

better fathers, mothers, husbands, wives and children. This progress was delightful to behold.

The speaker referred to the times in the history of the community when the people suffered for want of proper and sufficient food. The beneficent change that had occurred in every respect was due to the blessing and kind providence of the Almighty. We had been chosen of the Lord to fulfil the prophecies of inspired men of ancient time, and who, by the inspiration of God, beheld our day. The speaker knew that the leaders of the Church are men of God, chosen by Him to accomplish His purposes in the building up of the latter-day Zion. They had been inspired to lead this work through the difficulties which had beset it during the last few years. He remembered what it had cost to establish the principles of the Gospel of Christ, revealed anew in this age. The turmoil and opposition which had confronted the leaders of the Church from the beginning had been remarkable for continuance and determination. We were here in this land to stay, and no power could remove us except it might be through our own transgression. New experiences would be met in the progress of this work, but power to overcome obstacles would increase as necessity should arise. He regarded a political training to be as necessary to the advancement of the people as education in any other direction. It could, however, be obtained without any of the people becoming intemperate and impatient in connection with that subject. The Church had been admonished from the beginning to seek wisdom from all good books and every other proper and available source. The political organization which would be ultimately established by Christ and under His reign would protect all men and women in their rights and liberties. If the Saints should go into the Temple worthily they would be strengthened and blessed, but those who should enter it in a condition opposite to this would be under condemnation.

#### PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

Said: I have a request I wish to make to this assembly of Latter-day Saints, as all may not be here this afternoon, who are here now. There are many of you from a distance as well as many who dwell here in the city. You are expecting to go into the Temple to attend its dedication. I have a desire in my heart that every one of you, the night before you go into the Temple, before retiring to rest, will go by yourselves, in secret prayer. Offer up your prayers to the Lord, and pray that your sins may not only be forgiven, but that you may all have the Spirit of God and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ; that the Spirit of God may be with those who who assemble in that Temple.

The inhabitants of the earth do not realize the effect and benefit of prayer. The Lord hears and answers the prayers of men, women and children. Prayer has more power, a great deal, to bring down the blessings of God, than almost any other thing.

I have the desire for the Saints to do this, for I wish to see those who go into the Temple go in with pure hearts, and that the Spirit of God may

be with them, that they may enjoy themselves, that they may all feel the influence of that power while at the dedication of the Temple.

I pray God to give you all an answer to your prayers, and to give you the Holy Spirit to assist you while at the dedication and services of the dedication. Amen.

The choir and congregation sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning!  
The latter-day glory begins to come forth;  
The visions and blessings of old are returning,  
The angels are coming to visit the earth.

Benediction was offered by Elder M. W. Merrill.

#### OVERFLOW MEETING

held in the Assembly Hall, Wednesday, April 5th, 1893; commencing at 10 a. m., Apostle F. M. Lyman presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

The time is far spent, etc.

Prayer by Elder John Morgan.

The choir and congregation sang:

How firm a foundation, etc.

#### ELDER JONATHAN G. KIMBALL

was the first speaker; he looked upon the present occasion as one of the most important periods in the history of the Church, and hoped that every Latter-day Saint would show by their future actions that their reconciliation and forgiveness at the present time is being done in sincerity before God; and that our entering into the now completed Temple in this city with pure hearts and good intentions may be the stepping stone to the enjoyment of an increased portion of the gifts and blessings of God. Among the duties that should be attended to in order to enter the house of the Lord in a proper state of preparation is that of paying our honest debts. Some of the brethren who are owing money sometimes feel offended when they are reminded by their creditors of this fact, and instead of taking steps immediately to liquidate or settle such obligations, they get angry and refuse to pay. All such are unfit to attend the approaching dedication; the speaker asked the forgiveness of his brethren and sisters, if he had wronged any one.

#### ELDER CHARLES W. PENROSE

spoke on the principle of meekness and humility. The Son of God taught His disciples to become as little children in order to enter into the kingdom of Heaven; this injunction applies to us all. If we desire a blessing from our Heavenly Father, we must exercise faith and approach Him in humility and with a contrite spirit; otherwise we will fail in obtaining divine favor. We must always make our ways and plans subordinate to the will of heaven, in which course our Savior showed us a glorious example, when he came not to do His own will but that of His Father who had sent Him. But, while Jesus was meek and lowly, He was brave and fearless in carrying out the true details of the great mission which had been entrusted to Him, and which eventually cost Him His life. The speaker had labored in the ministry for forty-two years, and felt it was too late in the day for him to turn away from the truth, and he now desired to enter into the holy Temple fully reconciled

with his God and all the Saints. He disapproved of the fear entertained by some that a number of the Saints would apostatize after the dedication of the Temple; there is no foundation for such apprehensions. Why should we leave the eternal truths of heaven? Where would we go to find anything to satisfy our hearts outside of the pale of the true Church, which embraces all that tends to exaltation and salvation in the kingdom of our God. It is more consistent to expect that the dedication of the Temple will be the ushering in of a new and better era in the history of the Saints, and that from this time a renewed and more determined effort will be made to serve the Lord on the part of the Latter-day Saints generally.

#### ELDER JOHN MORGAN

referred to some who left the Church many years ago and were now returning to the fold, repentant and humbly bearing testimony that while they were wandering in by and forbidden paths they found no rest for their feet, nor peace in their hearts. The speaker believed the Lord was pleased with the efforts of the Saints in erecting the magnificent edifice which is about to be dedicated unto the Lord in this city. God would certainly accept of the building, and after the dedication the Saints would find themselves occupying a higher plane on the road to victory and final exaltation.

Elder B. H. Roberts, who had recently visited some of the distant Stakes of Zion, said that some of these had paid toward the erection of the Temple double the portion that had been allotted to them. The speaker believed that the Saints, in return for their general liberality in this regard, would reap not only spiritual blessings, but great temporal prosperity. The dedication of the Temple will not only affect the Latter-day Saints, but mankind generally; for the world cannot shut its eyes to the fact that the Saints are earnest and sincere in their actions; otherwise why should they subscribe liberally of their means towards the erection of an edifice which will bring them no worldly returns?

As the ruins of the temples erected by the ancient inhabitants of this land today testify of a God-fearing people, so will the Salt Lake Temple stand for centuries to come as a grand monument of the faith, unlovely and unselfishness of the Saints of the latter days; and preach to the stranger who shall visit our beautiful valley in times to come, a sermon so powerful and convincing that thousands will acknowledge the hand of the Lord in connection with the labor performed by the Saints in these mountains, and lead them to embrace the truth. The speaker was happy to say that he was in full accord with his brethren of the First Presidency, the Apostles and the authorities of the Church generally.

We thank thee O God for a Prophet,

Was sung by the choir and congregation, and benediction was offered by Elder Jesse W. Crosby, Jr.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The choir and congregation sang:

We thank Thee, O God, for a prophet,  
To guide us in these latter days,  
We thank Thee for sending the Gospel,  
To lighten our minds with its rays.