

subserve the interests of the kingdom of God and their religion, even though it may be contrary to their natural feelings. This is one principle that makes us so different from the world; the 'Mormons' know that all is right, if they carry out the instructions given them.

It is a fact, whether you believe it or not, that this people were getting into their old sectarian traditions; they were getting so that they had not time to do scarcely anything to the cause of God, and they had begun to be very dull and sleepy. I have been with them as the Lord said in the parable, when the men slept the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat.

Now we are livened up again, we feel the lively emotions of the Spirit of God, and we are ready to do anything that may be counseled by whoever has the right to counsel. We are ready to walk in the path of strict obedience. Let us keep right from this time forth and not go to sleep again, nor let the enemy sow tares as he did before.

We have no need of being roused from a state of lethargy, if we will let the Spirit lead us, and the Lord will prosper us, for the man and the woman that keeps his Spirit is right; with it the people can bring as much again to pass as they can otherwise. They are stronger in their minds and in their judgments, and are more capable of gathering around them the comforts of life for their subsistence. Instead of 'Mormonism's' disqualifying us, it qualifies us for all things that ought to be done. Let us be careful not to allow the enemy to come and sow tares, but keep alive to the duties enjoined upon us.

I have a few words to say to the Bishops. Much has been said to them, and I attribute a large share of the improved condition of the people to their faithful instructions. They have done much, but still there is one thing more to which I wish to direct their attention. There are many people who do not know how to set themselves advantageously to work. We call the Bishops the Fathers of the Wards, and by the exercise of a little care and judgment they can do much towards putting many of the people in a better way for obtaining a living, and thereby strengthen their feeble knees. A man lately came to me from the north, who had land and team but no seed, and wanted to be put in the way to get a living. I gave him a note to his Bishop. What should be the duty of that Bishop? He should say, I will find you seed this spring, and you can pay it back after harvest. In this manner such individuals may easily be placed in the way for obtaining their own support.

This gospel teaches the silk weavers, potters and many other tradesmen from the old country, and many could form a vessel who have only learned a single branch of a trade. It often happens in the manufacture of earthenware that one turns the clay, another bakes it and still another burns it, but neither can operate in the department of another. Until there are openings here for such mechanics they labor under many disadvantages. There are hundreds of such persons in your Wards, and what does it become you to do in such cases? To take pains and plan to make their services of some use and profit. The Bishops and their counselors and assistants should have a wise oversight of such persons, and devise ways and means for them to raise vegetables and grain. They should plan some kind of employment that will make them and their families useful; put them in a position that will enable them to procure a subsistence and do good for themselves and the great cause in which we are engaged. It is a duty that we owe society to use our influence to build each other up, that we may be united and become strong and able, and by assisting the poor and strengthening the feeble become a people in whom the Lord will have delight and assist in bringing to pass his purposes.

Do we realize what these purposes are? Saints who have received the gospel and live their religion know, by the vibrations of the heart and the operations of the Spirit, what they are. The Lord's people will become exceedingly numerous; they are rising fast and the responsibilities of this kingdom will rest upon the sons of Zion, and He will hasten his work in its time. The day will come in which the earth will tremble and the nations quake with fear because of the wickedness of her inhabitants.

We read that satan shall be bound a thousand years. How is this to be accomplished? By our becoming so impregnated with the principles of the gospel—with the Holy Ghost—that the enemy will have no place in us or in our families, and shedding forth that influence in our neighborhoods. The adversary is first to be driven from ourselves, then from our families, then from our neighbors, next from our Territory, and eventually from the nations, until he shall find no place upon the face of the whole earth, then will he not be bound? Yes, so far as this earth is concerned, and that is the way in which it is to be done, in my humble opinion. He will be chained to all intents and purposes when he can have no influence—no power—no tabernacles into which he can enter; he will then have no place of entertainment. When he finds that he is cornered that close, will he not consider himself bound? I think he will, whether he thinks so or not.

This is a work at which we can all labor, for it is by our united efforts that Zion will be produced in our own bosoms, in this city, in our Territory, or anywhere else. If we will do this and be united as the heart of one man, we shall banish satan from our presence and eventually from this earth, and this we have to do. If we resist him he will flee from us, and you know that the Lord is quick to answer, if we rightly call upon him for assistance. We shall be made exceedingly numerous and strong, and shall be able to build up a temple to the name of our God.

