerated accounts of the "migration from Utah," as though the Saints were almost evacuating this Territory. The following is translated from the *Revista Internacional*, published at Juarez, Mexico, and will be read with interest as coming from the neighborhood in Mexico where the "Mormons" are located:

In few parts of the republic has colonization given as good results as here. The proof of this assertion is that it is a rare thing that colonies are found in so flourishing a condition as those which have been established within the last six years in this district.

This is without doubt due in the first place to the just, equitable and benefi-