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CHARLES W. PENROSE, . . . EDITOR.

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THE LATE CONFERENCE.

THE General Conference which closed on Sunday, April 6th, the sixtieth anniversary of the organization of the Church, was one of the most delightful and profitable occasions of its kind. It was probably as largely attended as any previous gathering of the Saints. At the last session the Tabernacle and Assembly Hall were both densely packed, while a large number of people remained on the grounds, being unable to gain admittance to either building. This feature did not look very promising for the fulfilment of the predictions of those who are constantly asserting that "Mormonism" is undergoing a process of disintegration. If the breaking up of the Church goes on at the present rate it will soon be necessary to construct a building double the size of the Tabernacle to accommodate its general assembly at conference times.

The fraternal disposition manifested by the Saints during conference was pleasant to behold. The renewal of old acquaintanceships and forming of new ones were marked features of the occasion, while the unity and brotherly feeling of the great concourse showed the harmonizing effect of the spirit of the Gospel and its wonderful power in making a homogeneous community from people largely gathered from the various nations of the earth and reared under a wide variety of conditions.

The leading brethren who addressed the multitude spoke with no uncertain sound. Their utterances were vigorous and clear, and were carried to the hearts and minds of the people by the unction of the Spirit of Truth. The Saints were shown how they could shape their temporal affairs in line with the United Order, revealed in the early rise of the Church through the Prophet Joseph. This could be done by individuals regarding their possessions as stewardships, and operating them actively for the gen-

eral benefit as well as individual profit, and where persons were blessed with surplus it should be used for Zion, in the establishment of manufactures, that the people may be provided with labor, and especially that the young may not, for lack of opportunities, be compelled to grow up in idleness. In all matters it should be esteemed the duty of each not to live and act for self, but with a view to the general weal.

The necessity to guard against being so engrossed in temporalities as to curtail the growth of spiritual power was urged upon the Saints. Each department demanding its due share of attention. If the spiritual nature is allowed to lie dormant, stultification is the necessary result, effort being needful to develop it. There was a strong advocacy in favor of the cultivation of the Spirit of revelation, to which the humblest is entitled, within the sphere of his calling, upon the predicate of faithfulness and diligence. It is the misfortune of the world that they repudiate revelation, that being the power by which people are brought into oneness, and which will ultimately solve all the intricate questions which are puzzling the most powerful minds of the age. A centre of light is formed and all who receive of its spirit in any part of the earth will eventually be attracted toward it.

It was indicated in the instructions given that an important condition for a basis of the enjoyment of the Spirit of Truth is the preservation of the body from impurities of every description, by the closest adherence to chastity, and by refraining from the use of those things which the Lord states, in the Word of Wisdom, are not good for man. Among these are strong and hot drinks, and tobacco.

The admonitions given in relation to guarding against the spread of unsound doctrine were timely. There is plenty of scope in the great field of revealed truth for the most active and comprehensive minds, without it being necessary to launch out in the direction of vague uncertainties. Neither is it necessary for men to publish everything that may have been manifested to them individually, as such a course is taking that which is given for a personal purpose out of its sphere.

One of the most vital subjects dwelt upon was the church school movement, a cause worthy of the strongest support, both moral and substantial. Any person blessed

with means wishing it to bring forth fifty or a hundred fold in the production of lasting good could not put it to a better purpose than for the proper education of the youth among the Saints. The consequences of their being trained in the lines of true and comprehensive education cannot be estimated, as the results connect with eternity, and it is the duty of every Latter-day Saint, to the extent of his power, to be the producer of righteousness, as the outgrowth of his acts.

A number of the speakers dwelt with special emphasis upon the necessity for the Saints keeping constantly before them the work to be accomplished for the redemption of the dead. While the living of this generation turned a deaf ear to the message of the Gospel, it was in order to perform vicarious labor for the people of the past who had lived out an earthly probation without hearing the glad message. They were being preached to by those who held the keys of the Priesthood and had passed behind the veil, and the ordinances of the plan of salvation should be performed in the Temples in their behalf, that they might be liberated from the thralldom in which they had been held. It was explained by one of the Apostles that if we did all we could in that department of the plan of the Gospel, there would be ministrations of the heavenly powers that would make up the deficiency. Instances of information having been conveyed to persons officiating for the dead were alluded to by another member of the Quorum of the Twelve who has charge of one of the Temples.

The review of the history of the Church during the sixty years of its existence in this dispensation, and its wonderful deliverances when surrounded by circumstances which appeared to threaten its existence, was instructive and interesting. It was predicted by speakers that in this regard history would be repetitive; God would preserve His people. No matter as to the threatening character of the opposition that might assail it, deliverance from every difficulty would be the encouraging result.

The music was a most agreeable feature of the exercises of the Conference, the singing on Sunday being specially grand, while the organ was played with that skill for which the performer is noted.

It was an interesting gathering—one that it is hoped will be remembered on account of its salutary effects upon the Saints.