

ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Forty-fifth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints commenced this morning, April 6th, 1875, in the New Tabernacle, at 10 o'clock.

PRESENT ON THE STAND.

Of the First Presidency—Presidents B. Young, Geo. A. Smith, and D. H. Wells.

Counsellors—Lorenzo Snow, Geo. Q. Cannon, B. Young, Jr., Albert Carrington.

Of the Twelve Apostles—Orson Hyde, W. Woodruff, Erastus Snow, George Q. Cannon, B. Young, Jr., A. Carrington, Lorenzo Snow, C. A. Rich, John Taylor, Orson Pratt, Sen., F. D. Richards.

Patriarch—John Smith.

Of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies—Joseph Young, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge.

Of the Presidency of the High Priest's Quorum—Elias Smith and Elias Morris.

Of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion—Geo. B. Wallace, W. H. Folsom, and J. T. Caine.

Of the Presidency of the Bishopric—Edward Hunter and Leonard W. Hardy.

In addition to the above, there was a good representation of Bishops and other leading men from all parts of the Territory of Utah and the southern portion of Idaho.

Conference was called to order by PREST. B. YOUNG.

The choir sang—

Joy to the world, the Lord will come,
Let earth receive her King.

Prayer by PREST. GEORGE A. SMITH.

The choir sang—

The towers of Zion soon shall rise
Above the clouds and reach the skies.

PREST. D. H. WELLS spoke of the steady and constant progress of the Kingdom of God, which was organized forty-five years ago, up to the present time. He rejoiced to know that the great majority of this people, who had been gathered from the various nations of the earth, were devoted to the establishment of those pure principles of the gospel, which was the power of God unto salvation. After dwelling upon the many duties devolving upon the Saints, he exhorted them to be morally courageous in the performance of the same. He also urged the necessity of opening up home industry in the midst of the people, so that we might become a self-sustaining community. He also alluded to the building of temples, and the purposes for which they were needed, the building of school-houses and the necessity for the education of the young, etc.

ELDER C. C. RICH felt gratified in listening to the principles of eternal life that had been referred to. They must be lived up to in order to be enjoyed. Principles of salvation were eternal in their nature. Prophets and apostles in ancient times had all had labors to perform. This was a dispensation of the fulness of times, and brought with it many labors. It was especially a gathering dispensation. We had no time to waste, but all our energies were wanted to build up the Kingdom of God upon the earth, and God alone could direct the same, so that our labors would all tend to bring about his purposes. Such labors were pleasurable, because they were right in the sight of the Lord. He also advocated a self-sustaining policy being carried out in the community. The gospel furnished a remedy for all the evils that existed in our midst, if we would only avail ourselves of the same, for God our Heavenly Father had condescended to reveal to us a plan that would increase upon the saints both temporal and spiritual blessings. Let us, therefore, exercise faith, and put our trust in him, and be determined to carry out the counsels of the servants of God, &c.

Meeting was adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m.

The choir sang the anthem—

Praise him, all ye nations.

Benediction by ELDER LORENZO SNOW.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON.

The choir sang—

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known.

Prayer by Elder B. YOUNG, JUNR.

Choir sang the following

TEMPLE SONG.

Tune—"Hold the Fort."

Lol a Temple, long expected, in St. George shall stand;
By God's faithful Saints erected here in Dixie Land.

CHORUS:—

Hallelujah! hallelujah! let hosannas ring;
Heaven shall echo back our praises; Christ shall reign as king.

Th' noble task we hail with pleasure, coming from our head,
Brings salvation, life eternal, for our kindred dead.

CHORUS:—

Holy and Eternal Father, give us strength, we pray,
To Thy Name to build this Temple in the Latter-day.

CHORUS:—

Oh! how anxious friends are waiting, watching every move
Made by us for their redemption, with a holy love.

CHORUS:—

Long they've hoped through weary ages for the present time.

For the everlasting gospel, with its truth sublime.

CHORUS:—

Lol the prison doors are open, millions hail the day,
Praying, hoping for baptism, in th' appointed way.

CHORUS:—

Glory! Glory! hallelujah, let the structure rise;
Rear aloft those noble towers, pointing to the skies.

CHORUS:—

Hell may rage and Satan tremble, still that house we'll rear;
Heaven will aid us, angels guard us, we're no need to fear.

CHORUS:—

C. WALKER, St. George.

The chorus was taken up by several thousands of Sunday school children, after every two lines sung by the choir.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the children came pouring into the Tabernacle from all parts of the city, and by 2 o'clock they were comfortably seated, and their united voices filled the vast house with melody.

