

# DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, - OCT. 13, 1880.

## BIENNIAL ELECTION.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1880.

## PEOPLE'S TICKET!

For Delegate to Congress,

GEORGE Q. CANNON.

## FIFTIETH SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Fiftieth Semi annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, convened in the Large Tabernacle at 10 a.m. the 6th day of October, 1880.

Present on the stand were President John Taylor, and Elders Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, C. C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, F. D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith, Albert Carrington and Moses Thatcher, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles. Elders Erastus Snow and Brigham Young were absent having not yet returned from a mission through Arizona, New Mexico, etc.

Counselor to the Twelve—D. H. Wells.

Patriarch—John Smith.

Of the Seven Presidents of Seventies—Joseph Young, Horace S. Eldredge, John Van Cott and W. W. Taylor.

Of the Presiding Bishops—Edward Hunter, and Leonard W. Hardy.

The Presidency of Salt Lake and other Stakes, besides leading Elders from all parts of the Territory.

Conference was called to order by President John Taylor.

The choir sang:

Mortals awake, with angels join,  
And chant the solemn lay.

Prayer by Counselor D. H. Wells.

The choir sang:

Sweet is the work, my God my King,  
To praise thy name, give thanks and sing.

Elder CHARLES C. RICH expressed thankfulness for the opportunity afforded us of meeting together at this conference. It afforded an opportunity of reflecting on the great and glorious principles of eternal life. We should not permit ourselves to become careless and indifferent to the things of the kingdom of God, by being absorbed with the vain and trifling things of this world. We should lay ourselves out for the performance of those duties and responsibilities that rest upon us as Elders in Israel, and to accomplish these things we must enjoy the spirit of God, which alone can qualify us to perform them. We should attend to present duties, such as the building of Temples, and seek to become united in our temporal as well as our spiritual labors. We are far from being perfect, but our efforts should not be slackened on that account; God requires much labor at our hands, and by the aid and assistance of his Holy Spirit, we should ever be willing to continue to live before him in a way and manner that will be acceptable unto him. For there is no blessing that we can possibly enjoy, either temporal or spiritual, but what comes from his bountiful hand. That we may show our gratitude to him by our increased devotion to his cause, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW spoke of the relationship we sustain to our God, and the obligations that rest upon us in obtaining the light of the everlasting gospel to guide us through the journey of life. There is no necessity for us to become darkened in our minds, for we have the holy priesthood, and should ever be guided by the Spirit of God, which would fit and qualify us for

serving him in an acceptable manner, and show us just what to do and how to act through all the relationships of life, in things pertaining to temporal as well as spiritual duties. He referred to the experience of Moses and the children of Israel, showing the power and authority of the holy priesthood, in guiding and directing the people in every duty that pertained to their happiness in this life, and preparing them for the glory and enjoyments of the world to come. For this very purpose the Holy Priesthood has been bestowed in this our day, to guide and perfect the saints of God here and just in proportion as we attain to intelligence in this world and to integrity and faithfulness in that, so will be the exalted condition in which we shall appear behind the veil. The Holy Priesthood given in our day, is precisely the same with which holy men of God in all ages have been endowed, to guide the people in all matters pertaining to their safety, whether individually or nationally, and just in proportion as the people are willing to act in accordance with the counsels and instructions of those inspired to instruct them, they will become perfected in those laws that we have received, and be prepared to hereafter enjoy the fullness of the glory of God. Elder Snow dwelt upon the necessity of practical holiness, being imbued with the love of God to-day, and walking in the light of the Lord in this world, not leaving these things for the world to come.

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR said we had met here in Conference, to talk over and reflect upon those principles and doctrines that are interesting not only to us as a people, but to the people of the whole world. These meetings, in which are congregated together the leading men from all parts of the Territory, are convened for no private or covetous motives, but to correct whatever in doctrine or in practice is not in strict conformity with the mind and will of God, and that we may endeavor to instruct and strengthen each other in every principle and practice of virtues and integrity that will be approved before high heaven. They are pure and exalted principles that God has entrusted to us, even those that pertain to eternal life. We are responsible to God for the dissemination of those principles throughout the nations of the earth. How necessary it is then that we should be under the direction of the Almighty in all of our ways and that we practice in our lives the truths which we are commanded to impart to others. At this point, President Taylor feeling somewhat indisposed, took his seat.

ELDER GEO. Q. CANNON said we profess to have revelations from God and should be guided always by his holy spirit to enable us to perform those duties that are placed upon us, so that our labors may be acceptable before God. He spoke of the delightful experience of those who had yielded obedience to the ordinances and requirements of the gospel, and lived continually under the influence of that divine spirit, which they received at confirmation, which constantly pointed out to them the way they should go and which was pleasing to their heavenly father. Thus the humble seekers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, after being perplexed by the conflicting theories and churches of men, realized to their unutterable joy that they at length had found out a truth that was free from all uncertainty. This was the experience that gladdens the hearts of the Latter-day Saints in these valleys, and where ever they may be found on the face of the earth. He was glad that so many had met together this morning to receive the word of God, and those instructions that are calculated to benefit and unite the Saints.

