

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Of the Weber Stake of Zion, in Ogden Tabernacle.

SATURDAY, July 16, 2 p. m.

The meeting was opened by singing "Let Zion in her Beauty Rise," prayer by Elder Joseph Stanford. The choir sang, "How sweet thy Work, my Lord, my King."

Reports were heard from Hooper by Bishop Belnap, and Huntsville, Bishop F. A. Hammond. The clerk read the totals of the statistical report of the Weber Stake of Zion, after which Elder E. H. Anderson gave a brief report of the Y. M. M. I. Associations of the County.

PRESIDENT L. J. HERRICK

addressed the congregation, stating he had been gratified with the reports of the Bishops and with the report of the Sunday Schools. The spirit of advancement and progress is among the people, and we feel that we are all interested in the education of our children. The first thing the Saints thought of in making their early settlements was to build a school house, and notwithstanding the assertions of the outside world to the contrary, the Latter-day Saints are first and foremost in educational interests in this Territory. The people in this county were, among many other good things, endeavoring to sustain a newspaper to represent their interests. This was a most important move, and all who are interested in the Kingdom of God should render assistance to this noble work. It is one of the most important that exists and the Saints, who are always interested in education, should aid in its development by subscribing for our papers. In view of the coming elections he wished to state that it was necessary to vote, whether there be opposition or not. It is a duty. The world call us traitors, because we all vote one way; do not the Republicans or Democrats vote one way? If they do not, they should. And is it more wicked for the Latter-day Saints than for the Republicans and Democrats? If the "Mormons" were as deluded as the ministers of the day call them, why is it means are not devised to elevate them from their wicked paths to something nobler? But instead of doing this, they steadily offer prayers to have the "Mormons" crushed out of existence. This was not his idea of good religion.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

next addressed the audience. He was made aware by the reports given that the condition of this Stake of Zion was similar to that of adjacent counties. The Saints differ widely in their modes of life, thus we find some who pay their tithing strictly, others who strictly observe the Word of Wisdom; some are good theorists, others are practical, hence, when we do not see alike, we should have forbearance one for the other. He was interested in the political remarks of President Herrick, and as it was Saturday, he would make a few observations on this subject. There are two parties in Utah, as much so as there are in New York. The People's Party, who have built up the country and make it fruitful. This party is greatly in the majority. The second party is composed of Federal officials, who come here, not to devote their time to the interest of the people, but to interfere with their rights. From these, in connection with apostates and miners, and business men, (many of whom are indeed gentlemen,) a party has been formed, which is perfectly right, just as much so as it is for us to do so. There exist, then, in Utah, two distinct parties. If the speaker were a liberal, he said, he should sustain that party, and as he is a member of the People's Party, he expects to labor for the ascendancy of that party. All the offices where a decent salary is obtained are given to the small party. All the postoffices where the salary is worth anything, are given to those who are the bitterest assailants of the people. Everyone has a right to his religion, but when they assail us and charge us with the vile deeds that they themselves have brought into our midst, it shows the weakness of their cause, and teaches us to look well to our interests, and to our children. It would be better to carry your dear ones to the grave than to let them be taught by such men as have no hesitation in planting the seeds of infidelity in their minds. He prayed that the blessings of God would be with all who strive for the building up of truth and righteousness upon the earth.

The choir sang, "Lord, dismiss us with Thy Blessings," and the Conference adjourned till Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder L. F. Monch.

SUNDAY, July 17, 10 a. m.

After the usual opening exercises

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW

first addressed the congregation. He started out to speak on those things that relate to the business in which the Saints are engaged, worshipping the Lord and preparing ourselves

for the great scenes lying before us. The character of occasions like the present depends greatly upon the spirit in which the congregation receive the instructions given them. We are the Saints of God and must do our labor with an eye single to the glory of God, and for the accomplishment of the great purposes of the Almighty. We have set out to serve the Lord our God willingly and to obey the dictates of his holy spirit. In His image we have been formed, and He has actually manifested himself in various periods of the world's history. He showed himself to Abraham, to Isaac, Noah, Moses, and to different prophets, In these latter days He has revealed Himself to persons who yet live, in all His glory, as a being that once traveled upon the earth, preaching the Gospel and being persecuted by those calling themselves His friends, the house of Israel. They even slew Him, when He returned to the throne of glory. He has again made himself manifest in these latter days, as He did in the temple of Kirtland of which we have irrefutable testimony, that he stood upon the breastwork of the pulpit, His eye being like flames of fire and His voice sounding like the rushing of mighty waters. It is, now, the privilege of Latter-day Saints to have a knowledge of these facts, to know that Jesus lives. To know this is life. But temporal cares and anxieties cast away or obscure such reflections in our mind so that we oftentimes forget the covenants we have entered into with our Heavenly Father.