Elder ORSON HYDE was delighted to witness such a pleasing sight, and listen to the thousands of sweet voices singing the praises of God. He dwelt on the duties of parents towards their children, to take a proper and judicious watchcare over them, especially during the Sabbath-day, and during the darkness of night. He also advocated the necessity of parents giving their children a good education, being willing to pay their school bills, and placing them under the best of teachers. He bore testimony that what is called "Mormonism" was the truth of God, and he would bear it off. He then spoke of the policy of the Latter-day Saints in these valleys, in instructing the Indians to lay aside their murders, and their savage and barbarous customs, and turn towards peaceful and industrious pursuits, and all seemingly to little or no purpose, but recently, they themselves say, they have been visited by three personages, who instructed them to go to the Latter-day Saints to be baptized, and then learn to cultivate the earth, and cease to rob, plunder, and murder. These personages told them they were more than a thousand snows old, which exactly agrees with what we find in the Book of Mormon.

Zion is Growing,

was then sung by the Sunday School children.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON was much pleased to be present on this interesting occasion, and to listen to the instructions that had been imparted. The spectacle before him, of several thousands of children, was calculated to fill the minds of those of more mature years with serious and important reflections. It was delightful to listen to their united and harmonious voices and it would be well if we as parents carried out the good counsel given us by Elder Orson Hyde.

He then spoke of education. We had been a very poor people for some years after we came into these valleys, and for several years

most of our crops were eaten up by grasshoppers and crickets, and yet our parent government had never appropriated a dollar to aid us in the education of our children.

He then spoke of "free schools" so popular in the minds of many in this country, and so strongly advocated. He begged respectfully to differ upon that principle of education. He believed it was a species of pauperism, which was not good and wholesome to inculcate in society. Let us learn to be self-sustaining, and not depend upon others' industry or means when we had the means of procuring what we needed by our own exertions. Those who were unable to aid themselves, let us render what assistance they required. It was more blessed to give than to receive.

The children sang—

Our own Sunday School.

The choir sang the anthem—

Daughter of Zion.

Conference adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

Benediction by ELDER WILFORD WOODRUFF.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday morning, 10 a. m. April 7, 1875.

The choir sang—

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;

Prayer by Elder Z. COLTRIN.
The choir sang—

An angel from on high,
The long, long silence broke;

PREST. B. YOUNG felt thankful to be present at this conference, with improved health, to what it was six months ago, though the weather was very cold and unpropitious for our meeting together in conference. He hoped, however, the brethren and sisters would wrap up well and be prepared to spend a little time together in this large house, until we got through. He then spoke on the gospel and the proper training of children.

The Conference was adjourned to 2 o'clock p.m.

The choir sang—

Jerusalem, my glorious home.

Benediction by ELDER JOHN TAYLOR.

SECOND DAY.

AFTERNOON, April 7th.

The choir sang—

Great God, indulge my humble claim;
Thou art my hope, my joy, my rest.

Prayer by ELDER A. CARRINGTON.

The choir sang—

Arise, O glorious Zion,
Thou joy of latter days, &c.

PREST. JOSEPH YOUNG said yesterday was the 45th anniversary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and two years after that he was baptized by water into this church, making it forty-three years since he became a member. The principles taught by this people were true, and he knew it, and he was honest in his convictions. Whoever possessed a knowledge of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ, had the germ of eternal life within him. If the Spirit of God was universally enjoyed, all jars and contentions and animosities between man and man would cease. There was nothing equal to the sweet communion of the Saints of God. He asked God to bless the conference, and to bless the singers, for how sweet and heavenly was the voice of melody! He could see a vast amount of labor resting upon this people, in reference to agriculture, our temple, our tithing, our railroads. A few years ago, none but a prophet could have realized that a railroad with its locomotive would be heard in this city.

He then spoke of the insects that destroyed our fruit last year, recommended prayer and works combined to get rid of them. Said he wanted to go to St. George, not only to see the Temple, but to lend a helping hand towards its erection. He had assisted on two, and this would make a third.

He then addressed a few timely hints to children, recommending them to receive the advice of their parents.

ELDER ERASTUS SNOW said he loved this people because the majority were seeking after truth. We bore the image of God. No other people on the face of the earth had such faith and such holy aspirations

as we who are called Latter-day Saints. The subject of self reliance had been spoken of. Let us take a course to be free from bondage, or dependent on others, and try by the labor of our hands to supply our own wants, and bring our wants into subjection to our ability to supply them. Let not the pride of life stand in our way, but let a God-like, noble principle stimulate us to improvement. Let us adhere to the true line of demarcation. We were very much mutually dependent on each other, and we should live with a view of developing those God-like social qualities towards each other. All God's creatures that lived upon the earth had to exert their energies to supply their daily wants, and he required of us to use the faculties we possessed in order to supply ourselves with what we needed. The United Order which God had called upon us to enter into, required that we should all try to liquidate our present indebtedness, and become free from all obligation.

