

## GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Convened at 10 a. m., on Sunday, April 3rd, 1892, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, President Wilford Woodruff presiding.

On the stand were, of the First Presidency, Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith; of the Council of the Twelve Apostles: Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Moses Thatcher, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Anthon H. Lund and Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch, John Smith; of the presiding Council of Seventies: Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjelsted, John Morgan, B. H. Roberts and George Reynolds; of the Presiding Bishopric: Wm. B. Preston, Robert T. Burton and John R. Winder.

There were also many other leading officers of the Church from various parts of Utah and surrounding States and Territories.

Conference was called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir and congregation sang:

Come let us anew our journey pursue,  
Roll round with the year,  
And never stand still till the Master appear.  
His adorable will let us gladly fulfill.

Opening prayer by President Lorenzo Snow.

Singing by the choir:

Come dearest Lord, descend and dwell  
By faith and love, in every breast;  
Then shall we know and taste and feel  
The joys that cannot be expressed.

President George Q. Cannon

was the first speaker. He said:  
At the request of President Woodruff, I rise to make a few remarks at the opening of our Conference. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there is great cause for thanksgiving this morning on the part of the Latter-day Saints in having the privilege of meeting at the opening of our sixty-second annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and meeting together, too, under such favorable circumstances as now surround us, having a comfortable building in which to worship, where we can sit and listen in peace to the words of life and salvation that may be addressed unto us by the servants of God.

In contemplating the past, there can be no soul in this congregation from whose heart thanksgiving and praise cannot arise to God, our Eternal Father, for the goodness and mercy that He has shown unto us. We are never without cause for thanksgiving; for our God has been good, and kind, and merciful. He has not forgotten us. He has not turned His face away from us. He has not closed His ears to our petitions. Neither has he refused to answer the prayers that we have offered unto Him. The evidences of His mercy are around us, are within us. We have received them, and we rejoice in them this morning. And I feel, for one, to lift up my voice, in the congregation of the Saints, in praise of our Eternal Father, our Great Creator. I feel that we can come together this morning full of gratitude, full of humility, with broken hearts and contrite spirits, bringing them as a willing offering unto our God—a sacrifice that He will accept, it being the sacrifice that He requires at the hands of His Saints.

When we contemplate the great changes that have occurred within the past few years, and see how wonderfully God has softened the hearts of the people, how He has turned aside the wrath of man, and given favor, to a goodly extent, to His people, we certainly ought to feel thankful to Him. I have just returned from the East, where I have been for several weeks, and I never in my experience among men, saw a kinder feeling manifested towards this people than I have during this visit. The Lord has softened the hearts of the people of our nation and of the leaders thereof, and they feel kindly disposed to the Latter-day Saints. The misrepresentation, the falsehoods, the mists of darkness which have beclouded us and our reputation, have, to a very great extent, been removed. And I have felt exceedingly thankful to the Lord because there is no power but His that could have done this. Man's power could not have accomplished such results. But God has all power, and He has poured out His Spirit and softened the hearts of the people, and taken away that animosity and removed many of those misconceptions that have existed in regard to us.]

The Lord has blessed His people in many directions. We have, of course, our difficulties to contend with. We have many things to overcome. We are still in the world; and being mortal and subject to the vicissitudes of human life, we must expect to have many things to contend with that will try us. But looking at our condition as a whole, at this entire people in all their abidings, I think it can be truthfully said that we are exceedingly favored of the Lord—I mean in temporal matters. I do not believe there can be found an equal number of people in one community on this continent who are so well provided with food, with raiment, with shelter, and with the conveniences and comforts of life. It is true, we do not have a great excess of riches among us. On the other hand, we do not have extreme poverty. We have the poor, but as a rule they are cared for. The cry of the poor and the oppressed, I hope and believe, does not ascend to the God of heaven against this people because of that which they suffer at our hands. On the contrary, I trust and believe that the prayers of the poor ascend in thanksgiving to God, imploring blessings upon their brethren and sisters for their kindness and benevolence. At least, if this is not the case it should be among us. The poor should be made to rejoice. They should be made to feel so glad that when they bow their knees before the Lord they will implore blessings upon their brethren and sisters for their goodness and kindness to them.

The Gospel is being preached with exceeding diligence by the Elders who are now in the field. In some parts of Europe the Gospel is spreading, and the Elders feel greatly encouraged at the prospects before them. News from Turkey is to the effect that the Sublime Porte will grant unto our Elders privileges that are granted to other denominations. This is the latest intelligence that we have from there. The firman has probably not yet been issued, but it will be, and then our Elders will be free from

many embarrassments which have surrounded them in the preaching of the Gospel throughout the Turkish Empire. There is a field in those lands for the labor of a large number of Elders; and, no doubt, our attention will be drawn more and more to that quarter of the earth, because of the promises that are connected with the lands under the dominion of the Turkish Empire. The Latter-day Saints have always entertained very great affection for Palestine—the land that was promised to our father Abraham, and to his seed. Our interest has been excited in perusing the words of the prophets of ancient days, and also in the words of God in these latter times, concerning the restoration of His ancient covenant people to the land of their fathers. For upwards of sixty years now, since this Church has been organized, the eyes of that people have been directed to that land, and to the Jews. Probably no people on the earth, not even the Jews themselves, take greater interest in the events that are taking place in that quarter of the earth than the Latter-day Saints do. It is, therefore, a cause of rejoicing when we hear that there is a great prospect of our obtaining liberty to preach the word of God throughout those lands and to those various nationalities that are embraced in that Empire. The Lord has blessed the labors of the Elders in Holland, also, and a good work is being done there. They write that doors are being opened, to a great extent, in the Netherlands. In Belgium the Elders are finding many converts, and are laboring successfully. Throughout the German Empire there is an increased interest being taken in the Gospel. The day will yet come when there will be freedom throughout that Empire, and when there will be thousands and thousands gathered from that nation. In Northern Sweden many effectual doors are opening, and there is also a call for more missionaries from Norway. On the Pacific Islands the Elders have been very successful also. At Samoa the Elders are laboring diligently. It is a hard mission; but they are young men and full of vigor, full of zeal, full of faith, and they rejoice exceedingly in their labors, because they have abundant fruits as the reward thereof. Some of our brethren have gone to the Friendly Islands—to Tonga, and they have learned the language of that group, which is a kindred language to that of the Samoan Islands, the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, and the Society Islands. That Polynesian language is divided into dialects, it may be said, and when a man is familiar with the dialect spoken on one of those groups he does not have much difficulty in learning the dialects of the adjacent groups throughout Polynesia. Two of our Elders have gone down to the Society Islands, and are about to commence or have commenced their labors on that group. You doubtless remember that in former days a great many members of the Church were on that group of islands, but through various circumstances they have been left, to a great extent, to themselves. It has been felt, however, by the Elders on the Navigator group that some effort should be made to re-establish the work on the Society Islands. In New Zealand the Elders are laboring