

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, July 6th, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

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

Prayer was offered by Elder Orson A. Woolley.

The choir sang:

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed.

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

APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

was called to address the congregation. He said it was one thing to have the testimony of the Spirit in one's heart, and another thing to arise in the midst of the Saints and be a teacher to them. No man is capable of performing this duty acceptably unless the Spirit of God prompts his remarks. It seems to me that we are in a measure losing sight of the Gospel, and I have felt grieved, as doubtless others have, to see the indifference on religious matters of many who call themselves Saints. It seems as if the spirit of the world had entered among us to a very large extent, and that the ambition of those not of the faith is controlling us, while the humility that marks Saints of God had departed in a measure from us. There are in our midst spirits that come not from God, and our interests, instead of being united, are divided.

The adversary is a believer to a great extent in the doctrines taught by Jesus and in none of them more fully than the saying that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Hence his efforts to cause disunion among the Saints, for if he does this they must fail. It was the evil one who inspired men to persecute the Prophet Joseph; but these trials only strengthened the Prophet, for he saw in them the fulfillment of prophecy. But it was when dissensions came into the fold that his (Joseph's) greatest trials came. It was when his brethren raised their voices against him that he felt that the burden was too heavy to be borne. These dissensions began the same year the Church was organized. But a few months elapsed before Oliver Cowdery, the second Apostle in the Church, engaged in false teachings and created dissensions. This weighed Joseph down, and he wrote to Oliver and then visited and labored diligently with him, and finally turned back the dissenting ones. Scarcely was this trouble over before another prominent brother claimed that he had received certain revelations, and Hiram Page succeeded in leading numbers astray. The power of Satan was manifested among the people to divide them. It was upon the occasion of this dissension because of false doctrines that the

Lord revealed to the Church the only source through which He gave revelations to the Church. This was through Joseph alone while he presided over the Church.

There is no one appointed to this office but he whom God has called. An Apostle may teach and preach; but no Apostle, Seventy, High Priest or Elder has the authority to write revelations for the Church. There is one and only one today, and that is President Wilford Woodruff, who is authorized to do this. The people who reject the word of the Lord through him are under condemnation; so are those under condemnation who reject the teachings of the Elders when given by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

When Joseph had repaired the breach made by Hiram Page, Satan did not cease his efforts to divide the Saints. His efforts were continuous to this end. On one occasion about 200 men were chosen to form Zion's Camp, and even among these selected men were those who heeded not the words of the Almighty as they should have done; therefore a scourge came upon them. Joseph told them that if they would put away their sins and be united, the power of the destroyer would be rebuked, and when they followed his advice the promise was realized.

In Kirtland, when the Lord moved on Joseph to call men to foreign lands, to proclaim the Gospel, the Prophet was opposed by some of the people for a time. In other places there came circumstances to divide the people. The adversary was doing his best to overcome the union of the Saints, but he did not succeed. The Prophet and Patriarch were martyred, and the Saints were driven out, to search a home in the desert. But they sought the Lord, and in President Young they saw the one whom God had chosen to lead them.

Here in these valleys we have not been free from disunion. Various things have arisen to create a disruption. It is said that we have suffered of late years because of a certain principle. This is not so. A principle has been attacked to bring it into ridicule among a certain class. But the purpose of this attack, like that of the others, is to cause division. If disunion can be made the rule, then the "Mormons" are doomed; but if we are united, there is no power, as the Lord lives, that can destroy us or stay this work. I warn you Latter-day Saints against allowing disunion to come into your midst, for therein is destruction. With contention comes the spirit of apostasy, as we know by the history of the Church.

I am reminded today of a spirit that is in our midst to aggrandize ourselves at the expense of others. Are we forgetting the covenants we have made with God? If we are, He will permit us to go into the fiery trials until we turn to Him? What is the world's condition today? There is a fear in the hearts of mankind. Labor and capital are arrayed against each other. When we see the wealth in the hands of unscrupulous men, there is a great

danger before the nation. The feeling of uncertainty because of these opposing conditions is attracting the attention of Congress. In one feature is the purchase and holding of land by those who are residents of foreign countries. The tendency is for the land to pass into the hands of a comparative few. There is more landlordism and tenant farming in the United States than in the British Isles. This means that troubles are coming upon the people, for it is not just that the few should seize from the masses the property and oppress them. It is no wonder that there is a conflict between capital and labor.

It is for the Saints to prevent this condition from coming into their midst. The aggregation of wealth in the hands of the few is a dangerous thing. The people have the remedy in their own hands. On January 2nd, 1831, the Lord gave a revelation to the Saints, for their guidance in these matters, and He commanded them to be one. He has called upon them to consecrate of their substance for the poor of the people. Those who do it not are under great condemnation. The union which God requires is the union of the celestial Kingdom. It is not a oneness in spiritual things alone, but in temporal things as well. If we will not unite in our prosperity we will be brought to a condition where all that we have is His. This does not mean that we are to live in houses that are all alike, or wear clothing exactly similar to each other. There is a difference in spiritual things, and a necessary difference in that which is temporal. The capabilities of the individual are the guide to his stewardship. This system will not curtail the development of the people; but there will be no premium upon idleness. The drone will be driven out from the hive. In this great system is an order that will bring union to the Saints, and will shut out feelings of animosity. We cannot become one without the introduction of such a system.

Today there is division among the people, shut our eyes as we will to the fact. It seems to me that we are drawing farther apart, and forgetting that if we are not one we are not the people of God. Will we turn before it is too late, and before the judgments are poured out upon us? We speak of what the Lord will do with those who reject Him; but what will He do with those who have made covenant with Him and have not kept those covenants? We can expect nothing but His judgments in such a situation. But the Lord will save us from future trouble if we will serve him. He requires the united faith and diligence of the people for these blessings. The faith of one man, or a quorum, will not save the people. The Saints must be united to a man to bring this about. There must not be sin in the midst of Israel. The people must humble themselves, every one, and unite their faith for their triumph in the service of God. Those who will not repent will lose the faith, for the church will be purified. Let us have our hearts