We are a good people; the Lord loves us, and it will be his delight to bless us more and more. And the more we are capable of receiving the more he will give, for the heavens are ready to drop with blessings; but we also have a work to perform. We can preach and do much, but we must do still more than we have done.

If we can banish satan from our presence we shall do a good work, for he it is who steps in and causes bickerings and strife. But if we will be wide awake and not let the enemy come in, there will be no bickerings nor strife, and we will be able to move the heavens and the earth if necessary; we will be able to drive satan from our midst with all the kindred spirits that are seeking our destruction.

Shall we take this course? Or shall we be like the sectarian world, and suffer ourselves to wither and dry up and have no strength? Before us are light and joy and an entrance into the celestial kingdom of our God, on the other hand are degradation, poverty and misery such as we know nothing about. Let us be alive to our business, for it is our business and interest to lock to the upbuilding of the kingdom of God, not only in spiritual but in temporal matters.

We are constituted to need food and the necessary facilities and appliances for operating successfully, such as the cattle, horses, and the various conveniences for carrying on business. They are all the Lord's, and he will bless us with those things that are for our good and comfort. If we are faithful we shall increase in the things of God. The devil can claim no right to the blessings of the Lord, for those things belong to the Saints, therefore let us do all we can for the building up of the kingdom of God and he will furnish us all we need, for all belongs to him. No part of the human family belongs to the devil, unless they sell themselves to him. But the Lord cannot consistently bless us, unless he knows that we will serve him and make a good use of what he bestows.

Let us be faithful, alive to our duties and perform our mission upon the earth we inhabit, no matter what it is that we have been sent to do. Let us seek unto the Lord Almighty and ask for his Spirit to be with us, and if we are faithful he will give it, for he regardeth those who are faithful. We read that he giveth liberally to those who ask of him, and upbraideth not. Let us not be lazy, but let us ever be alive to the interests of the kingdom of God and expend our time and strength for the interest and benefit of that kingdom, for the devil has had the use and benefit of this world nearly long enough.

I feel as though we were all going to do better in future. I feel that this is the intention of this people, for I see them feel alive to each other's interests. I saw this manifested last fall; and every call that is made upon them they feel anxious to comply with to the utmost. And they feel richer with half the means than they did before, and they will have means doubled and trebled upon them. I am not guessing at this, for I know that it is, if we will only use those means and blessings in the service of our God. If we will entirely cease serving the devil, we will be still more obviously better and richer than any people upon the face of the earth.

Treasure up the words of wisdom that we hear from time to time, and be cleanly in our persons and in our habitations, for the Holy Ghost will not dwell in unholy temples. It is an insult to the Holy Spirit for us to be filthy, and it may grieve away if we do not observe cleanliness. Be careful to treasure these things up in your minds. Keep the commandments of God; do not take his name in vain; do not be seen loafing about at the corners of the streets and spending your time in idleness. When you go to plow and plant, ask God to bless the ground and the seed, and let us have his blessing on all that we do, and have our faith centered upon the things that we are called upon to perform and we will be blessed and prospered and will see the work of the Almighty roll forth with might and power, even until we shall redeem Zion and build a temple upon the consecrated spot where it is said that the glory of God shall rest upon it as a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Are we now prepared for the coming of the Son of Man, and for the resurrection? Do we ever think of this? Brethren and sisters, let us be faithful, keep our covenants and press onward until that time shall come. Important events and duties transpire quite as fast as we are prepared for them, therefore let us round up our shoulders—gird up our loins—and if we can bear greater burdens there is more coming, and we shall have all that we can do.

If we will not do this, the Lord can raise up a people that will. The hearts of all men are in his hands, and if we do not appreciate the blessings given he will give them to somebody else. Ancient Israel transgressed and would not keep the covenants and obey the Lord, consequently they could not enter into the promised land. But was it much trouble to raise up a people that would? No.

May the Lord bless us and enable us to keep our covenants and be faithful continually in my prayer, through Christ our Redeemer: Amen.

#### Minutes of the General Conference

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, CONVENED IN THE BOWERY ADJOINING THE NORTH END OF THE TABERNACLE, GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, AND COMMENCING MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1857, AT 10 A.M.