He said in no place that he had visited could he find a people so united and happy, and opposed to strife, litigation and quarreling, and so obedient to good laws and wholesome principles, as those who dwell in these valleys. He knew this to be the Church and Kingdom of God. He also knew that God had raised up the men who now lead us, and that God would increase this people in power and numbers until their influence would be felt throughout the nations of the earth, not for themselves, but for the good of all. This is a phenomenal people. Where is there anything like them? Here we have a people, drawn together by one common impulse from all nations and creeds, speaking almost every language known on the earth

and having various national peculiarities and customs, now dwelling together in comparative peace and union, and influenced by one spirit. What a spectacle to behold! There is nothing like it on the face of the earth. Only a few years ago God revealed his mind and will to an unlettered youth and organized a Church with only six members, and now look at its proportions! No human being alive could accomplish such grand and glorious results. God is the author of it, and he will consummate his plans and purpose, in connection with the Saints of latter days. Everything we now behold was predicted fifty years ago by the leaders of this Church. What they had declared which was not yet fulfilled would surely be fulfilled. God will attract by the power of truth men from every nation, who will come trooping by thousands to Zion. In spite of all the opposition that may be brought to bear against this work by men and governments, it will prevail. Prophets may be slain and a humble people persecuted, but the work is imperishable and indestructible. Rejoice then, ye Latter-day Saints, for great and glorious things await you. There are many in our midst who have grown grey in the service of God, but when they pass away others will come up in their places, and everything predicted concerning the latter-day glory will be accomplished to the very letter.

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR said, as the Conference would be likely to continue till next Sunday, the Conference would be adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., and this afternoon would give an opportunity for the brethren to attend to their business matters. He desired the seats on the south side of the stand to be reserved for the presidents of stakes, with their counselors and the members of High Councils, and the north for bishops and their counselors. President Taylor said that he had been attending closely to business and had exerted himself considerably and as a consequence felt a little faint while he was speaking this morning. Otherwise there was nothing the matter with him.

ELDER W. WOODRUFF gave notice that a meeting of the Young Men's and Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations would be held this evening in the Assembly Hall at 7 o'clock p.m.

The Choir sang the anthem,

I will extol thee.

Conference adjourned till 10 o'clock a. m. to-morrow, (Thursday).

Benediction by Elder L. John Nuttall.

## SECOND DAY.

Thursday, Oct. 7, 1880,  
10 o'clock a. m.

Choir sang

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

Prayer by Elder F. D. Richards.  
Choir sang,

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

ELDER A. CARRINGTON felt grateful for the privilege of enjoying the inestimable blessings of our heavenly Father, which he continues to grant unto us from time to time. He requires of us the keeping of his commandments, and inasmuch as we observe them there is no blessing, either of a temporal or spiritual nature, which will be denied us. Such were the conditions made to those who first came to inhabit this choice land. So long as they kept and observed his requirements they were blessed and prospered in the land, but when they became wayward and disobedient, they were chastened and afflicted, until they were finally swept from the face of the earth. The pure principles of the Gospel have been revealed for our government in this our day, and the preaching of the Gospel throughout the nations of the earth has been the means of gathering a great and numerous people from almost every quarter of the globe, and no one need suppose that they have been gathered here to gratify their own whims or to gain any supposed popularity it might bring them, but in the midst of the suffering and strife that their acceptance of the principles of the Gospel had brought upon them, to serve the Lord with all their hearts, seeking first of all to know his will and then to carry it into practical effect in their every day lives. We have been led by revelation from the time that Joseph first received a knowledge of God's will in his early youth. And from the earli-

est period of man's existence on the earth, and through all the intermediate periods spoken of by all the prophets since the world began, the grand principle of revelation stands out as a bold and conspicuous principle. The Lord gives line upon line and precept upon precept, to his children, and the speaker knew of no other way that God could expect submission to his will by his children, except by revealing that will to his servants, and they to make known to the people that which he reveals. God does not look upon the world as we do. We would naturally choose the wise and worldly mighty to usher in such a work as God has commenced, but he chose as his servants, the meek, humble and unlearned, and with them he has said he will thresh the nations by the power of his spirit. Those who do not understand the principles we have embraced will readily concede that the revelation given to the Prophet Joseph in the beginning, that God would employ the weak and unlearned ones to carry out his purposes, is correct; for they do not fail to charge us with being a weak and ignorant people, thus admitting the truth of that which God himself made known, but such being our character in the estimation of the world, it should not prevent us from seeking after a knowledge of the great work that God our Father has commenced, and be preparing ourselves for the blessings that await us in the redemption of Zion. We must labor to eradicate from ourselves all that is degrading and live according to the decrees of our kind wise Father in the heavens. But there are some who seem to prefer their own secret will and their own wayward way marking their own course according to their own skill in very great blindness and foolishness. But it is the duty of the Latter-day Saints to be guided by the revelations of God that they may overcome and inherit the glory of the righteous.