We expect that eventually our bodies will be glorified to be like unto Jesus, and immortalized. But inasmuch as we neglect our duties we cannot reasonably expect that we shall receive these mighty blessings. If, however, we live humble before Him, our prospects will be brightened. The Saints of former days took joyfully the persecutions to which they were subjected through their religion; and unless we go through the same ordeal we cannot anticipate the promised blessings and exaltation. We should not think it strange, if heavy pressure is going to bear down upon us. Hence we should prepare ourselves for the probation to come. It is an unpleasant thing for a Saint to serve Mammon and God at the same time. The world can do it for a time, but we cannot be half-way Saints.

Things come in our progress through life with which we cannot cope successfully, unless we are instructed by a light from power divine. We ought to live so that we show and realize that the hand of the Lord is over us all the time, not only at stated seasons and hours. We ought to live so that we never need be ashamed for the eye of God to see us and our actions and penetrate our inmost thoughts. We look for great things to transpire shortly; therefore we ought of a necessity to educate ourselves the a spirit of the Gospel and in the things of God. It becomes necessary that we be well-informed on the principles of righteousness and godliness, like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did, who are sitting as Gods upon the thrones that were prepared for them. We are told again that when Jesus appears we shall be like Him. Therefore we ought to have this object constantly before us and purify our lives in truth and virtue. We never shall establish those holy principles unless we practice the duties incumbent upon us. The speaker has been engaged 45 years in this work and he feels just as eager and earnest in it as he ever did, and even more so, in proportion to the increased light he has acquired. Apostle Snow closed by praying to God that He bless every Saint and every honest man, and that we always have the spirit of revelation within us.

APOSTLE F. D. RICHARDS

Felt it a blessing to contribute in the labor of the Gospel. The excellent principles of the Gospel are only like the crackling of the thorns under the pot, if we do not practice them and embody them in our every day life. One thing that was uppermost in his mind was the subject of tithing. Some find it an old threadbare topic, but the speaker never turns his mind to it but he finds a blessing connected with it. The great reasons why the Saints fail to realize the beauty of the principle of tithing is that they do not properly consider the subject. Whereas we think that the property we gather around us, houses, lots, lands, farms, cattle, money, or merchandise, is "our own," we ought to realize and understand that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." If we can frame our minds to the correct understanding of the words of Scripture, we encompass the fact that neither is the earth, any part of it, ours nor are we ourselves our own, as the Apostle says we are bought with the precious blood of Jesus. We are here on earth only as the stewards of the Lord's own property, and if we bring our minds to this understanding we will realize the true principle of tithing. The prophet Malachi (3d chapter, verses 6 to 12,) says: "Ye have robbed God, in tithes and offerings," etc. The peo-

ple of Israel had "robbed God" in refusing their tithes and offerings; and so we, in withholding our tithings, rob God. We don't give to the Lord, as everything we possess is the Lord's, and we only hold in trust what is His. The true, fair, square one-tenth of our substance—and if we have paid this portion of our substance—one-tenth of our increase is the tithing required by the law of the Lord, and anything less is mockery before Him, like he trick attempted by Ananias of old.

The speaker then showed forth the blessings attending those who faithfully pay due tithes unto the Lord, and quoted from the revelation given in 1838, at Far West (Doc. & Cov., sec. 119, 6th paragraph.)

The land shall be sanctified by the people inhabiting it, and this is done by faithfully observing the law of tithing. The brethren of the Presidency and of the Twelve pay their tithing carefully year by year, as the records show. They subtract nothing from their year's income for living expenses or other contingencies, but loyally and honestly pay one full tenth of all they receive from the hand of the Lord and his people. Now we are in a season of abundance, the fields are laden with grain, that there are hardly enough hands to store it. This, therefore, is the very time to take into our hearts the true understanding of the law of tithing and observe it. A day of reckoning will come when we shall have to give an account of our stewardship. When we apply to enter into high and holy places, to receive our blessings, we will be inquired after as to our paying the tithes. Apostle Richards here stated how deeply he realized the blessings and gratification that have attended him for being prompt and punctual in paying his tithing ever since the establishment of the law, and he wanted all his children to do likewise and secure the attendant blessings. By-and-bye Abraham will appear and he and his generation will receive the great inheritances promised to him and his seed, and we ought to prepare for the time, that we can claim our share.

