

have started out to achieve, which God has said He has laid for His faithful ones here on earth, looking forward to the day when the prophecies will be fulfilled.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON,

in the course of his remarks, said: Elder Talmage has borne testimony to the character of our Creator, and has given us many illustrations of His power and goodness unto His children. He has alluded also to remarks which have been made by freethinkers concerning the Deity, and their views of His character and attributes. While listening to him the thought occurred to me that there is only one way by which men can know for themselves that God lives; and that is by personal experience. While we view the universe in its grandeur and glory, we must feel within ourselves that there is some Being greater than man. Although we understand the changing of the seasons and see the operations of God-like power every day of our lives, yet these evidences of themselves, while they may impress us that there is a Supreme being who controls all things, do not alone furnish direct evidence to satisfy the souls of men. It requires something more than this; it requires a testimony of God Himself in the hearts of His children to prove to them that He lives, and that He is indeed the Being whom those who were familiar in the olden times as well as those in our own day assert He is.

When men get this knowledge they understand a good deal concerning God's providence. They may not be able to comprehend—no man is—that everything connected with the affairs of mankind is directed by the Divine hand; for man is finite, whereas God is infinite. While, however, we understand but imperfectly the providences of God our Heavenly Father, in His dealings with the children of men, yet if we are in such close communion with Him as to realize that He lives, that He is the Being whom He is represented to be, then we can be reconciled to whatever transpires among the children of men. There are hundreds of questions continually arising in our experience which we cannot answer. We cannot grasp the reason for the existence of certain things, nor explain everything connected therewith; but if we have the testimony in our hearts that God lives and presides over the destinies of His people, then we can safely leave ourselves in His hands. It is sufficient for me to know that God is a God of mercy and will deal with His children in great mercy and kindness. Though they may suffer distress, be plunged in misery, and exposed to manifold vicissitudes, His watchful care is over them and He will bring about their salvation in His own time and way.

Having quoted from the parable of Dives and Lazarus, the speaker said he often thought that many were called to pass through afflictions, poverty and sorrow in order that they may be better prepared for the great hereafter which God

has in store for us. God has revealed unto us great and glorious principles, and if we act upon them as He directs, they will result in our happiness. We cannot depend upon other evidences than those which God gives concerning His Gospel.

There are a great many persons who, when the Elders go forth in the world to preach that Gospel and declare that our God is the same God of power in this generation that He was 1800 years ago, ask to be shown some miracle or manifestation in proof thereof. They say, "If your testimony is correct that God's power can be manifested today as in former ages, we should like you to work some miracle to prove that the Gospel you bring is that of the Church of Jesus Christ." I suppose this particular argument has been used more frequently in the experience of the Elders of this Church than any other. Those who make such a request, however, forget that Jesus Himself performed no miracle in order to convince the people of His divine mission; for when appealed to for signs He said it was a wicked and adulterous generation that sought for a sign, and none should be given them. But signs did follow as the results of faith. Those who had faith in God received the fulfillment of the promise that they should "follow them that believe."

The experience of the members of this Church now for nearly sixty years has proved that signs do not help men to maintain their faith. I suppose hundreds of men and women have been baptized as members of this Church who have witnessed miracles who were baptized on the strength thereof. They have seen the sick healed and other evidences of Divine power through the administration of the Elders; they have heard the gift or interpretation of tongues, or seen the fulfillment of some prophecy. But where they have depended entirely upon this evidence for their faith, experience has shown us that it has required a succession of signs to keep them in the Church. Now to those who have received the testimony of the Holy Ghost, the outpouring of the Spirit which God has promised unto every faithful man and woman who will keep His commandments and do His will, is a higher evidence, a source of greater strength and power, than any miraculous manifestation which he or she might witness, not excepting the ministration of angels or the raising of the dead. The Holy Ghost must be our constant companion, and without it we cannot be true servants of Jesus Christ.

Take the case of Oliver Cowdery. This man so mighty, so favored of God, so blessed in every respect as to receive great manifestations of Divine favor fell away from this Church, his priesthood was taken away from him and he was left like other men who had never known God. Did these manifestations keep him in the Church? Did they prevent him from turning away and becoming an opponent to a certain extent of the men with

whom he had been so blessed? No; though he had these angelic manifestations, beheld the Savior and heard His voice, yet he fell away. These were not sufficient in and of themselves to keep him in the church, while humble men who had not received these great manifestations, but who had received the Spirit of God, the gift of the Holy Ghost, remained firm in the truth.

I wish to impress upon all present that there is only one way by which we can, as Latter-day Saints, hold to our fellowship with God and our membership in His Church—and that is by retaining the Holy Spirit within our hearts, by living such lives of purity that the Holy Spirit will be our constant companion, never leaving us to ourselves to be tempted and overthrown by the power of the adversary. I care not how many gifts a man may have, how many visions he may behold, how many miracles he may see performed; these will not of themselves keep him in the faith. Let them come as they will to every believer, in their time and place; but do not seek for them as the basis upon which to build your faith.

If you are faithful to God, keep His commandments, put away all your sins and live lives of truth and righteousness, then these signs will follow you, and you will see constant manifestations of God's favor and goodness in your behalf.

The choir sang the anthem:

"Sing unto the Lord."

Benediction by Apostle Heber J. Grant.

THE REVOLUTION IN BRAZIL.

ON THE 15th inst. there commenced to pass over the wires news of a revolution in Brazil; but as these dispatches were sent to rubber and coffee houses in the United States and Europe by their correspondents in Rio Janeiro, they were discredited at first, and looked upon as tricks designed to increase the prices of those products. Only a month ago an election was held throughout the empire, at which all seemed peaceful, and the result appeared quite satisfactory to the masses. There had been, neither before or since the election, no indications of a revolution, or even of any sort of uprising. Emperor Dom Pedro had always been beloved by his subjects, and there were few countries in the world in which the sudden overthrow of the government seemed more improbable than in Brazil. These and other reasons made it difficult to believe that, in an hour, so to speak, the empire had been overthrown.

But later advices, though meagre, confirm the announcement that a provisional government, republican