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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

APRIL, 1843.

April 7.

"Conference convened at 10 a.m.
Singing, prayer by Elder O. Hyde, and singing.

President Joseph stated that the next business in order was to listen to appeals of elders, &c., but none appeared; he was rather hoarse from speaking so long yesterday, and therefore said he would use the boys' lungs to-day.

The next business in order was to appoint some elders on missions.

Voted that Jedediah M. Grant be sent to preside over the church at Philadelphia.

Voted that Joshua Grant be sent to preside over the church at Cincinnati.

Voted that Pelatiah Brown go to the village of Palmyra in New York, and raise up a branch of the church.

The Temple Committee were called up for trial.

William Clayton said, some may expect I am going to be a means of the downfall of the Temple Committee; 'tis not so, but I design to show that they have been partial. Elder Higbee has overrun the amount allowed by the trustees about one fourth; pretty much all Elder Higbee's son has received, has been in money and store pay; Higbee's son has had nothing credited on his tithing. William F. Cahoon has paid all his tenth, the others of Cahoon's sons have had nothing to their credit on tithing; the committee have had a great amount of store pay. One man, who is laboring continually, wanted twenty five cents in store pay, when his family were sick; but Higbee said he could not have it. Pulaski S. Cahoon was never appointed boss over the stone-cutting shop, but was requested to keep an account of labor in it. During the last six months very little means have been brought in to the Temple Committee; there are certain individuals in this city, who are watching every man who has anything to give the Temple, to get it from him, and pay for the same in his labor.

Alpheus Cutler said he did not know of any wrong he had done; if any one would show it, he would make it right.

The Conference voted him clear.

Reynolds Cahoon said: This is not an unexpected matter for me to be called up. I do not want you to think I am perfect. Somehow or other, since Elder Cutler went up into the Pine country, I have, from some cause, been placed in very peculiar circumstances. I think I never was placed in so critical a position since I was born. When President Smith had goods last summer, we had better property; goods would not buy corn without some cash: instead of horses, &c., we took store pay. I have dealt out meal and flour to the hands to the last ounce, when I had not a morsel of meal, flour or bread left in my house. If the Trustee, bro. Hyrum, or the Twelve, or all of them, will examine and see if I have too much, it shall go freely. I call upon the brethren, if they have anything against me, to bring it forward, and have it adjusted.

Patriarch Hyrum Smith said: I feel, it my duty to defend the committee as far as I can, for I would as soon go to hell as be a committee man. I will make a comparison for the Temple Committee: a little boy once told his father he had seen an elephant on a tree; the people did not believe it, but ran out to see what it was; they looked, and it was only an owl.

Reynolds Cahoon said, when bro. Cutler was gone, bro. Higbee kept the books, and they have found as many mistakes against bro. Higbee as in his favor.

The Conference then voted Cahoon clear.

Elias Higbee said: I am not afraid or ashamed to appear before you. When I kept the books I had much other business on my hands, and made some mistakes.

The conference voted in favor of Elder Higbee unanimously.

President Joseph Smith stated that the business of the Conference had closed, and the remainder would be devoted to instruction. It is an insult to a meeting for persons to leave just before its close: if they must go out, let

them go half an hour before. No gentleman will go out of meeting just at closing.

Singing by the choir.

Prayer by Elder Brigham Young.

2½ p.m.

Conference called to order.

Singing. Prayer by Elder B. Young. Singing.

Elder O. Pratt delivered a discourse from the prophecy of Daniel, on the Ancient of Days; for a synopsis of which see Times and Seasons, page 204.

While the choir was singing, President Joseph remarked to Elder Rigdon: This day is a millennium within these walls, for there is nothing but peace.

To a remark of Elder O. Pratt's, that a man's body changes every seven years, President Joseph Smith replied: There is no fundamental principle belonging to a human system that ever goes into another, in this world, or in the world to come; I care not what the theories of men are. We have the testimony that God will raise us up, and he has the power to do it; if any one supposes that any part of our bodies, that is, the fundamental parts thereof, ever goes into another body, he is mistaken.