The speaker closed with exhorting the Latter-day Saints to deal honestly and loyally in the matter of tithing, which is a commandment from the Lord on high.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

expressed his gratification at the large number present and endorsed the exhortation with regard to the observance of the law of tithing which was one of the laws of sacrifice to the Lord. There is no law of God that is not predicated upon our fulfilling it. It rests upon us with binding force that we look well over our course in life and learn all about the requirements of the Gospel. We are incomplete in our physical system if we lose one of our limbs; likewise a clock-work is incomplete if the least wheel is removed. Precisely the same thing is the case with the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Faith without repentance, repentance without reformation is incomplete. We can in no wise expect to be benefited if we fail to comply with any single requirement of the Gospel. This the speaker showed clearly in the various principles of our faith, referring with especial emphasis to the Words of Wisdom whose observers are passed over by the Destroyer unharmed, while those who are in the habit of breaking the laws of life are broken down. None of us will obtain a blessing of the Gospel unless we live for it, performing the duties required at our hand. There is a necessity for honesty, truthfulness, frankness, candor, and every other virtuous God-like quality. All who are neglecting their duties will fail in their life as servants and hand-maidens of the Lord. Therefore the speaker earnestly exhorted the Saints to observe all the laws given to the people of Israel, that the blessings, glories, and exaltations promised to us might be secured to us.

The meeting adjourned for the afternoon with an anthem by the choir and benediction.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

[Continued from first page.]

SUNDAY, 2 P. M.

After the usual opening exercises and during the administering of the sacrament the clerk of the Stake presented the general authorities of the Church and those of Weber Stake to the vote of the congregation which unanimously sustained all the nominations. A communication was also read from Elder Jos. A. West, resigning his position in the High Council of Weber Stake and his office as President of Y. M. M. I. A. in this county. The former resignation was unanimously accepted and O. A. Badger, Sr., sustained as his successor in the High Council. After this

PRESIDENT JOS. F. SMITH

arose, desiring an interest in the faith and prayers of the Saints. A portion of the legitimate business of the conference had already been transacted which by no means was unimportant. There is no member of the Church who is not personally and deeply interested in the exercises of this meeting. The presentation of officers in this Stake of Zion is of the utmost importance for the peace, prosperity, and progress of this part of the Lord's vineyard, inasmuch as we are commanded to meet together often as conferences and the Church being represented, all important matters be brought before the members of the Stakes, to meet their sanction or disapproval. These conferences are by no means only matters of custom, but institutions according to the explicit will and commandment of the Lord. The business which has been transacted, is legal, authorized, and in all respects binding upon every member of the Church and no one can plead any excuse for absence from the conference, as all are regularly notified in due form and time. All business transacted is binding inasmuch as it is carried out in the spirit of the Gospel. There has been a good deal of indifference about this matter before, but now, with the more thorough organization of the Stakes, every one is deeply interested in everything that is done. It is for us to honor and sustain the authorities for whom we have raised our hands, and respect them in their various positions.

We should endeavor to profit as much as possible from everything said at the conferences and carry the instructions out in our lives.

The speaker then took up the subject of tithing and strongly endorsed the remarks made by Apostle Richards in the morning. If we dedicate all our earthly possessions to the Lord and bring the sacrifices required by law, there is no doubt but that we shall meet the approbation of the Almighty. President Smith showed how the Lord had led His people into these valleys, had prospered and protected them in peace and plenty, and He indeed, deserves all our gratitude and submission. The world have ruled the Lord out of their civil government or any other temporal concerns and accord Him only a curtailed control of spiritual matters. So that they leave Him only the right to call on them to believe in him. This is certainly making religion easy. God has a right to direct every affair of His children, temporal as well as spiritual. The time for the earth to be given to the Saints of the Most High God has not come yet; but it will come to pass. Christ shall come among the children of men and He shall take the reins of government into His hands. He will approve or disapprove whomsoever he chooses. He will judge in righteousness and will reprove in equity for the meek of the earth, according to our thoughts, intents of heart, and actions. We will not be able to deceive Him, and when He will take possession not only of the earth, but the fullness thereof; He will judge as a refiner of gold and silver. The speaker here read a portion from the Scriptures relative to the judgments of the Lord. The angel Moroni informed Joseph Smith that the "prophet" spoken of is Christ, on His second coming, when it will come to pass that every soul that will not hear the prophesy will be destroyed from among the people. The iniquitous will be purged away until only the righteous will be spared, to acknowledge Jesus as the law-giver and supreme judge. Then they will be acknowledged by the Father because they acknowledged the Son, and they will receive the promised inheritances forever and forever. The foundation of this great work has been laid in this last dispensation and it behooves us to prepare for the coming of the bridegroom. He is to come in person and assume a real, actual government, in the midst of this people, and the Zion from above will meet the Zion from the earth, and they will be united in one. In an early day of this Church, when there was only little experience, God revealed a principle by which Zion was to be redeemed; it was the principle of consecration, by which the Saints would dedicate of their property to the Lord and use it only as faithful stewards for the glory of God and the upbuilding of His Kingdom. This is a gathering dispensation and the people have to establish Zion on the principle He revealed. But many of His people, in Kirtland and other former places of gathering of the people of Israel would not listen to His will and therefore He allowed them to be driven from their inheritances. The Center Stake of Zion is still to be redeemed, but it will only be when the people have become sufficiently faithful, united, and harmonious. In the year 1842 or 1843, after the expulsion from Missouri, when the foundations of Nauvoo were built, the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph that the law of consecration was suspended and would remain suspended until He should reveal His will again. It has remained suspended until this day, because the people did not manifest sufficient faith and obedience. But the time will come when this law will be established again by direct commandment, and it may then be given in yet more direct form, for He can "add line upon line and precept upon precept." He is consistent and will give no revelations in conflict with each other. It was intended that the people should be governed by this law, consecrating everything we own to the Lord and receive it as stewardships for the upbuilding of the Kingdom. Every soul that claims to be a member of the Church ought to have an eye on the mark and be zealous and faithful in union. God has been extremely merciful to us and we should be grateful therefor and willingly consecrate all we own to Him, using it for the defense of Zion, for the prevention of the inroad of sin, crime, and iniquity in our midst.

