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THE RELIEF SOCIETY JUBILEE.

A large audience, chiefly ladies, gathered March 17th, at 10 o'clock at the Tabernacle to celebrate the organization of the Relief Society fifty years ago, on March 17, 1842.

On the stand were Joseph F. Smith of the First Presidency, Apostles John Henry Smith and Abraham H. Cannon, President Angus M. Cannon, Dr. James E. Talmage, and the following officers of the Relief society: President Zina D. H. Young, Counselors Jane S. Richards, and Bathsheba W. Smith; Sarah M. Kimball, secretary; Dr. Romania B. Pratt, Assistant Secretary; M. Isabella Horne, treasurer, and Zina Y. W. Card, and Emeline B. Wells, cor. secretary.

The exercises were opened with the choir singing:

O my Father, Thou that dwellest.

Prayer was offered by President Angus M. Cannon.

The choir and congregation joined in singing:

How firm a foundation,
Ye Saints of the Lord.

PRESIDENT ZINA D. H. YOUNG

delivered a brief but eloquent address in which she welcomed the audience on this great occasion. This is a day, she said, when the daughters of Zion extend their hand of fellowship to all who are engaged in the great work of the Relief Society all over the world. The object of this society is to do good by extending a helping hand in every direction. The speaker expressed a wish that God might bless all her sisters in their labors for the poor and suffering, and that the work might continue to grow in importance. But while attending to the duty of looking after the poor, it was also necessary to attend to the duties at home and feel that these duties are pleasures as well as duties.

The children should be brought up in the fear of God and be taught to pray, and not be neglected. The speaker would plead with her sisters to take good care of their homes, also to support the *Woman's Exponent*, and to do good in every respect, notwithstanding the fact that our work is not always encouraging. May we be faithful in our work. This is a grand occasion.

ZINA Y. W. CARD

read the revelation given to Emma Smith, as found in Doctrine and Covenants.

APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

addressed the audience. He felt it a great honor, he said, to meet with so worthy an assembly as the representatives of the Relief Society. It must fill the hearts of the Saints with joy to think of the glorious work the sisters have done. We cannot conceive of how great a help they have been to the Church, although we know of many houses to which they have carried comfort and brought relief in sickness and affliction. God has been with them in their work. Many miraculous cures have been effected through their prayers, and this has strengthened the testimony of many. But the work in future will be even greater than that in the past. There is an opportunity for our sisters to exercise their talents among the people. Charity, it is said, is misapplied, if bestowed on idlers; not only young men, but also young women should be put in a position to use their brains and their hands. The speaker related what he had seen in other parts of the world where young ladies in schools are instructed in all things pertaining to the calling of women. Among us some young people think it a disgrace to work. They forget their future duties as wives and mothers and are therefore but poorly prepared for those duties, when called upon to perform them. It is necessary that they should be prepared, and not cause disunion in the families as is apt to follow if young men after marriage discover that their companions are unequipped to take care of their homes. Here is a field for the Relief Societies. God is with the sisters, and the speaker hoped they might ever enjoy His blessing.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

of the first organization of the L. D. S. Relief society, prepared by Sarah M. Kimball, secretary, was read by Elder James E. Talmage. The following is a full account of the first meeting:

By invitation of the President of the Church, a number of sisters convened in the Masonic Lodge room, on the 17th of March, 1842, President Joseph Smith, Elder John Taylor and Willard Richards were present.

President Smith stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of making more complete the organization of the Church by organizing the women in the order of the Priesthood.

John Taylor was called to the chair and Willard Richards acted as secretary. After singing and prayer, a

vote was taken to know if all were satisfied with the sisters present and willing to acknowledge them in good fellowship and admit them to all the privileges of the institution about to be organized. All being satisfied, the names of those present were taken as follows:

Emma Smith,	Elizabeth Jones,
Martha Knight,	Leonora Taylor,
Elvira A. Coles,	Eliza R. Snow,
Sarah M. Cleveland,	Sophia Packard,
Phebe Ann Hawkes,	Bathsheba W. Smith,
Margaret A. Cook,	Sophia Robinson,
Desdemona Fulmer,	Philinda Herrick,
Elizabeth Ann Whitney,	Phebe M. Wheeler,
Sarah M. Kimball,	Sophia R. Marks.

President Smith then explained some of the duties that would devolve on members of the society, said they could provoke the brethren to good works, look after the needs of the poor, and perform charitable acts. Women must assist in correcting the morals and strengthening the virtues of the community. Said it is now in order for the sisters to elect a president to preside over the Society and let her choose two counselors to assist in the duties of her office. He would ordain them, and let them preside just as the Presidency preside over the Church, and if they needed his instruction they could ask and they would be pleased to give it from time to time. Let the Presidency serve as a constitution and their decisions become precedents for you to act upon.

If officers are wanted to carry out these designs of the Institution, let them be appointed and set apart as Teachers, Deacons, etc., are among us.

Elizabeth A. Whitney moved, and Sophia Packard seconded the motion, that Emma Smith be elected president of the society. The vote was put by the chairman and pronounced unanimous. The president-elect made choice of Sarah M. Cleveland and Elizabeth Ann Whitney as her counselors. Eliza R. Snow was appointed secretary, Phebe M. Wheeler assistant secretary and Elvira A. Coles treasurer.

President Joseph Smith read the revelation to Emma Smith from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and stated that she was ordained at the time the revelation was given, to expound the Scriptures, to teach, etc.

He then read scriptures to show that an elect lady is one elected to preside. By request of President Joseph Smith, Apostle John Taylor ordained Sarah M. Cleveland and Elizabeth Ann Whitney to be counselors to and assist President Emma Smith in the duties