Singing by the choir. Prayer by Elder John Taylor.

The ice which had made a bridge across the river since last November, moved away in immense masses.

Celebration of the 24th of July, 1856, at Pleasant Grove City.

Capt. Wm. S. Lord's company of cavalry and Capt. Thorit Peck's company of infantry announced the dawn of day by volleys of musketry, when our large flag was hoisted on the liberty pole.

At 7½ a.m., the companies mustered, fired a salute at 8, the signal for the citizens to assemble at the City Hall, and marched around the city, preceded by the P. G. Band, firing salutes at each corner. They then proceeded to Mayor Hanson Walker's, received him and suite, and escorted them to the Hall.

The 'Star Spangled Banner' was sung by the choir.

Prayer by Bishop Walker.

Song by the choir.

An oration by Hyrum Winters, sen., on the entrance of the Pioneers into these valleys, the hardships and privations that attended their journey, and the persecutions and afflictions that have followed the church since its organization.

Pioneer song by John W. Brown.

An address by John W. Brown.

The 'good time coming', sung by Wm. West.

A discourse by John G. Wheeler on the rise of the church, and the preservation of the Constitution by this people.

Hymn by the choir.

Benediction by Steven M. Farnsworth.

The large assembly then separated in groups, for the purpose of partaking of refreshments.

At 2½ p.m., the companies fired a salute, the signal for the people to again convene.

Song by the choir.

Prayer by Elder D. McArthur.

Oration by James Armstrong.

Brethren and Sisters:—

This day we celebrate the ever memorable time when the Latter Day Saints came into these valleys, let us then lay our minds open to the impressions that such an occasion is calculated to inspire in the heart of every saint.

The object of this meeting, and of all that has been done and said on this occasion, has been to beget and improve right dispositions with regard to that event and the interesting circumstances connected therewith, and to qualify us to carry out the design of our coming here, the measures and mission enjoined upon us as the covenant people of the Lord.

The enlightened and extended views advanced during the morning were sufficient to arouse our slumbering and dormant feelings, and to produce that happy and healthy tone of mind which we ought to cultivate and exercise towards each other, as children of one family and members of one political body. Times like the present are well calculated to heighten and give zest to those benign feelings that we so justly owe to each other; then let us be happy, let the sweet, mirth-lighted smile illumine every face, while we celebrate the triumphs of the hardy Pioneers of 1847, and reflect upon our position and prospects as a people; and let our throbbing bosoms yield a humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise to our Father in heaven, for his fostering care and protection thus far.

It is necessary that we occasionally take time to contemplate upon the nature of the work in which we are engaged, and to be careful to entertain sound and correct views. When we first connected ourselves with this work and identified our interests with this people, many of us, no doubt, had some peculiar ideas and preconceptions of our own, which, if we are not careful, will intrude themselves upon us at times, and fix or influence our convictions and divert our course, in the practical application of the principles of our religion.

We ought always to bear in mind a union of effort and action in reducing to practice the principle and precepts of the gospel of Jesus Christ, to live our religion, and that the power to be happy rests entirely upon ourselves. Every duty enjoined upon us as saints, coincides with our real and best interests all the time; I am satisfied of

this from my own experience. Let us therefore cultivate amicable feelings towards each other, and spread a good influence around us. I am aware that our circumstances have been of late rather peculiar, that we have been placed in a condition of trial. This is all right, it's all for our good.

We may always expect to be placed in trying situations, so long as we have need of them for our perfection. Can any one point out the time when the Latter Day Saints were not in situations of trial? It has been one series of trial from the first until now, as most of you well know.— But I will waive reflections upon past scenes, and briefly consider our present position as a people, and the prospects now before us.

