

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, July 26th, 1891, commencing at 2 p.m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn beginning:

Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah;
Jesus anointed "that Prophet and Seer."

Prayer was offered by Elder William McLaughlin.

The choir next sang the hymn:

Though deep'n'g trials throng your way,
Press on, press on, ye Saints of God.

The Priesthood of the Thirteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER GEORGE E. WOOLLEY

was called to address the congregation. He spoke for about half-an-hour and devoted his remarks almost entirely to his work as a missionary in Australia, whence he has recently returned after an absence of over two years. He said the experiences through which he had passed in that capacity had tendered greatly to strengthen his faith in the principles of life and salvation as revealed in the day and age in which we live. He left home on the 15th of October, 1888, an inexperienced youth so to speak, never before having been outside the pale of Utah Territory. Having spent his life up to that time among the Latter-day Saints at home, he knew little of the nature of the work which lay before him, and when it fell to his lot to carry the little knowledge which he possessed unto a benighted nation, he felt his weakness indeed, and needed all the strength which our Heavenly Father gave him. But God had declared that He would take the weak things of the earth to confound the mighty. The speaker related how he traveled as far as San Francisco in company with five other Elders, himself and another proceeding from that place to Australia, while the remaining three were bound for New Zealand. He found the people of Australia highly intelligent, full of energy, and of a determination to succeed from a worldly standpoint, being greatly given to pleasure seeking and the accumulation of wealth. As a consequence of this the Elders did not meet with that success in their labors which they could have wished in the gaining of converts. There was an indifference manifested by the people in regard to the plan of life and salvation which the Latter-day Saints held so dear. In Australia there were comparatively few Saints when he left, and the missionaries labored there under many difficulties, owing to the Saints being so scattered over that vast area of country. He was thankful to have had the privilege of going forth into the world to labor in the Master's cause, to testify to the restoration of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to have been accounted worthy as an Elder in Israel to lift his warning voice unto the nations, telling them of the judgments about to come upon the earth and exhorting them to flee from

the wrath to come. The happiest moments in his life had been those spent in the mission field.

Elder Woolley next described his return home. On coming back to Utah, he said, after visiting a number of cities in Australia, he called at the island of Ceylon, visited Egypt and traveled through the continent of Europe. In England he had the pleasure of meeting with a considerable body of Latter-day Saints, and after remaining there a short time he returned by way of the States. In conclusion the speaker bore a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel and the cause in which the Saints are engaged, and declared that Joseph Smith, though despised and ridiculed by the world at large, was indeed a Prophet of God, raised up in the last dispensation of the fullness of times to usher in the great reign of peace which would shortly come to pass.

COUNSELOR JOSEPH E. TAYLOR

occupied the remainder of the time. He commenced by referring to the custom which had been observed from the early days of this Church for Elders on returning from the mission field to report to public assemblies of the Saints their experiences there. This custom was a pleasing one, and often resulted in much good. The Elders who traveled abroad did not, it seemed, meet with so much success today as those who preceded them in the years that had passed and gone. This was especially the case among some portions of the people of Europe. Many of the Elders who were engaged in missionary labor between the years 1840 and 1850, and in the early fifties, could tell wonderful stories of their success among the nations. It seemed then as though an Elder had only to stand before a congregation, perchance for the first time, either indoors or in the open air, to obtain a ready response to his exhortations; men and women at once became anxious to learn more concerning the Gospel message which he bore to them, and before many weeks had passed he had the satisfaction of taking them down into the waters of baptism for the remission of their sins. On the other hand, while to-day there were unquestionably found many thousands of honest souls naturally inclined towards the truth, it appeared to be a far harder task to reach them and to induce them to accept outright the instructions, teachings, and testimonies of the servants of God than was formerly the case. Probably before many more years had passed away the Elders of Israel would be called upon to perform missions of another character, perhaps to go among a people not yet visited to any great extent—the direct descendants of Israel, of the house of Abraham, and more particularly the children of Judah and Joseph, now scattered abroad among the various nations.

The Elders abroad had of late years found it necessary to devote nearly half their time to brushing away the cobwebs from the minds of the people before they could properly direct their attention to the Gospel. This was owing to the many absurd rumors, misstatements and false accusations hurled at the Latter-day Saints by their enemies. The stranger came into Utah full of prejudice against them, which it

often required a great deal of explanation to remove, and there were certain people residing in this community who were ever ready to speak falsely and unjustly concerning those who had nothing but favor and good will for their enemies. While there were to be found today tens of thousands who revered the name of the Prophet Joseph, there were also tens of thousands who had nothing but evil to say of that noble man, who met his death at the hands of cruel assassins many years ago.

Counselor Taylor dwelt at some length upon the visits of the angels to the Prophet Joseph, one bearing one message from heaven and another another. They conferred upon him the authority to proclaim the law of God to mankind and to administer in the sacred ordinances of the Gospel revealed from heaven. Joseph Smith looked for support—as any other individual under the circumstances naturally would—from the various ministers of the day. He told them what he had seen; he related to them his experience, his talk with the angels; but, most astonishing, in every instance the idea was scouted, and he was met with scorn, derision, and even persecution.

Was Joseph Smith responsible, as an individual, for any one doctrine that he taught to the people from the time the first angel visited him till the day of his death? No. Heaven simply charged him with the responsibility of performing the labor placed upon his shoulders, deputing to him the power and right to proclaim and explain those things which the heavens had revealed. The Elders today, in like manner, were not responsible for the doctrine which they taught, because it was heaven-born, and they were only echoing the sentiments of heaven itself when they proclaimed one or more of the principles pertaining to the Gospel of this last dispensation. The Prophet Joseph upheld and maintained the truth by virtue of a powerful testimony and with his own blood. It cost him his life, as it had others.

The question had been asked who was Brigham Young? He (the speaker) would give Brigham Young's own answer, uttered only a few weeks before his death in an assembly of Bishops in Salt Lake City. Said he, "A certain man has made a statement concerning me. He has asked 'Who is Brigham Young? What extraordinary power does he possess over and above any other man? Find a man with the same capacity—a man of similar endowments, surround him with the same circumstances, the same facilities, and the same chances, and he would make a man equal to Brigham Young.' Now," said he, "bear me; from the time I took hold of the reins of government until this day—ever since the cruel martyrdom of God's Prophet, Joseph Smith, I have led you every inch of the road you have traveled by the revelations of Almighty God, and not by the wisdom of Brigham Young. I have given you the word of the Lord God in the shape of counsel." Was there a man or woman of standing to be found in the midst of Israel today who could fail to treasure up with reverence the counsels which that man of God had given them? Again, could not disaster or failure be traced in many instances