President Brigham Young presiding.  
On the Stand: Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells;  
Of the Twelve Apostles: Orson Hyde, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow and Franklin D. Richards;  
Seventies: Joseph Young, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Benjamin L. Clapp and Levi W. Hancock;  
High Priests: John Young, President;  
Presiding Bishop: Edward Hunter;  
Patriarchs: John Smith, John Young, Isaac Morley;  
Presidency of the Stake: Daniel Spencer, David Fullmer and Thomas Rhoads;  
Clerk of Conference: Leo Hawkins;  
Reporters: Geo. D. Watt and John V. Long.  
Called to order by President Brigham Young.

The Clerk read the following hymn, which was sung by the choir:—

#### A HYMN OF THANKFULNESS.

BY W. G. MILLS.

Mighty God of Zion, hear us,  
Fervently our prayers we raise;  
Shades of sin and death were near us,  
And we walked in folly's ways;  
But to spare us  
Thou again hast shown us grace.  
Day and night thy prophets seeking  
Our eternal interest,  
By thy Holy Spirit speaking  
Our degraded state express'd;  
And awaking  
We ourselves and sins detest.  
Now we thank thee, precious pardon  
To the sinner thou dost give;  
And the heart that will not harden  
In his sins, may turn and live;  
Gracious Guardian,  
Our deep gratitude receive.  
Help us by thy Holy Spirit  
All our cov'nants to fulfill;  
We will live and seek to merit  
All the blessings of thy will,  
And inherit  
Bliss with thee on Zion's hill.

Prayer by President Heber C. Kimball.  
Singing by the choir.

Prest. B. Young mentioned the various items that would probably engage the attention of the Conference.

The Trustee in Trust's report and the report of the Treasurer of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company were read.

Choir sang, "How beautiful upon the mountains."

Benediction by Patriarch Isaac Morley.

2 p.m.

The following hymn was read by the Clerk and sung by the choir:—

#### A HYMN FOR APRIL 6, 1857.

BY W. G. MILLS.

Swell the strain like heaven's thunder,  
Swift as lightning let it dart;  
Let it burst the clouds asunder  
Till it reaches every heart,  
That the "last hour" dispensation  
This eventful day began;  
That the door of full salvation  
Now is opened unto man!

Lo, the standard of salvation  
On the mountain tops is seen,  
Where the good from every nation  
Round our Prophets may convene;  
Truth is pouring from the fountains  
Of the Great Eternal source;  
Like the streams from yonder mountains  
Fertilizing in their course.

See the form of mercy bending  
Like an angel from the skies!  
See her loving arms extending  
That mankind may upward rise!  
Hark! her voice the world inviting,  
To the hill of Zion come;  
Here are truths the soul delighting  
In our happy mountain home.

While mankind in ranc'rous humor  
All the ill of war increase,  
And your hearts fall with the rumor,  
Here you may abide in peace;  
All the sons of men who labor  
To exalt the human race;  
He who will not slay his neighbor,  
Must seek Zion's dwelling place.

Through the earth the message bearing  
Zion's chosen priesthood roam,  
And the sons of Israel hearing  
Will in millions gather home;  
That the laws of "Judah's Lion"  
We may perfectly obey;  
He shall reign supreme in Zion,  
We on earth beneath his sway.

Prayer by Prest. Orson Hyde.  
Singing by the choir.

Prest. D. H. Wells wished those indebted to the Trustee or the P. E. Fund, to liquidate that indebtedness; said we shall probably have to call for further assistance to complete the canal that the stone may be boated to the Temple. Expressed his feelings in relation to the work of God.

Prest. H. C. Kimball addressed the congregation upon the importance of building the Temple, the blessings to be derived therefrom, &c.; and advised the brethren to build store houses, to store up grain against the famines that are decreed.

Prest. B. Young spoke on the principles of economy.

Missionaries' names were read.  
Choir sung "Blessed be the Lord."  
Adjourned till to-morrow at 9 a.m.  
Benediction by Lorenzo Snow.

#### BOWERY, Tuesday Morning

April 7, 1857, 9 a.m.

Choir sung, "Bring forth the royal diadem."  
Prayer by Patriarch John Young.  
Singing by the choir.

