

would be announced later. He urged that historical data concerning Sunday school work and workers be collected and sent to the general board. He particularly desired facts relating to Sunday school work prior to the coming of the Saints to Utah.

What is the form of the Holy Ghost? Is it in the form of a person, or a spirit without any particular form? Was Jesus Christ the Holy Ghost before He tabernacled in the flesh? These questions were read by Elder Reynolds, as samples of many that had been asked.

President Cannon said in relation to them that often such questions, concerning which there is no written revelation, came up from Sunday school workers who desired answers. Yesterday some young man asked the speaker if Adam was the father of Jesus Christ.

It is not wise for us to puzzle ourselves over questions concerning which the Lord has withheld full knowledge from us. Theosophists teach the reincarnation of the human soul, and some Elders in our Church have indulged in similar speculations. To have our Sunday school classes indulge in such theorizing will produce darkness. They should be confined to what the Lord has revealed. Pupils will ask questions on abstruse subjects, which is well enough, if they can be answered from revelation, but it is not well to try to find out mysteries. Where individuals have had mysteries revealed to them, which the President of the Church does not make known to it, they should hold their peace respecting the same. The First Presidency do not deem it wise to agitate certain questions concerning Adam, and the Savior. At the time when the Prophet Joseph was giving endowments in Nauvoo abominable doctrines were taught and circulated, some of which the speaker stated, saying that they would destroy those who practiced them. Speculation and argument about questions not made plain by revelation tend to darkness and are dangerous. The speaker urged those present to labor to impress purity and virtue upon the young, and to teach them that they had better lose their lives than their chastity.

Elder George D. Pyper sang, "O My Father" most beautifully.

Benediction by President Joseph F. Smith.

EVENING SESSION.

After singing, prayer was offered by Elder L. Pond.

Elder Newton E. Noyes spoke on How to Prepare a Sunday School Lesson. To teach it is necessary to know how to teach. Teaching is a science and an art, and requires careful, methodical preparation. The teacher should pray that he may himself properly comprehend the subject upon which he is preparing a lesson, and that he may have proper ideas in connection with it. The teacher desires to be able to so present the lesson to the class as to inspire in them a religious feeling, and lead them to seek for a testimony of the truth of the Gospel. Few can teach a class without preparation. The first step in preparing a lesson is the accumulation of material. Go into the subject first, then go around it and then go away from it, bearing away such valuable material as has been found. After obtaining the material come the study and arrangement of it. The points of the lesson should be arranged in systematic order. The mind cannot easily retain matter which is not germane. Seek to know the relation of the lesson in hand with others already learned. The language of the teacher should be of the same grade as the pupils, so that they may so learn the lesson that they can repeat it in their own words. Much time is saved by a carefully prepared lesson, and the teacher who is thoroughly

prepared has much more influence with his pupils than one who is not.

Elder George Goddard was thankful for the privilege of being present in this convention, and of being identified with Sabbath school work. The workers in this cause receive no fee nor reward in money, and beyond them are 100,000 children, who should be trained in habits that will be a protection to them. The times we live in are fraught with big events, and we want our children to be prepared for the time when thousands and tens of thousands will rush to Zion for safety.

Elder George D. Pyper sang a selection.

In answer to a question Elder Noyes said that the decision of a teacher as to how he would present a lesson in detail, did not necessarily interfere with the operations of the Holy Spirit in directing his work.

Elder George Teasdale spoke on "The Bible in the Sunday schools." He knew of no book more valuable and quoted the saying of Paul to Timothy:

"And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make the wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The object of the Sabbath schools is to impress upon the pupils the glory of a well spent life, the value of being a disciple of Christ and having a good character. This wonderful book covers everything from the cradle to the grave. We require the fellowship and guidance of the Holy Spirit if we would not make a failure of this life. The Scriptures teach us two powers in this state of existence, good and evil, and that by following the instructions of the Almighty men may overcome evil and inherit eternal life. The Bible is a book fit for every department of the Sunday school. It shows the rewards of purity of life, and of the opposite; the value of righteousness and the hideousness of sin. The speaker, while presiding over Juab Stake, taught a primary class in a Sabbath school, and had found charts very valuable in teaching children. The speaker had often reflected upon the wonderful character of the wonderful book the Bible, and showed how it had preserved morality among the Jews.

