

LOYALTY OF YOUNG LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Address by ELDER REED SMOOT, At the Seventy-Sixth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Friday, October 6, 1905.

I desire, my brothers and sisters, to express my gratitude to my Heavenly Father for the privilege I have of standing before this immense congregation of Latter-day Saints, and expressing to them, in the few moments I have at my command, some of the thoughts that have passed through my mind during this conference. I am indeed thankful for my standing in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am indeed thankful for the position occupied today in the world's affairs by the Church and by the people of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the Gospel of God unto salvation.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, for I believe in all my soul, and with all the understanding that God has given me, that this is His work, and that it is designed to redeem the earth, to bring light unto its inhabitants, to make people better, and to make this planet a fit place for the second coming of the Lord and Master.

I have had a great deal of pleasure in visiting the different parts of our state, mingling with the people, seeing the conditions surrounding them, and noting their loyalty to the work of God. Brother John Henry Smith, in speaking of the loyalty of the gray-haired men and women before him, touched my heart. I also say that, not only are they loyal to this work, but if I am any judge, the young people are just as loyal to the authorities and to the institutions of the Church as were our fathers in the past, and as they are today. Our brethren have been testifying to the loyalty which is manifest in our Church towards the authorities, and especially towards the presidency. I feel like testifying to you, and to all, that this great work of God is in the hands of honest, upright, God-fearing men. Assemblies are made upon us from all sides. Many claim that they are not assailing the "Mormon" people, nor the principles of the Gospel which they believe, but it is the leaders they are condemning and finding fault with. They are also trying to bring distrust of the authorities into the minds of the Latter-day Saints. Why are they assuming the principle of tithing? Why are they trying to make you believe that every cent paid by you, for the forwarding of God's work upon this earth, is being handled by dishonest men and being spent, not for the work of God, but for the aggrandizement and personal benefit of men? If I had the power to reach the heart of every honest Latter-day Saint, and if I had the confidence of every soul that hears my voice, I would testify to this fact, that as far as the tithing of the Church is concerned, not one farthing is spent wrongfully, or is diverted from the channel in which it was intended to be used. O how natural it is for our opponents to try to advance some argument that may bring distrust into the minds of people, and cause apostasy in their midst. They think they have found a condemning argument in the collection and use of tithing, and in drawing attention to it, they rely on the selfishness of the people. But the evil one today finds a condemning argument in the collection and use of tithing, and in drawing attention to it, they rely on the selfishness of the people. But the evil one today finds a condemning argument in the collection and use of tithing, and in drawing attention to it, they rely on the selfishness of the people.

us to live, observing all the requirements made of us, and performing the duty that is incumbent upon us, than all will be well, as sure as He has spoken from the people and see the feeling of loyalty and truth existing, I feel in my soul to say, God bless the Latter-day Saints, in their interests, in their basket and in their store. God bless them with strong testimony, that they may know the voice of the true Shepherd. I feel in my soul that they will know it, no matter what transpires, or who may come in our midst thinking there will be a falling away from the Church, and that they may succeed in gathering in the last ones. I say there never was a time when the people testified with more fervency, and with a deeper feeling of love for our heavenly Father and His work, than they do at the present moment. I bear my testimony to you that this work is the work of God, and He will make it triumphant in the end; we will love it, and be loyal to it, and its interests; and we will be loyal to every institution upon the earth, to every object of the advancement of mankind. We will continue to be good citizens of this nation; we will uphold and pray for it. We will be true men and true women to our Church, to our country, and to our God. May God bless you, I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

BAPTISMS AT COUNCIL BLUFFS. Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 5.—We have pleasure in reporting the baptism of two more honest souls into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Clyde McNair and Ethel Bird, two highly respected young people of this city, were baptized in Lake Manawa, Dec. 2, 1905, by Elder Thomas O. Stokes. The day had been set for the performing of this ordinance for nearly two weeks. On the arrival of this date the weather was very cold, snow covered the ground, and ice on the lake was about three inches thick. This, however, was no hindrance to those who desired baptism. There are four Elders laboring in this historic city. A good Sunday school is organized and the Elders hold regular services every Sunday and cottage meetings at the homes of friends nearly every night. Many are investigating the message so that the Elders feel greatly encouraged over the prospects for the spread of truth.

