PART 2 DESERET EVENING NEWS. 9 TO 16

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 85. SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1898, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. VOL. XXXI.

REMARKS

Made at the Sixty-Eighth Semi-Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuesday Afternoon, October 5th, 1897, by

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

I feel thankful to God my Heavenly Father that I have lived to see the day when I have one of the most powerfully called 1st Presidency, a privilege which all my predecessors, presidents and counselors, who are in the spirit world, have had. Their sons are sitting before me here. I need not mention them; you know them yourselves. I have had this desire in my heart, and the Lord has granted it unto me, and I am very thankful for it. I am satisfied that these two young men we have called will magnify their calling. I am satisfied that it is in their hearts to do it.

I want to remark here the difference—I was thinking of it while the brethren were talking—between the position of my son and our brother here and my position when I was called to the Apostleship. While in the world speaking we even had in this Church, when Apostles and leading men were going to the Prophet of God, the Lord gave me to rise up, choose a companion, and go to Fox Islands. A great deal of that I have done. I had in my mission, I have been led by inspiration of Almighty God to go to Fox Islands. I knew what was on Fox Islands than I knew what was on Kolob. I chose Brother Jonathan H. Blake as a partner, we went through Canada, and there met John E. Page, who was laboring there. We administered to one woman that was possessed of the devil, which was cast out. We healed the sick, and we baptized many in Canada. We crossed on Lake Ontario, and from there down to Albany, and Farmington, my native place. I there met my father and my mother. It was the first time I had seen them since I had been in Latter-day Saints. I held a meeting among them. I baptized my father, my mother, my sister, several uncles and aunts, and organized a small branch of the Church, composed of all my relatives except one—a Methodist preacher, who was boarding at my father's house. Old father Smith told me, when he baptized me, that I should bring all my father's house into the Church. I certainly baptized everyone of them that was in the house at the time I was there. I then went on my way to Fox Islands. When I got there I found two congregations—a Baptist minister, a meeting house, a Baptist congregation, on the north island; a Methodist minister, a Methodist congregation, without any meeting house, on the south island. I commenced preaching, and very soon I saw why the Lord had sent me there. There was a people there wishing for the baptism of Christ. I had been ordained unto the ministry there. I received a letter from Joseph Smith, the Prophet, in which he said to me, that the Lord had given him a revelation, and named to me the persons he had called to fill the place of those who had fallen. My name was among them. He said that he wanted us to gather up the Saints; I had baptized and bring them to Zion. What were the circumstances? I was on an island of the sea. There was not a house of an ox on the island. There was not a man, nor a woman, that knew how to harness a horse. I told one of the brethren, who had some money, that we must purchase a train of horses, wagons, harness, etc., and I requested to advance the money for that purpose. He went with me and we bought about fifty horses, and then I had to match these horses, and get harness to fit them. I went to a wagon-maker and engaged twenty or twenty-five wagons. I did this in order to place the people to go with us, according to the words of the Prophet. I arranged everything, agreed with this brother to furnish the money, and left in advance with the understanding that they were to leave the first day of September. The letter to me was dated the first of August, sent to Blake, as my wife was there with her first child. I decided that this company to come to me, but they did not come till the first of October. We had then to travel from Salem to Nauvoo, through snow, rain, and mud. However, we passed through it all, and got up there, according to the commandment of the Lord to me.

That was the way I was called to the Apostleship, and what I had to go through. I have felt from that day to this that it has been good to serve the Lord with my whole heart, to do all his commandments. I have had my ups and my downs, my trials, as a measure, of health and strength. How long I may stay here I will permit me to live I do not know, I am in my 91st year, but I have to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in these affairs with myself. I have been satisfied at the teachings that have been given me at this Conference. President Joseph Smith has said, what he said, is true, and I have spoken upon principles which are to heart.

I ask you, brethren and sisters, the God of heaven, and the Lord Jesus Christ to Zion, in fulfillment of all the words of God to man from the days of Father Adam down to this day, give you unto you all these things that have been spoken today are just and true, and we ought to observe them. I can not say more, you cannot sin, we cannot err from the commandments of God in anyone, but we are the losers by them. I will say to this congregation, Latter-day Saints if they do not pay tithing, the judgments are called upon to pursue. The Lord will build up Zion and will carry out His purposes, and the chastised unless we listen to the counsels of the servants of God, right or left, on political questions or any other questions, to separate themselves from the commandments of God, the Almighty will be chastised for doing it. I know this as well as I know I am alive. I can testify for the salvation of the Latter-day Saints, I have spoken plain, I have spoken what you are on your knees and have prayed, we united together, and have called upon the God of heaven to bless us, and the blessings of the Lord have been poured upon us. We have had our trials, our ups and our downs, our difficulties, our sorrows, our joys, our pleasures, our pains, our sicknesses and our afflictions