

GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
BRIGHAM YOUNG,  
BISHOP AND PRESIDENT.

Monday, October 7, 1878.

## SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Forty-Eighth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, October 6th, 1878, at 10 a.m., as per previous adjournment.

President John Taylor presiding. Present on the stand:

Of the Twelve Apostles:  
John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Joseph F. Smith, Albert Carrington.

Counselor to the Twelve:  
Daniel H. Wells.

Patriarch:  
John Smith.

Of the First Seven Presidents of  
Sevinties:  
Joseph Young, Levi W. Hancock, John Van Cott and Horace S. Eldredge.

Of the Presidency of the Salt Lake  
State of Zion:  
Angus M. Cannon, David O. Calder and Joseph E. Taylor.

Of the Presidency of the High  
Priests' Quorum of this State of  
Zion:  
Elias Morris and Edward Snellgrove.

Of the Presidency of the Bishopric  
of the Church:  
Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Robert W. Burton.

The weather was beautiful and the opening services, every stake of Zion throughout the territory, were largely represented by presidents, bishops and others.

Conference was called to order by President JOHN TAYLOR.

The choir sang:

I saw a mighty angel,  
To earth he sent his way.

Prayer by ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON.

The choir sang:

Author of truth, Eternal Word,  
Whose spirit breathes the entire form.

ELDER ORSON HYDE.

Rejoiced in meeting with the saints on this beautiful morning, the people in the country where he was wont to labor had a sufficiency of the products of the earth to make them comfortable and happy.

He had been for many years under the lash of the outside world, and he did not look for any relaxation of their influence until he was bound and the saints obtained the victory. He referred to and quoted one of the Revelations of St. John, wherein he saw a beautiful woman clothed with glory, with the moon under her feet, upon whose head was a crown of twelve stars, and whose ambition was far superior to anything of a terrestrial character.

While those saints and seers that by that position, the saints would have nothing to fear. In relation to the witness of a people that are diverse in their habits and acts, it required great wisdom to accomplish it, nothing short of the wisdom of God could bring it about.

A preliminary prayer by President John Taylor.

Prayer by Elder Albert Carrington.

The choir sang:

Second day.

MONDAY MORNING.

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Prayer by Elder Albert Carrington.

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THE CHOIR SANG:

We have approached thy table Lord,  
As thy commandment through chosen ones.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON.

Read a portion of section 111 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

He said that anyone who was called to stand before such a vast congregation, would naturally feel the nothingness, and the necessity of reliance upon the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so that the people might be led with the bread of life.

He traveled as elders to the various nations of the earth, published the first principles of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and gathered the people together.

With these things and labors, the elders of the Church had become familiar, also with laying the foundation of settlements.

He said that the system of government, and, by having so many labors to perform in the temporal affairs of the people, obtained an experience that perhaps no other body of men was ever called to.

Notwithstanding all these various labors, we were now standing but on the verge of our duties and responsibilities. We now need statesmen and those who are capable of directing the people, and the affairs of their daily life, so as to make our temporal influence as powerfully felt as our spiritual influence. He then spoke of the dangers that now beset and threaten our small republic, and said our only safeguard was the principle of union. Though we might be numerically weak, if we could unite our spiritual and temporal influence, we could stand as one.

In the early establishment of this church, though so few in number, the influence of mobocracy began to appear and persecution set in for the destruction of the church, but the union that was among this people preserved us upon the earth, and God permitted us to grow and increase until He gave us a command to gather out of Babylon, to leave our homes in the east and come to the valley of the mountains.

There was not only spiritual salvation connected with these movements, but temporal salvation also, and we could not accomplish our spiritual salvation without the aid of the Almighty in gathering together a great people in these valleys, was to establish a government, and to do this we must have a president, hence the necessity of our being so thoroughly organized, that a proper influence would be exerted upon the people, and that we could stand as one.

He referred with pleasure to the change that was taking place in the minds of the elders in regard to the principle of the mountains, and complete system of union. But though the principle of co-operation or of the United Order might be understood by the leading authorities of the church, it would not be sufficient to get the masses of the people to adopt it until they could be led to comprehend it. He was happy to see that the church was making many mistakes that had occurred in our past efforts, the subject of union in our temporal affairs had been thoroughly thought out, and among the people that they were now both ready and willing to fall in with any practical measure that might be recommended by the leaders of the church.

He said that a committee, composed of the best practical business men of the Territory be appointed to superintend all the various branches of home industry that may be introduced, so that the benefits arising from home products may be used to enhance the interests of the whole community, and to the advantage of a few. The servants of God were endeavoring to do this, and they were to be commended for their efforts.

He said that the church was now in a position to accomplish its mission, and that the people were now both ready and willing to fall in with any practical measure that might be recommended by the leaders of the church.

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THE CHOIR SANG:

We have approached thy table Lord,  
As thy commandment through chosen ones.

ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH.

Briefly referred to the recent mission of himself and Elder Orson Pratt to the States. He related some of the terrible effects of the recent cyclone which had just befallen the people of the States, and the country; some of the fearful consequences of it were seen in the town of Richmond, Missouri, and in the very place where Parley P. Pratt, many years ago, was a pioneer of the Gospel's sake. The place of his confinement was utterly swept away. They visited and examined the ruins, and examined the very spot which God designated to his servant Joseph Smith, many years ago, for a temple. The ground which was purchased for this purpose, and which he had gathered as a green leaf that he could gather as a seed of the stalk. They also at last conferred with the following charges:

Orson F. Whitney was sustained as bishop of the Eighteenth Ward, and Robert Patrick and Wm. H. Barstow as his counselors.

James A. Crapo as President of the Teachers' Quorum of the Draper Ward, and Seymour E. Pratt and Byron Brown as his counselors.

The leaders and members of the Tabernacle choir, the Tabernacle committee, the president and counselors of the Scandinavian meetings of this state, the president and counselors of Relief Societies, and the superintendent and assistants of Sunday Schools were all sustained as elders of the church.

President Angus M. Cannon said that the tabernacle committee required good strong laborers to assist in completing the walls of the new tabernacle, and that every day displayed by the bishops in collecting so promptly, the means for the tabernacle, was a great blessing to the church.

He said that those who were in the positions they occupy by drink and other evil practices, will be removed, and more worthy men will be placed in their stead. He said that the church should be careful how they use the authority of the priesthood in administering to the sick.

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