

should be willing and glad to take the responsibility that belongs to us, that we may receive the reward which is in store for us. There are various missions for the sons of men. Some have been called to be statesmen, others to be warriors or leaders in various directions. But the Latter-day Saints have been called to a special work and to receive a special reward.

The pleasures of this world are vanescent. They fade away like the beauty of the rose. We ought to seek for those joys which will be ours when the body decays, and in the resurrection state, and throughout eternity. Character is the great thing. It is not what people think of us, but what we really are that is and will be of value to us. And in the Mutual Improvement Associations the aim is to form our characters on a solid basis, to build them up with good and abiding qualities and make us god-like in spirit and nature. As to pleasure, there is nothing like being quickened in mind and spirit by the Holy Ghost. To be filled with the Spirit of God, to have communion with the higher powers, to know that we are in the path of right, that we are accepted of God, is greater joy than anything earth can afford.

There is no abiding happiness in that which is evil or contrary to the will of God. It may give temporary enjoyment, but afterwards comes remorse, if there is any conscience left. In doing that which God approves there is no regret, but joy and peace and confidence—confidence in God and confidence in ourselves.

Now, it is that our young men may be taken out of the ways that are evil and be prepared for present usefulness and eternal glory that these associations have been formed. May the light and intelligence of heaven rest upon the officers and all the members, and may God guide and bless the exercises of this conference!

ELDER WILLARD YOUNG

read an essay on the subject of education, only a very brief synopsis of which can here be given. He pointed out that no educational system which excludes religious training can satisfy the requirements. The Gospel embraces all truth and should, therefore, be diligently studied. It is not less necessary to seek for information upon every subject that tends to enlighten us, because everything we learn that is true, will assist in qualifying us for eternal glory. Every faithful member of the church and all human beings should be pupils in this great institute of learning, the school of life. As in worldly colleges the scholars are rewarded according to their diligence and success, so in this great institute of learning.

In the Church we have many organizations and institutions, all laboring to a common end, in their various spheres and fields of usefulness. No matter where we may be assigned to labor, we should be faithful, for even if we cannot all become teachers, yet we can all say with President Young, that we will do all the good we can. On the young men and women the responsibility rests to carry on the great work of these latter days. And upon the parents rests the duty of forming the character of their children. The lecturer quoted copious-

ly from the language of President Brigham Young in which he urged particularly upon mothers to train the children from infancy in correct habits and thus act as true educators a duty which devolves upon them to a greater extent than even upon the fathers.

The following subjects were, in conclusion, recommended to the attention of the improvement associations in connection with those already taken up for study: The reclaiming of waste lands by irrigation, the construction of dams, canals, etc., the need of good roads, political economy, home industries, domestic sciences, the need of manual training in the schools, and civil government.

A solo was finely rendered by Elder Heber S. Goddard.

SUPT. GEO. W. BRIMHALL

representing the associations of Utah Stake gave a brief report. The membership had not increased during the year, but the home readings and class-work had been taken up with most satisfactory results. It was felt that the young men of this stake were on the line of progress.

SUPT. JAS. H. WILCOX

of Davis Stake reported a fair attendance at the meetings of the associations but regretted that the class work had not yet been taken hold of as thoroughly as in other stakes. A desire for progress was manifested on every hand.

SUPT. SAMUEL DAVIS

of Malad Stake stated that there are ten associations in that stake of Zion. There had been some inactivity owing to peculiar political conditions in Idaho, but these are now changing, and there is every prospect that the work will go on and produce great results.

SUPT. CHARLES HEYBORNE

of Parowan Stake said the associations are endeavoring to carry out the instructions given, but not with as great success as would be desirable. Meetings are held regularly every week and joint meetings with the young ladies every month. There are 167 enrolled members, with an average attendance of 77, and there are about 250 young men not enrolled, notwithstanding the efforts of the officers to do their best. The Stake is somewhat isolated and not as frequently visited by the general superintendency as desired. The future prospects are encouraging.

SUPERINTENDENT MILTON H. HARDY gave a brief account of his labors in the interest of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement associations. He had had great pleasure and satisfaction in the special work in which he had been engaged. He had been received with cordiality everywhere. He had visited twenty Stakes and laid the details of the work of systematic home reading before the officers as well as before the general public, endeavoring to explain it in all its bearings. It is a significant fact that the meetings of the associations have, in a few places, dwindled down almost to mere children's gatherings. This we have endeavored to remedy and it is apparent that wherever home reading and class work have been adopted and carried out, golden results have accrued.

PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

was gratified to meet with the representatives of the associations and rejoiced in listening to reports made of the progress of the work. The indisposition of so many young men to join these associations was to be regretted. The organization of these associations the speaker looked upon as one of the greatest works he had witnessed in the Church. Joseph Smith had often spoken about the fields of labor that would be opened up to the young men of Zion, when the nations of the earth will hail them with joy and make use of their talents. Well may we, therefore, rejoice that we have been reared in seclusion under the voice of apostles and prophets, and that we are numbered with the people of God.

The speaker referred to the first organization of a young men's improvement association in the Seventh Ward, with which he was connected, and said it was very gratifying to him to see how the effort had been perfected from time to time. The associations now occupy a place which cannot be filled by any other organization. They have become schools where deacons, teachers, priests, and elders can obtain the best education for their callings, and it has been noted that the best missionaries have graduated in these associations.

The speaker then referred to the present political situation in Utah, and urged upon the young men of Zion to examine the principles of the different parties and to select, after mature consideration, the body with which they would like to associate.

The Glee club sang a selection:

"Comrades in Arms."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder George Goddard.

Conference adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SERVICE.

At this service, which began at 2 o'clock, there was a very large attendance, the galleries being filled.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Behold, the mountain of the Lord
In latter days shall rise.

Prayer was offered by Elder Rodney C. Badger.

The choir sang the hymn:

Lord, wilt Thou hear me when I pray,
I am for ever Thine!

The Priesthood of the Fifth ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER BENJAMIN OLUFF, JR.,

(of Brigham Young Academy, Provo) delivered a brief lecture on the subject of self-culture. Closely connected with the subject of mutual improvement, he said, is that of self-culture. All improvement is self-improvement; for it is by self-effort alone that we are educated. Our environments, our books, our teachers, all stimulate and direct us; but if we are to learn we ourselves must put forth effort. In no organization more than in the associations whose conference we are today attending is effort tending to self-culture so necessary; because while much is to be learned in the general meetings and class gatherings, the greater portion of the work, if done at all, must be accomplished by the individual in private study. There must be hard, earnest work at home if