Coming into these mountain wilds has not changed the form or purpose of 'Mormonism', as some would have us believe. It has been ever the same from the beginning; one uniform course has characterized all its movements; its purposes are invariable, and its destiny is fixed and certain. Still we are not governed by a blind fatality, Father's at the helm, and all things have been overruled by infinite wisdom for the consummation of the great events of the last days, and the final triumph of the kingdom of our God. We must keep an eye on passing events, and know that all things will be made subservient to the purposes of God.

Our position and political standing were never more gratifying than at present; let us then cheer up, for we have nothing to fear but everything to hope. True, our crops have been, and may yet be, in a measure cut off by drouth and devouring insects, and we may lack many comforts, conveniences and necessities of life; but let us remember that we do not live merely to eat, but eat to live. We live not merely to acquire wealth and live upon it, but that we may put our shoulders together to roll the wheel of Zion's redemption. In our privations let us try to feel like a saint of old when he exclaimed:

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat, the flocks shall be cut off from the fold and there shall be no herd in the stall.

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my Salvation."

This people do not lack knowledge, so much as they do the quality of loving and doing the things they know to be right. I would recommend a careful perusal of the President's discourse in the last No. of the 'News.'

When we compare our condition with that of the rest of the world, we see that we are improving all the time. The very spirit and tendency of our institutions bespeak improvement and progression in the acquisition of every essential element calculated to make us a great and powerful people; even our enemies discern this and are jealous, and have fearful forebodings.

When we look upon the world it is easy to see that the prominent feelings of this generation are an undue and most intense desire for territory, riches and power, with general apathy towards heavenly knowledge and virtue. The animal propensities bear almost universal sway; combativeness and destructiveness rule the nations of the earth. They expend enormous sums to carry on the work of destruction and death, but how grudgingly they spare a small sum for peaceful improvements. These and many other things that might be named unequivocally proclaim their speedy dissolution. The apostle Paul says like this: "If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye are not consumed one of another."

This state of things even now threatens to ravage and lay waste the fairest nation on the earth—the United States of America—and to rend asunder one of the best forms of government. What changes are operating in the world! What frightful convulsions distract mankind!

Yet, as one of our poets says, "the Mormons shout hosannah, in Deseret we're free." Yes, we are indeed free, and may reasonably hope to survive the general wreck.

We know, or may, that 'Mormonism' comprehends, cares and provides for our temporal wants and welfare, as well as for our spiritual, for they are inseparably connected. Here let me occupy your attention for a few moments in speaking upon government, for a few general remarks are all that I can make, as you know that I have but a short time allotted.

The design of all government is to combine and regulate the members of society; to this end laws are formed, constitutions framed and established as a rule of action. What is the end and aim of man in the sphere he occupies? To preserve himself, and render his existence happy. Does he, in and of himself, always know the true and best means of effecting this? Are his natural faculties, his talents, sufficient to enable him to arrive with certainty at the end he proposes?

Man soon finds out that he is more or less dependent upon his fellow man, that he cannot well remain isolated, hence the social compact—the constitution of society, the assembling to enjoy a reciprocity of interests. Families are organized, cities built up, and nations exist.

The form of government a nation may adopt, whether absolute or limited monarchy, or republican, seems to make but little difference, for the same mismanagement and reckless depravity appears to prevail in one as in the other; the whole world is groaning under corruption—the whole head is sick, and whole body is faint. In the world every man has a set of principles of his own, and almost every one despises the notions of his fellows.

It is sometimes really amusing to see how almost every subject, connected with the best interests of society, is treated in the council chambers of the nations. Almost every measure is supported or opposed on narrow and empirical grounds, displaying ignorance, prejudice, selfishness, intolerance and bigotry, which greatly obstructs the progress of improvement. Instead of improving society at large is continually growing worse, getting more and more entangled in the meshes of its errors and imperfections.

