

# QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Of the Weber Stake of Zion, in the Ogden Tabernacle.

SATURDAY, Jan. 21, 2 p.m.

Choir sang. After prayer by Elder D. M. Stuart, the choir sang again: "God moves in a mysterious way."

The Bishops then continued their reports. Huntsville, Bishop F. A. Hammond; North Ogden, Bishop Amos Maycock, Uintah, Bishop I. N. Spaulding; Marriotts, Bishop James Ritchie; Hooper, Bishop Gilbert Belnap.

Elder Henry G. Boyle addressed the congregation. He was pleased to hear such good reports from the Bishops. Especially was he pleased with the reports of the progress of the young. Our enemies are endeavoring to carry our young people away, but their efforts will be vain, and the young people will grow up walking in the paths of truth, and become mighty in the earth. It had been his lot to be a messenger of the Gospel during the most of his life, and he had always taken great pleasure in the work.

He had embraced the truth in Tazewell Co., Va., many years ago, and he bore his testimony to the worth of the people in that community, the county having furnished a great many Latter-day Saints.

He compared the condition of Ogden when he first lived here with its condition to-day. He hoped our feelings regarding the Gospel had not changed on account of our increased wealth. With the blessings of God upon all, the speaker closed his remarks.

A verbal report of the condition of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations was given.

This was followed by a report of the Sunday Schools given by Supt. L. F. Monch.

Prest. L. J. Herrick spoke next, occupying some time. He thought the people of this Church had been highly blessed during the past year. He felt proud that Zion was prospering and the associations of the Latter-day Saints growing from year to year. Those who attended the conference, last Sunday, could not fail to see vast improvement, and could also understand that our young will grow up to do their duty, never faltering or turning aside to join any other religion. If we teach our children properly, they will always stand by the truth.

There is nothing so precious as the truth, and it is better we should die beggars than live in luxury and deny the precious principles that we have fought so hard to establish. Let it be said of us that we are growing better morally, as rapidly as we are growing in wealth. We lack dignity. We should be too proud to deliberately get drunk, or to quarrel over a few dimes or dollars. Our children should be educated, our daughters taught to gain knowledge; for when we see the mothers of a community we see what class of children shall bless us in the future. God bless all, was the prayer of the speaker.

Apostle F. D. Richards offered a few remarks on refinement. He or she who bows himself in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a gentleman or lady and will grow in the grace of God from time to time. Such are of the true aristocracy. They are true ladies and gentlemen who say what they mean, and live honestly with their fellow-men and practice true kindness, kindly shown. He exhorted all to keep the commandments of God and do to their fellows as they wish their fellows do to them. As we had been prosperous, we should thank God; as we had now plenty of grain we should save it and not run into debt, that when the inevitable reaction came, our homes should not be sold to pay our debts incurred in our prosperity.

Choir sang, "Glorious things are sung of Zion." Benediction by Elder Samuel Eggleston.

Adjourned till Sunday, 1, a. m.

SUNDAY, Jan. 22, 10 a. m.

The congregation was called to order by Counselor L. J. Herrick. The choir sang the hymn, "Sweet is the work, my Lord, my King." Prayer was offered by Elder H. G. Boyle and the choir sang, "Come all ye Saints, who dwell on the earth."

The first speaker was

PREST. ABRAM HATCH,

of Wasatch Stake. It is, he said, a prominent feature of this Church that every true Latter-day Saint, whenever called upon to perform any duty, cheerfully and promptly responds. Thus in the present occasion it is the duty of the Saints present to contribute to the edification of the congregation by assisting the speaker with their faith and prayers. The speaker then cast a retrospective glance on the history of the Church in early days, the oppression and persecutions of the days of Nauvoo, when so many valiant champions stood forward to give testimony to the truth and divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. We are the children of those fathers and it is our inheritance to maintain the Gospel and practice its principles. Comparing

the early days of Utah, its barrenness and sterility, with the present fertility and abundance, the speaker pointed out how necessary it was for us under all circumstances to acknowledge the hand of the Lord. As we have overcome the desert wastes and are now enjoying many of the luxuries and all of the comforts of life, it is the duty of every man and woman to carefully scan their lives and compare the record with the written law. If we do this and endeavor to bring our lives in consonance with the principles of truth, honesty, sobriety, virtue, and charity, we will become a people against whose united strength the powers of darkness cannot prevail.