CONFERENCE AT SEATTLE. December 3, 4 and 5, the regular quarterly conference of the Seattle conference (Washington), which includes the missionary districts of Tacoma, Wash., Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia, was held at Seattle in the Latter-day Saints meetinghouse. Sunday, Dec. 3, Sunday school officers and teachers' prayer meeting was called to order at 10:15 a. m., and Sunday school at 10:30. First Assistant Supt. J. W. Boman presiding. The school is well equipped with good officers and teachers, and is making rapid progress.

Two public meetings were held, at 2:30 and 7:30 p. m., each having a good attendance of Saints and friends. Conference President J. J. Hendricks conducted the exercises in Seattle. Each report showed the work satisfactory, progressive, and future prospects bright, with some investigating; the Elders are making many friends, but meet with some opposition. Elder S. A. Jackson spoke upon every hand, and every kind of a charge being made against him. His heart was heavy. He was pondering how it was that these things should come to a man who was trying to serve the good Master, and while in that condition of mind the Lord gave unto him the words: "And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if by the following surge comest against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good."

I believe with all my heart that our trials are given us for the same purpose. We are to be thrice tried, as the Saints of old. I believe that all trials are given to us for experience, just as the Lord permitted them to be given to Joseph in the early days of the church. At this same time the Lord said to him, "Thy people shall never be turned against thee by the testimony of traitors." I say to you, President Joseph P. Smith, that the Saints in this vast congregation (and they are but representative of the communities in which they live) will never turn against thee by the testimony of traitors. My brethren and sisters, all I care for is that we may live as God wants

RETURNED MISSIONARIES. Elder Albert Bent Carrigan of Peterson, Morgan county, passed through Salt Lake City Nov. 19, on his return from the Southern States and British missions, for which he was sent apart Oct. 12, 1902. The conference of Northern Illinois and Iowa-Southern States and British missions, for which he was sent apart Oct. 12, 1902, when he was transferred to the British mission, where he reports the gospel work in England prospering nicely.

CONFERENCE AT PUEBLO, COLO. On Sunday, Nov. 26, 1905, the Pueblo semi-annual conference was held in the Latter-day Saints' Church, located on the corner of Seventh and Fountain streets. At 10 a. m. the Sunday school session was held. Supt. Carl F. Coleman, Richard A. Brower, James Jackson and Jas. W. Blake addressed the Saints and children, and bore testimony to the divinity of the Latter-day work.

At the afternoon service Elders Arthur M. Fulmer, LeRoy Shelby and M. M. Steele spoke on Church organization, the Book of Mormon and other Gospel subjects. President Jas. A. McRae presented the names of the authorities of the Church before the meeting and all were unanimously sustained. At the evening service Sister Julia S. Curtis bore an interesting testimony.

President Wm. A. Coleman reported the Pueblo branch in a better condition than it has been for several years with the people more united. President R. W. Bunting made a short address and President Jas. A. McRae referred to the trials and the ancient Saints who in their severest trials thanked God for His blessings. Those who lived Godly in this day would meet trials which would put them to the test. He bore a powerful testimony to the divine mission of the Latter-day Prophet, Joseph Smith.

OHIO CONFERENCE. On Sunday, Nov. 26, 1905, the Ohio semi-annual conference was held in Abies hall, Cleveland. Two public services were held with an attendance of 14 Elders, besides Saints and friends. At 2:30 p. m. the opening service was called to order by Conference President C. S. Jones, who extended to all a hearty welcome. Elders H. R. Harrison, C. K. Conrad and P. C. Winter spoke upon the great apostasy and the restoration of the Gospel, and upon the first principles.

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