The world is out of joint; imperfection and corruption mark the ways of man; misery and unhappiness prevails; confusion and strife are rampant on the earth; yea, as Isaiah says, the earth is defiled under its inhabitants, and transgression and wo are heavy upon her. She cries, wo is me, the mother of men, because of the abominations that have gone forth out of me.— Can man, in and of himself, discover and apply a sovereign remedy—a radical cure—an antidote for his own deadly disease? He cannot, being altogether incompetent for the task. The very means he employs only tend to seat the complaint deeper and deeper in his vitals; "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

What shall we do? Is there no help? "Is there no balm in Gilead, and no physician there?"— This is a world's disease, and anything less than a world's remedy will be inadequate. We need some great ruling principle to regulate the affairs of the world, and assist poor erring humanity.

Hark, what is that which salutes our ears? It is the voice of inspiration; it is the voice of a messenger from the courts of glory, saying to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, upon you my fellow servants, in the name of the Messiah, I seal this Priesthood which shall never be again taken from the earth. This principle is with this people; by it we have been sustained hitherto, and it will sustain us and establish righteousness and peace from the rivers to the ends of the earth, upon that solid and permanent basis spoken of in this forenoon.

This is 'Mormonism'; this is the theo-democracy you heard of this morning from br. Winters. This system and order of things guarantees to and sustains man in the exercise of his natural and inalienable rights; it gives liberty to man to do right, and that is all the liberty he ought to desire. The Lord said to Joseph Smith, in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, that the principle of freedom which maintains the rights and privileges belonging to all men is justifiable before him, and that whatsoever is more or less than this cometh of evil. God has decreed that these principles shall be maintained; he has promised to give us wise and good men for our rulers, men who will be as fathers to the people.

This order of things will dry up the fountain of foul disease, purify the heart of man, sanctify his affections, happily his being and bind man to man in one common brotherhood. Such is our religion, such are the bulwarks that guard our interests, and such the provision made for the deliverance and salvation of a fallen world. Let us do all in our power to enhance the work, to gather Israel, to send the gospel to the ends of the earth, and attend to the business for which we came here.

REGULAR TOASTS.

Utah—May she ever set an example worthy of imitation by her elder sisters, and excel in every virtue, until her integrity and loyalty are universally acknowledged.—T. P.

President Brigham Young—Beloved by his friends, feared by his enemies, hated by the devil, honored by the Gods. When the lion roars the wicked tremble, but the saints of God shout for joy.—J. G. W.

Deseret—May this the anniversary of her birth day be long celebrated, and the flag of our nation continue to wave, inviting the oppressed and down-trodden of all nations to take shelter under its ample folds.—T. P.

Brigham Young—May the lion roar, until the wicked tremble and flee.—G. H. A. H.

The brave Pioneers of '47—Exiles from their fathers' house, loyal and patriotic,—may their names be engraven on tables of stone, and stereotyped on the hearts of the brave sons and daughters of Deseret.—T. P.

The Mormon Battalion—The strength of Zion's camp, who averted the thrust of the assassin, and opened the door to the chambers of the Lord—May their acts of patriotism and deeds of devotion be held in honor and veneration by the sons and daughters of Utah.—T. P.

Zion's Freeman—Beloved of God, honored by angels, kings and priests of the Most High—May their wives and children increase with their wisdom and goodness, until they command a legion and control a universe, to the great honor and glory of the Lord.—J. G. W.

After the toasts the company was entertained and amused with recitations and sentimental and comic songs, until 5, when the ball, 60 feet by 36, was cleared for dancing, which concluded the ceremonies of the day. The choir, under the leadership of Elder Wm. West, ably performed their part, greatly enlivening the proceedings.

Under the efficient management of the committee of arrangements and marshal, the celebration was conducted harmoniously and cheerfully, being well seasoned with the true spirit of the day.

WM. F. REYNOLDS,

Marshal.

JOHN G. WHEELER, }
ELIJAH HAYHEW, } Com'tee of ar'ments.
LEWIS MARV, }
Geo. H. A. HARRIS, Reporter.