

ELDER ANGUS M. CANNON

expressed his gratification at the willingness of the majority of the people of the Stake to do their duty. The parable of the ten virgins is receiving practical application, for all who hold the Priesthood have lamps, but some are not keeping them replenished with oil and in these cases pretensions to the holding of office are of no avail. Our light should shine to all the world, and if we seek unto God, he will reveal Himself to us, and give us all the light we require. The officers of the stake are striving to perform their duties, but there is room for improvement on the part of all. Evidences of the goodness of God are plentiful to those who are in such a condition of mind as to receive them. He referred to the joyful reception of the First Presidency and the Choir in Independence, Missouri, and said that this indicated wonderful progress in the appreciation of the labors of and talents of the Latter-day Saints. Having been looked upon as alien to our government, it will become apparent that our regard for its principles is greater than has been thought, and that our citizenship is in all particulars as loyal and valuable as that of any other people. Zion must come to the front in all good things, and our children must be the ones to bring about that result, which will depend to a great extent upon the training we give our children, the offspring of God. We must render an account of our stewardship of our wives and children, and God has given us temporal and spiritual advantage to enable us to do our duty well in this regard. The present times are calculated to make us remember the object for which we have come to these valleys, and our hearts will turn to our children and our parents in blessings to them and to ourselves and in the glorification of God in our lives.

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referred to the great necessity at the present time of our having the Spirit of God to guide us. Although in general the work of the Saints is being well performed, yet a very small percentage of those claiming standing in the Church are fully magnifying their callings. We are too apt to perform only such duties as are pleasant, and by failure to perform others, we are falling into a very unfortunate condition, akin to apostasy, for in some respects indifference is more difficult to master than apostasy. Hypocritical friends are more dangerous than open enemies, and God will no doubt use means to bring out the true character of all whose standing is at all doubtful.

Reference was made to the financial dangers confronting the world, and the speaker regretted that the fall of Babylon will seriously affect Zion. Hundreds of men are out of employment in our Territory, and in spite of willingness to work, they find themselves almost at the verge of starvation. Some means should be adopted to prevent suffering. The missionaries are gathering many people to Zion, and they need employment. They should not be allowed to suffer. Our children must also be looked after, and employment will be absolutely necessary. Many think that over-population is in progress and that war and pestilence must be

brought upon the land to relieve it from its surplus people. It is a mistake. The land is fully capable of giving support to all the people, and in this Territory are all the necessary means to make us independent. But we do not maintain that independence, for we have followed after the ways of men instead of the ways of God. Many are hoarding their wealth for their own interest, and the poor are allowed to suffer. With two million acres of land under water, we are neglecting its cultivation. The land is not worked to the best advantage. Where a family may live in comfort on a few acres of land well cultivated, some spread out on scores of acres and barely sustain themselves. Our land is fertile and strong, and much of it awaits pre-emption. The unemployed should turn their attention to this land, for by its cultivation the Territory as well as the individuals will be enriched. These temporal things cannot be fully equalized until the proper order of God has been established, but in the meantime efforts should be made to keep young people on the farms in the country, where they will be comparatively free from the galling care of the business man. Debt is anxiety and care. It is altogether too common now, and should be avoided. Those who are thus troubled should seek the guidance of the Spirit of God to relieve themselves from this condition. God can bless us temporarily, and He will do so if we broaden our souls and comfort and assist those who are in need. The example set by Holland, where the people have wrested thin lands from the sea, was referred to by way of commendation. Wonderful results may also be produced among us by union and proper industry. We should strive to maintain our reputation for thrift and industry, and the word should not go forth that we are losing our self-dependence and are becoming dependent upon others. This can be done only by sustaining home industries. Many of them are languishing or want of support. We are too apt to value that which comes from abroad more highly than that which is produced at home. Skilful workmen coming from abroad should be employed in their trades here for the establishment of industry to provide material for our consumption, and then we should purchase this material. In the meantime we should do all we can to support the poor among us by giving them employment. Union in matters temporal is as necessary as in spiritual things. The hungry man cannot understand the beauties of eternity and the truths of the Gospel, and as stewards of the property of God we should use it to feed the hungry. We should not set our hearts upon our property. Better that it should be taken from us than that we should refuse to use it to the increase of love and union among our brethren and sisters. Our heaven will consist in the bestowal of benefits upon the needy. By doing this, we shall follow the admonition of Christ, who accepts it as if it had been done to Him.

Adjourned to Sunday at 10 a. m. in the Tabernacle.

Singlor:

(Softly beams the sacred dawning.

Benediction by Elder Jor. E. Taylor.

Services in connection with the semi-annual Conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion were continued in the Tabernacle on Sunday, Elder Angus M. Cannon, President of the Stake, presiding on each occasion.

Morning Session.

Choir and congregation sang the hymn beginning:

Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear,
But with joy wend your way.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Wm. B. Preston.

The choir next sang the hymn:

Come, Dearest Lord, descend and dwell,
By faith and love in every breast.

Elder Charles W. Penrose read the following statistical report of the Stake for the six months ending August 31st 1893: First Presidency, 3; Apostles, 5; Patriarchs, 15; Seventies, 1330; High Priests, 453; Elders, 2224; Priests, 508; Teachers, 409; Deacons, 1628; members, 18,056; total officers and members, 24,631; children under eight years, 7918; total of souls, 32,549; families 6266; marriages, 68; births—males, 307; females, 304; children blessed, 714; officer, members, etc., received, 1644; officers, members, etc., removed, 2150; baptized, new members, 120; baptized, children, 937; excommunicated, 6; deaths, males, 77; deaths, females, 97; individuals drawing support, 1010.

Elder Penrose also read the fast offerings and charity accounts, Relief society, High Priests' quorum, Elders' quorum, Mutual Improvement associations and Primary associations reports.

The offerings and charity accounts showed receipts and disbursements for the support of the poor in the different wards during the six months ending June 30, 1893, as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand January 1.....	\$ 3,297 13
From fast offerings.....	4,591 16
From Relief societies.....	2,688 74
From other sources.....	324 52
From Tithing department (Presiding Bishop's office).....	13,046 15

Total receipts.....\$13,927 70

DISBURSEMENTS.

Disbursements.....	\$20,775 88
Balance on hand June 30, 1893.....	3,151 82
Number supported.....	1,583
Contingent fund needed for the six months ending December 31, 1893, per ward reports.....	13,570 00

The speaker called attention to the fact that some of the wards and societies had been delinquent to the forwarding of their reports, but he hoped there would be a reform in this respect in future. Bishops of wards, he said, should make it a matter of pride to have their respective wards right up to the standard in every particular. He also gave some good counsel to individual members, pointing out the necessity of their being useful wherever possible. This was a day of repentance, and we, as Latter-day Saints, needed to have repentance preached to us and our shortcomings pointed out whether this was palatable to us or not. Latter-day Saints should remain steadfast to their covenants with God, and if any in that congregation had failed to keep these he called upon them now to repent. Let us not neglect our duties, but so live and act that the powers behind the veil, might be with us, that we might feel their sacred influence, their great spiritual power, and be the means of accom-