Elder Joseph L. Heywood related some of the incidents of his experience in California, the East, &c.

Prest. B. Young presented the authorities of the church as follows:—

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Prophet, Seer and Revelator; Heber C. Kimball, First Counselor, Prophet, Seer and Revelator; Danl. H. Wells, Second Counselor, Prophet, Seer and Revelator;

Orson Hyde, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards, members of said Quorum;

John Smith, (eldest son of Hyrum) Presiding Patriarch;

John Young, President of the High Priests' Quorum;

Joseph Young, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Benjamin L. Clapp, Horace S. Eldredge and Levi W. Hancock, Presiding Presidents over all the Seventies;

John Nebeker, President of the Elders' Quorum;

Daniel Spencer, President of this Stake of Zion;

Heman Hyde, Eleazer Miller, Phineas Richards, Levi Jackman, Ira Eldredge, John Vance, Edwin D. Woolley, John Parry, Winslow Farr, William Snow, Daniel Carn and Ira Ames, Members of the High Council;

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop of the whole church.

Lewis Wight, President of the Priest's Quorum;

McGee Harris, President of the Teachers' Quorum;

Alexander Herron, President of the Deacons' Quorum;

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works;

Truman O. Angel, Architect for the church; Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor; H. C. Kimball, D. H. Wells and Edward Hunter his assistants, and agents for said fund;

George A. Smith, Historian and General Church Recorder; W. Woodruff, his assistant; Who were unanimously sustained.

Prest. B. Young referred to the civilization of the world, contrasting it with the condition of the Latter Day Saints.

Prest. D. H. Wells spoke of the design of the Express and Carrying Company, being more particularly to facilitate immigration by establishing temporary settlements, &c.

Prest. H. C. Kimball followed on the same subject.

Names of persons selected to go on missions were read.

Choir sung: "Awake, put on thy strength, oh Zion."

Benediction by Prest. Joseph Young.

2 p.m.

Singing by the choir.

Prayer by Elder W. Woodruff.

Singing by the choir.

Prest. B. Young spoke of the Express and Carrying Company.

Congregation sung, "Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation."

Prest. Orson Hyde spoke of the folly of persons neglecting to improve their possessions.

Prest. Young made a few remarks.

A number of names of those selected to assist in the Express and Carrying Company were read.

Choir sung, "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Adjourned to to-morrow at 9 a.m.

Benediction by Daniel Spencer.

#### WEDNESDAY, April 8, 9 a. m.

Singing by the Choir.

Prayer by Elder Benj. L. Clapp.

Singing by the Choir.

Prest. Orson Hyde spoke a short time.

Prest. B. Young adduced as an evidence of the truth of the work, the thankfulness with which Elders received chastisement.

Elder F. D. Richards alluded to the course he had pursued in relation to last year's immigration.

Elder W. Woodruff spoke on the right of the leader of this people to dictate in all things.

Elder Benj. L. Clapp and Prest. Daniel Spencer made a few remarks.

Prest. B. Young spoke of the benefit of chastisement, when rightly received and appreciated.

Br. Samuel Barson sang, "Oh Zion, dear Zion."

Br. J. D. T. McAllister sang, "What I live for."

Prest. John Young referred to the saying of Jesus, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light;" testified that Joseph was the greatest prophet that ever lived, except the Son of God.

Elder Lorenzo Snow proved that the principle of union and submission to the will of God, through our leaders, will give us all the power that is necessary for us to have.

Prest. H. C. Kimball spoke on the principle of union; notified the missionaries to be here on the 22d inst., with their handcars, provisions and means ready for going directly to their fields of labor.

Stephen Markham was called to make a station on the Sweetwater. More missionaries' names were read.

Choir sung, "Praise the Lord all ye nations."

Benediction by Prest. D. H. Wells.

2 p. m.

Singing by the choir.

Prayer by Reynolds Cahoon.

Singing by the choir.

Elder Joseph A. Young spoke on the principle of obedience.

Elder William H. Kimball exhorted those about to go on missions to rely solely upon the arm of God.

Prest. B. Young spoke concerning the evils we see in one another, &c., and in regard to persons' leaving this Territory.

Prest. Joseph Young spoke of the importance of building the Temple, forwarding the Express and Carrying Company, &c.

Prest. Orson Hyde considered that those ap-