ELDER W. WOODRUFF said every one who attempts to preach to and instruct the Saints of God must have the spirit of God in order to be successful as a teacher. Ever since the foundation of the world the servants of God have been sustained by the Almighty in fulfilling the words which they uttered, no matter what the day or age of the world in which they lived, they were responsible to God in delivering the message they were sent to make known, and although in many instances it cost them their lives, yet having received the priesthood they were under the strongest obligation to God and the people, and had to perform their duty and leave the result in the hands of God. He then spoke of Joseph Smith the Prophet, whom God had raised up, called, and ordained to lay the foundation of this great latter-day work, and who ordained apostles, and organized every branch of the holy priesthood. He then addressed himself to those present as being a generation of apostles and elders, no other generation ever enjoyed such privileges or were under such obligations. We will be held responsible for our exercise of all the authority and power conferred upon us, and if we could only see ourselves as God sees us, if the veil could only be lifted to show us our true position, how different many of us would act to what we do in reference to the things of God. Their hearts would not be set upon the things of this life, but upon the things of the kingdom. He spoke of the fifty thousand millions of the human family behind the veil who have so many years been shut up in prison, and Joseph Smith, who holds the keys of this dispensation, was the first one to open the doors of that prison house for ages, and to preach the gospel of salvation to them. We must build our temples and attend to the ordinances of the gospel in behalf of our dead who have died without a knowledge of the Gospel. This is one of the most important of our responsibilities. Let us go to, and build temples, pay our tithing, attend to our prayers and not give so much heed in accumulating the wealth of the world. "How hardly shall a rich man enter the kingdom of God." The poor can work for their bread and live their religion, while the rich become engrossed with the cares of the world. He did not wish to reflect on those who are wealthy, either in the Church or out of it, for the Lord intended us to become a wealthy people, but we must make a wise and good use of what he places in our hands. We shall be held responsible not only for the use we put our wealth to, but every other gift God has blessed us with. No

other people in our day can go forth to the nations and call upon them to believe, repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins, and promise them the gift of the Holy Ghost for so doing, but by this means the 150,000 of this people have been gathered to these mountains. God has inspired his servants and sent them forth with this message, and has backed them up by the power of his spirit, and by this power alone can we build up his kingdom, which he prayed we might be able to do, in name of Jesus.

The Choir sang an anthem:

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness.

Conference was adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

Benediction by Elder Orson Pratt.

Thursday, 2 p. m.

Choir sang

Softly beams the sacred dawning,  
Of the great Millennial morn.

Prayer by Elder Joseph F. Smith.  
Choir sang

Hark, listen to the trumpeters,  
They sound for volunteers.

Elder Geo. Q. Cannon then read the statistical reports from all the Stakes of Zion, for the half year ending Sept. 15th.

ELDER J. D. T. MCALLISTER said it was two years since he had attended conference in this city. Most of the people present are Latter-day Saints and have made covenants with God and each other. We are apt to watch with a scrutinizing eye those men who are placed over us to lead us. We expect to see perfection in them. What should we think if the Apostles were to stop at our saloons to take a drink of beer or liquor, should we not be surprised? And yet how many are there in our midst who do so, and men too who hold the holy priesthood, and whose example should be worthy of imitation. Time was when the name of God was scarcely ever heard taken in vain in this city, and those who did blaspheme were soon in the hands of a peace officer. The Sabbath day should be kept holy, and we should teach our children to keep it holy. The amusement provided for our young people, especially dancing, should be controlled by the servants of God, according to instructions issued in circular by President John Taylor. Tithing should be observed by all Saints in the time and season thereof, and they should not leave it until the 31st of December; it is a daily, weekly or monthly affair as the case may be. Offerings for the poor and other worthy objects also should be attended to, this being another requirement of the gospel, and we cannot afford to trifle with or neglect it. It is our duty to pray for and sustain the servants of God, who have for so many years borne the heat and burden of the day. We should also read and study the Scriptures, the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and other good books. We should strive to live a happy life, and if each member of a family would live as the children of God should live, what a beautiful home such a family would present! There is a great work before us, not only for ourselves but for our dead also. We can turn the key of their salvation by attending to the ordinances of the gospel in their behalf. We are making a record of our lives in the way of tithing, and other things connected with our duties and responsibilities. The books kept in heaven will agree with those kept on the earth. Our religion is one that happiness us in every relation of life; every child that we have and train aright is a star in that crown that we expect to wear by and bye. We should try to educate ourselves in keeping the commandments of God. We should observe the word of wisdom in the spirit and meaning thereof. It takes in a very wide scope connected with all the acts of our lives, and we should be guided thereby.

He spoke of the great work that has been done in the Temple at St. George. Many appreciated the blessings to be obtained there, while others appeared to think but little about them. Over 182,000 had been officiated for in that Temple since it was first opened. He also made a few encouraging remarks on the subject of baptism for the dead, and gave the following statistics of ordinance work in the Temple at St. George up to June, 1880: Baptisms for the dead, 99,523; endowments for the dead, 41,791; ordinations for the dead, 15,889; sealings for the dead, 14,255; children dead sealed to parents, 1,314.

He said that quite a number of Saints in the south were living in