

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Elder Joseph E. Taylor of the Stake presidency presided over the services at the Tabernacle Sunday afternoon, January 10, 1897.

The choir sang the hymn:

Author of faith, eternal word
Whose spirit breathes the active flame.

Prayer was offered by Elder Aurelius Miller.

The choir further sang:

O my Father, Thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place.

Elder George Bowles, who returned Saturday from the Australasian mission field, was introduced to the congregation as the first speaker. He stated that he had been absent from home for a period of three years and eight months, during which time he had been promulgating the principles of the Gospel. He had had joy and satisfaction in his labors and in addressing the Saints at home he brought greetings from the Maori people unto all the Church and its authorities from the greatest down to the least member thereof. The Saints in the valleys of the mountains were not forgotten by their dark-skinned brethren and sisters, as they often spoke of them and sometimes wished that they were privileged to gather out to Zion and mingle with the great body of the Church. The speaker looked upon the Maories as being a branch of the House of Israel, and although only about one-tenth of those people had embraced the Gospel, the outlook for a good work among them in the future was decidedly favorable.

The Elders laboring among the Maori people were being blessed exceedingly of the Lord. They were bright in acquiring the language and had been known to speak the tongue perfectly, after having been on the islands but eight weeks. This was a sufficient testimony to the Elders that the Lord was blessing them, and knowing this they went forth trusting in Him and reaping the reward of faithfulness.

Elder Bowles had had to travel extensively in the New Zealand country, hunting out the honest in heart and laying the Gospel before them. They were a people scattered to the four winds, as it were, being found living on the hilltops and in the valleys. They were an honest-hearted, hospitable people and the Elders received the best of treatment at their hands. Their eyes were turned towards Zion and there was a yearning desire within them, that the time would soon come when they would be permitted to gather out from Babylon and participate in the higher ordinances of the Gospel. The work in Australia was progressing nicely, and the great cry was that more laborers would be sent into the field. The harvest was ripe and the laborers were few, hence the cry for more Elders to take up the ministerial labor.

In conclusion Elder Bowles testified to the truth of the Gospel. He knew it was the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same Gospel that was to be established in the latter days, never more to be thrown down or given to another people. He had proved that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of

the Lord and that God had directed the work of organizing His Church upon the earth in this dispensation.

The choir sang the anthem: From afar gracious Lord.

Elder George S. Spencer, a recent president of the Netherlands mission, was the next speaker. For two and a half years the speaker said he had labored in the Netherlands, speaking to the people in the Dutch language. When he arrived in that field he found the work just commencing to take root. When he left to return home he noticed a vast improvement in the work being done, and was now in a position to state that the Netherlands mission was progressing on a par with any in the whole of Europe. The distribution of the Millennial Star, published in the Dutch language, was an important factor in the spread of the Gospel among the people. The higher classes were being reached with the Gospel message and as a result the Elders were taking joy in their labors and were pressing forward in carrying out the duties devolving upon them. Elder Spencer was greatly impressed with the fire and enthusiasm dwelling in the breast of the Saints abroad. They knew that the Gospel which they had espoused was the true Gospel of Christ, and knowing this their desire was to press on and reap for themselves an exaltation in his kingdom. The speaker by request made a few remarks in the Dutch language.

Elder Heber J. Grant was the next speaker. He said: I have been requested by President George Q. Cannon to occupy the remainder of the time this afternoon, and to do so I desire the same faith and prayers in my behalf in speaking to you as has been desired by the previous speakers. It is always a source of great pleasure to me to listen to the testimonies of the Elders of Israel who have been to the nations of the earth preaching the Gospel. I refreshes my spirit, it renews my determination to press forward and to be faithful in the discharge of the duties and obligations that rest upon me as a servant of God. The testimonies that have been borne in our hearing today are worthy of the thoughtful consideration of each and every one of us. When we realize that a man who has traveled ten thousand miles from his home in one direction stands up and bears witness to the gifts and graces of the Gospel, and then another stands up and bears testimony to the same gifts and graces who has traveled in another direction to New York and across the Atlantic ocean, it seems to me that these testimonies that are borne of the knowledge which these young men possess of the divinity of the work in which we are engaged ought to make a profound impression upon the hearts of every Latter-day Saint. And I regret that it can be truthfully said—and I know it is true—that there is not the same fire, not the same devotion, not the same determination existing in the hearts of many of the Latter-day Saints dwelling in these mountains to labor for the onward advancement of the kingdom of God as can be found in those that have received the Gospel in a foreign land. Many have received the Gospel in a foreign land, have re-

ceived the witness of the Holy Spirit, know for themselves that they are engaged in the work of God, and stand up and bear this testimony, and yet when they gather home to Zion they become mixed up in the affairs of the world, they set their hearts upon the things of this world, and they forget that testimony. Why do they forget it? Because they do not labor with that same energy, that same zeal and that same determination for the advancement of the kingdom of God that they did when they first embraced the Gospel.

I desire to bear my testimony to this audience today that just in proportion as you and I labor and keep the commandments of God will we be blessed by the light and the inspiration of the Spirit of Almighty God. I say that no young man who returns from a mission and who has received the witness of the Holy Spirit and has seen the gifts and graces of the Gospel manifested, will ever lose that warmth, that fire and that determination to labor for the advancement of the kingdom of God so long as he is faithful in keeping the commandments of God. But I regret to say that there are many young Elders that stand up as these young brethren have done here today and bear witness that they know that God lives, that the heavens have been opened, that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, and that the everlasting Gospel has again been restored to the earth—I say I regret to say that many of them after they return home discontinue their labors and forget to work for the advancement of that kingdom, and the Spirit of the Lord leaves them. I remember as well as though it were yesterday when this young brother (Elder Spencer) who has been speaking was set apart for a mission. I remember distinctly that when we blessed him we blessed him that he should have particular power, and that he should be abundantly blessed upon that mission. I remember the testimony of the Spirit that came to me while my hands were upon that young man's head. I remember that I was ready and willing to predict that he would be successful and fulfill a mission that would be an honor to him and an honor to his father and mother and to the work of God that he represented. I remember standing with Brother John Henry Smith when he laid his hands upon a grandson of Heber C. Kimball, and I remember the spirit and inspiration that came upon him while he was blessing that boy. I do know that the light and the inspiration of the Spirit of God rests upon the men that labor for the onward advancement of the kingdom of God at home or abroad. I know that every man, woman and child among the Latter-day Saints who keeps the commandments of God has burning in his or her heart a testimony of the divinity of this work. I know that every Latter-day Saint that lives upon the face of the earth who is keeping the commandments of God realizes and knows that the Prophet of God stands at the head of the work of God. I know that every Latter-day Saint who is keeping the commandments of God knows that these men (the leaders