Elder John M. Mills spoke upon "The Book of Mormon in the Sunday Schools." The class that studies this book should be told of its origin, history and purpose, and the way to impart this knowledge is to go into the book itself. The speaker said he would tell the children of the life of Mormon and the times in which he lived; of the records that were committed to his care; of the abridgement of voluminous records which he made and which was committed to his son Moroni; of the battle of Cumorah, and of other historical and sacred matters related in the Book of Mormon. He would show also that the Lamanites have had a history since that of the Nephites closed; how they fought among themselves after destroying the Nephites, and destroyed all the records they could find; how they afterwards collected some records that had not been destroyed and put them together in a book which was held sacred; how remnants of these records were taken to Spain and Italy by early European travelers in the new world, and are still extant.

To teach prayer from the Book of Mormon the speaker would take the Book of Alma, and follow the events it narrates. The speaker described at length how he would follow before his class, the narrative of the record. The

Book of Mormon can be taught in all grades. The teacher should be able to tell the story rather than have it read by the pupils in the class.

Nellie Druce-Pugsley sang, "Humbly Before Thee" in an exquisite manner.

Elder L. J. Nuttall read a report of committee on reception and entertainment, which showed as follows:

To the Convention of the Sunday Schools of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, held Nov. 29th and 29th, 1898:

Your Committee on Subsistence and Information respectfully report that

There were 2,095 delegates reported to the convention; 1,810 of these received badges and were in attendance.

Of the 2,095 delegates 1,983 came from the State of Utah; 106 came from the adjoining states; 3 came from Canada; 2 came from the state of Tennessee; 1 came from the republic of Mexico. Total, 2,095.

Accommodations were provided through your committee and the gratuitous hospitality of the inhabitants of Salt Lake City and adjoining wards, for the visiting delegates (with a very few exceptions), and 750 lunches were served at the convention headquarters.

Respectfully,

L. JOHN NUTTALL,

Chairman.

Salt Lake City, Nov. 29, 1898.

Elder George Reynolds read a number of questions relating to the Word of Wisdom, and two letters by one writer addressed to President Cannon in regard to catechising teachers and pupils as to their observance of the Word of Wisdom and the law of Tithing.

President Cannon then arose and announced that, without attempting to answer the questions seriatim, he would express his views in a general way upon the Word of Wisdom, which he proceeded to do, speaking with much earnestness and power.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the following resolution was put and adopted:

"Resolved, That a vote of thanks be given by this convention to the following members and committees:

1. To the superintendency, George Q. Cannon, George Goddard and Dr. K. G. Maeser, for calling this convention and submitting plans for its successful operation and for the able manner in which the convention has been conducted during its sessions;
2. To the brethren of the general committee for the excellent arrangements which have been so successfully carried out;
3. To the committee on subsistence and information for the accommodations provided for those who came from a distance, and the ever ready information given;
4. To the committee on appointments for the excellent taste and judgment exhibited by them;
5. To the committee on transportation for the accommodations and low rates secured on railroads;
6. To the committee on decoration for their labors in decorating this hall with these plants, flowers and bunting, and the comforts we have here enjoyed;
7. To the leader of music, Brother Geo. D. Pyper, for the interesting manner in which he has conducted the singing exercises;
8. To Prof. John J. McClellan for sweet music rendered on the organ;
9. To Prof. John Held for his excellent accompaniments upon the cornet to give life to the singing;
10. To Brothers George D. Pyper and Heber S. Goddard, and Sisters Mabel Cooper and Nellie Druce-Pugsley for singing so sweetly and effectively at the sessions of the convention;