He then made some excellent remarks on the free school education principle. He believed in a combined mental and physical education. Every person should be willing to help themselves as long as they possibly could. Then the hand of brotherly kindness should be stretched forth to assist them. Practical education was what we wanted, and to show the poor how to help themselves. None in distress or poverty should be slighted, but we should try to place them in a position to provide for themselves, and not encourage vagrancy, idleness and laziness. Our motto was, "The Hive of Deseret." We wanted no drones within it. Many tried to live by their wits rather than by honest industry. He did not speak against legitimate trade, which had no tendency to injure but benefit any community. There was a necessity for mutual exchange of commodities. The credit system always seemed to him to injure rather than benefit mankind. Especially with us as a laboring people it was and always had been a positive evil. It endangered our freedom. Many had their property mortgaged, and we therefore were under a yoke of bondage. Let all such take warning by having their fingers in the fire, and let them shun it hereafter. As a remedy, let us bring our wants within our ability to supply them. Bondage and dishonesty were the natural result of the credit system. Honesty was the best policy. He believed in it in families and nations. It was not good for us to go into the mountains and find nuggets of gold, but it was good to find a piece of land, upon which to raise onions, potatoes, etc. It was not big dividends from our co-operative stores, or United Order efforts, that was a sure sign of their healthfulness, but an honest and upright course of management. Over trading, over-straining, fast living, etc., had been the chief cause of the present reaction now experienced at our great commercial centre, and a steady retrenchment and curtailment of our wants and a determination to pay our debts was the only way to recover ourselves from present embarrassments.

PRESIDENT. B. YOUNG made a few remarks concerning the Z. C. M. Institution, insurance companies, etc.

Meeting was adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The choir sang the anthem—

O Lord, most merciful.

Benediction by PRESIDENT GEO. A. SMITH.

THIRD DAY—MORNING.

Thursday, 10 a. m., April 8th.

The choir sang—

The happy day has rolled on,
The truth restored is now made known.

Prayer by ELDER GEORGE GODDARD.

The choir sang—

See all creation join
To praise the Eternal God.

ELDER JOHN TAYLOR said we were met together on this occasion, to reflect upon and talk over and advance principles that would benefit and bless the saints of the Most High. But to secure those blessings, both speakers and hearers must be under the influence of the Spirit of the Almighty. The gospel of the Son of God embraced the present, past and future, and was adapted in its nature to meet every want

and condition of the human family. Our hopes and ideas of the past, present and future differed materially from those of all other people. The great work in which we were now engaged was all planned and mapped out before the world was. God was the author of our being, and the father of the spirits of all flesh, and therefore felt interested in the general welfare of his universal offspring. We were entirely dependent upon the Almighty for our existence, for our knowledge, for our protection and support, as much so as any other that dwelt upon the face of the earth. All his creatures were dependent upon him. His first great commandment which he gave to his children was, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." Man was made in the image of God, and therefore was a son of God. He was made a little lower than the angels, but through the gospel he was destined to be in the future higher than many of the angels. "Know ye not," said the Savior, "that ye shall judge angels?"

He then spoke on the universal watchcare that God, the author of all living existence, exercised towards all his creatures. None were neglected, and in an especial manner he had sought to benefit and bless the human family from the beginning. Man had not only a being here, but would exist also hereafter, no matter who said to the contrary. The purposes of the Almighty could not be thwarted. The gospel and priesthood though existing in different times and dispensations were restored again through Joseph Smith in this our day, revealing those principles that the people should be governed by, and the word also came to build up Temples to the Lord, that we might be instructed in the laws of life, that we might attend to those ordinances that pertained to the living and the dead. Temples would not have been built unless God had given instructions about them. We who were of the household of faith should be willing to so operate with the Almighty in bringing about his general purposes pertaining to the human family, and when the time came to be baptized for our progenitors, who had lived and died without a knowledge of the gospel, how thankful we ought to be to have the privilege of thus becoming saviors upon Mount Zion! The great object that God had in view was to gather up all men that could be found to embrace and endure celestial principles, that they might be exalted to the enjoyment of a celestial glory. He had made provision for others who could only arrive at and enjoy a terrestrial glory, and also another class who would be prepared for a celestial or still lower glory. Thus had God provided a place of rest and exaltation for the human family through the gospel of Jesus Christ, all of which would be brought about in his own time and way. The gospel gave power to a parent to bless his posterity. Not only did the servants of God that now lived feel interested in the salvation of the human family, but the ancient prophets of God, behind the veil, were all operating in connection with us and the Almighty.

He then spoke of our present organization, which was revealed by God through Joseph Smith. The pattern that we had existed in heaven and would endure for ever. No one knew anything about baptism for the dead, about new revelation, about bishops, seventies, &c., until it was revealed from heaven.

He exhorted all present to repent of their evil deeds, and unite in building up the Kingdom. Let us honor the priesthood, do what was right, purify our families and teach correct principles, that we might finally be saved in the Kingdom of God.

The meeting was adjourned till 2 p.m.

The choir sang—

Come, all ye Saints, throughout the earth,
And join with one accord.

Benediction by Elder F. D. RICHARDS.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY Afternoon,
April 8, 1875.

The choir sang—

Come, all ye Saints who dwell on earth,
Your cheerful voices raise.

Prayer by Elder GEORGE Q. CANNON.

The choir sang—