The speaker then referred to the resolutions recently passed by the Methodist ministers in Ogden, resolutions breathing the very identical spirit that inspired the blood-thirsty mobocrats of Missouri and Illinois. It was the most dastardly, imbecile coward-

dice on their part to incense the prejudice of an already prejudiced nation against this inoffensive people, and to invoke the wrath of the world to annihilate this harmless handful of Saints. To fan the flame, those "Reverends" cry out the alarm that "Mormonism is spreading, threatening the United States, even the world. Something must be done to stamp out Mormonism." Let them go on. If they wish to try it, the speaker would give them a little advise. If they would impede Mormonism, just let it alone; but if they persecute Mormonism, it is like kicking a mustard plant, scattering the seeds broadcast. In order to kill "Mormonism" it would be a better plan to let it alone, severely alone, even rather making friends with the Latter-day Saints. It does us good to have the Methodists and theirs to tell us our faults, and the more they lie about us, the more good it does us again. For honest people abroad will get disgusted at the infamous, palpable lies and slanders, and these lying resolution-passers had better keep quiet.

In relation to their inheritances the speaker exhorted the Saints to regard them as stewardships from the Lord, saying in our hearts, when we build a house, "This is the Lord's." This is the feeling we ought to manifest with regard to our temporal possessions. We would not think of selling the Tabernacle or Temple to the ungodly outsiders. This we should not do. No one who wishes to do what would be pleasing in the sight of God, would sell his inheritance to a stranger coming amongst us with wicked designs. President Smith here acknowledged that he allowed every man to use his full agency, but on the other hand he claimed his own free agency, to use his influence and the spirit of God in dissuading his brethren and sisters from doing wrong. Not a foot nor an inch of his inheritance would he sell. He was not for sale, neither was his homestead, nor that of any true Latter-day Saint. The strangers could come in here, take up land from the Government and dedicate it to the devil, if they wanted to, but we will dedicate ours to the Lord. We can't afford to sell our homesteads to enemies. To do so does not seem different to the speaker from Judas Iscariot selling the Savior for thirty pieces of silver. We can rent to the outsiders, be good neighbors with them, but sell our inheritances to them?—never. Some say this gives our enemies a handle. Let them handle. There is nothing to handle. No Latter-day Saint has any homestead to sell. Our children are growing up and multiplying and they will want homes. These are the speaker's honest convictions and sentiments. It is "the Kingdom of God or nothing" for him. He has been abroad and seen how uncharitably the Elders have been too often treated by the outside world. Let us defend our interests and inheritances, for God will not protect us unless we protect ourselves. The speaker hopes that the Latter-day Saints will preserve their homesteads, and live always on their own soil. He does not care to "shock the feelings of Latter-day Saints; he can't help it, it's somewhat natural with him. If the Saints have become so dispirited that they cannot tell their views, we had better sell out at once and leave. Some "good" Saint might go on purpose, spitefully, and sell his inheritance to the outsiders. Pres. Smith cannot help this, but he has done his duty in exhorting the Saints to keep the commandments of God and keep their inheritances. Before closing, Pres. Smith referred to the matter of local government, admonishing the Saints to go to the polls, on the first Monday in August, and exercise their rights, doing their duty as American citizens, and as Latter-day Saints. Being a Latter-day Saint does not disqualify a man from being an American citizen. He wants to see the Latter-day Saints rally round their nominees, good men, and secure their rights.

After a few remarks by Counselor L. J. Herrick, an anthem by the choir, and benediction, the conference was adjourned for three months.