Prest. Hatch also defined true education to consist in following the precepts and examples of Jesus Christ: being kind to one another, exercising love and charity to our fellow-beings, avoiding everything which would hurt a neighbor's feelings. This the speaker exemplified with the young man in the 19th chapter of Matthew (v. 25) who was unwilling to respond to the Great Master's counsel to sell all he possessed, give the proceeds to the poor, and follow Him. Great are the promises which the Lord made to those who would forsake the world and follow Him, they will inherit life everlasting, as well as did the Saints of the former dispensations. The speaker closed with a prayer that God may give us all power and wisdom that we may overcome our appetites, conquer our passions, and become worthy of entering His kingdom.

PREST. J. R. MURDOCK,

of Beaver Stake, followed with edifying remarks. He wished that all the brethren and sisters present, to-day, had been here the day before, to hear the gratifying reports of the Bishops, which gave such excellent showing of the condition of the Stake. Quarterly conferences are instituted in order that the Saints may come together to be posted and learn how the cause of the Gospel is prospering and progressing in their cause; and also to be edified in the truth, receiving mental food which is as necessary for the fullness of our stature as the physical nourishment.

After speaking of the reports Prest. Murdock pointed out how much we had need of repentance and improvement, learning "line upon line, precept upon precept." We have great opportunities, opportunities which no other people on earth ever enjoyed. We have the privilege of reading the word of God and learning His will and mind. The world call us a peculiar people, for this the speaker thanked God. It is right that we should be different from the world and encounter opposition. Our principles are in contradiction to the theories of the Christian world. Every man and woman have a right to believe just as they please. We are willing to accord this privilege to all men and we have a right to claim it likewise for ourselves. The speaker then pointed out the fallacies and inconsistencies of the sectarian world, showing how essential it is for mankind to be in continual communication with the living God, always to learn His will concerning us.

The Bible is a true and sure guide for man in all conditions of life. Our teachings harmonize with every law and principle enunciated in it, while, on the other hand, the Christian world lack the light of the Gospel, being buried in darkness. In the Bible we have an unfailing way-mark toward the goal of salvation. This was exemplified by the speaker with the ordinance of baptism as prescribed in the Scriptures and administered by the Latter-day Saints, and the reception of the Holy Ghost which is an indispensable factor of salvation.

Referring to the young men the speaker repeated a prophecy made, years ago, that some of the greatest men that stood upon earth will emanate from these mountains. We are the salt of the earth and if we should lose our savor, what shall the earth be salted with? We possess integrity, honesty, truthfulness, and therefore we will be sought for by all who want confidential assistance. We have shown to the world that we are willing to forsake all things for the sake of the truth.

Having given such evidence of our faith, shall we now falter, or shall our children abandon the path of their parents? If the world could overthrow the truth of the Gospel by proving Joseph Smith to have been a false prophet, the speaker is willing to give it all up. But we know by the spirit of God that he was a true prophet and by this knowledge we will stand as steadfast as did the Revolutionary Fathers by the principles of liberty and independence in which they were inspired by the Almighty. All great scientific and political problems of this enlightened age are being settled by learned and wise men calmly deliberating the matter and settling upon what they determine to be the best. But not so in religious matters. These are too much slighted and neglected as immaterial, while, indeed, nothing in man's pursuits is of such great importance as the true

way of salvation. It has been revealed to us and we are disseminating the precious knowledge to the world, whether they receive or reject it. Our plan of salvation is an innovation upon the prejudices and traditions of the world, hence their opposition and persecution. This opposition is good for us, as it strengthens our faith, unites our hearts, purifies and ennoble our characters. There is sufficient Gospel for every son and daughter of man. The speaker here referred to the baptism for the dead for which we find plain proof in the Bible. We are engaged in the noblest, grandest work ever undertaken by mankind. We want to secure to ourselves a record of eminence, valor, and virtue, holding firmly to the truth once espoused.

ELDER CHAS. W. PENROSE

was pleased to meet with his old friends in Ogden and to hear the brethren speak on the principles of truth. We ought to be the best people on earth, for our profession is great. It is a profession of righteousness. Saints ought to be holy persons, full of virtue and purity. We ought to aim to be what we claim. Separated from the world, as in a measure we are, we ought to be separated from its vices. We have been called out of the world—not to cut off all intercourse—but to be different in works, in motives, and modes of life.

God is the God and father of the whole race of mankind. But in different ages he has called men for spiritual work, for some special benefit of the race as a whole. Even apparent present evils will finally result in good, through the overruling hand of Providence.

Our special work is to build up the Church and Kingdom of God, that it may spread over every part of the earth, until all tyranny, misgovernment, vice, and wickedness be removed and the planet upon which we live may be brought up into the presence of God, and the veil between Creator and creature be taken away and we can see as we are seen, and know as we are known.

If we make the righteousness of God first and foremost, all other things will be added to us. It is right enough for us to be rich, having an abundance of the things of the world; but we should not set our hearts upon it, but on God. He has blessed us greatly and He is willing that the cattle on the hills, the gold and silver should be given to us, if we only keep the chief object of our lives in view: the finding-out and disseminating of truth.

Our mission is a far greater work than any people have ever been called to do. This is the dispensation of the fullness of times, a work which comprehends all ages and races. If we will go to work and do it with all our strength, we will be crowned with victory and become a great, a holy, a powerful people, the sanctified spirits behind the veil being joined as a unit to those before. The powers from below will be crushed and righteousness established.

Speaking of Stake organizations, Elder Penrose showed the necessity of concentrating the energies of the people. Those who are called to preside over us are not our masters, but our brethren, and we want to sustain and respect them. Mighty influences are arrayed against us, and in order to overcome them we must be heartily united. Satan and his powers are stirring up the nations of the earth against the work of the Lord. We have the whole world to combat, for all hell is stirred up against us, and all earth is being aroused against us. But if we seek to sanctify ourselves, putting away everything contrary to the laws of God, purifying our hearts from all impurities, passion, and failings, we will prevail.

We must not stoop to the evil practices of the world, but shun and withstand all the temptations and snares. Let us scan our own characters and apply the standard of righteousness with an honest desire to do good. Then the Lord will come nigh unto us; when we ask we shall receive, when we knock it will be opened unto us. No greater pleasure on earth than in working faithfully and zealously for the cause we have engaged in. It gives joy to our hearts, peace to our families, and the might of the God of Israel to our people.

The speaker finished his address with a prayer that Weber Stake may flourish and grow up towards Him who is our living head, that we may share in the glory and reward promised to the faithful.

After an anthem by the choir and benediction by Elder Joseph Hall, the meeting was adjourned until 2 p. m.

2 p. m.

The congregation was called to order by Counselor L. J. Herrick. The choir sang the hymn, "May we who know the joyful song?" Elder E. Stratford offered up prayer and the choir delivered the hymn, "Great God, attend while Zion sings."

While the sacrament was being administered the Clerk of the Stake read the statistical report of the Stake for the quarter ending Jan. 15, 1882. The authorities of the

Church were then presented and unanimously sustained.

The first speaker was—

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH.

It gave him pleasure again to meet with the Saints of the Weber Stake. He had also been pleased with the remarks of the forenoon. It looked as if we needed more room to dwell. The people of this County should erect a building more capacious and comfortable for the great numbers of people. The people on the outside would be astonished to see so many willing to put themselves to inconvenience in standing so long to listen to the speakers.

He hoped that the outside pressure on our people will have the effect of crowding us together and making us reflect on the character of our mission. After periods of peace and prosperity, we are prone to grow negligent and careless. But if the evil powers are brought against us, we are led to huddle closely together like sheep when menaced by the wolves. The Lord permits his Satanic majesty to agitate his devotees against the people of God, to bring them in greater union.

Referring to the "young man" in Math. 19, the speaker was wondering whether, if the government of our nation should seek to bring on us oppression, we had, as a people, obtained the amount of wealth which would make us skeptical with regard to His dealings in the past and in the future. How many of us who have drunk so deeply at the fountain of life, would become wavering and doubtful, and yield to the powers that are about plotting our destruction? The speaker hopes that there would be none who would give up the observance of the laws of God. He trusts that the love of the Gospel is so firmly rooted in the hearts of the Saints that the schemes of the adversaries will not interfere with their faith. It is our mission to preach the Gospel to all mankind, to call on men to correct their evils, to point out to the human race the path of life revealed to us. This mission rests not alone on the First Presidency, or other officers, but it rests upon each and every one bearing the name of a Latter-day Saint. We should know for ourselves the principles of the Gospel, and strive to overcome within ourselves every evil which would impede our progress in the high and holy calling imposed upon us. We shall implant wherever we can a respect and love for everything pure, noble, exalting.

As a people we have nothing to fear from any source in the world. If God our Father did restore the Gospel through His servant Joseph, if He did give to him everything necessary to lay the foundations of His Kingdom on earth, and if we are living up to the requirements of Heaven, we have no need of trembling, doubt, or anxiety. All we have to do is to be faithful in the discharge of our duties. We should have confidence that He will ward off the blows aimed at us from time to time and will ultimately bring us out victorious.

Looking back on the history of the men who have striven to bring on the people oppression and contumely, we find that they have gone down to disgrace and ignominy. This has been the condition in the past, it will continue to be so, if we are only faithful. Not that we want to contribute to their downfall, they are in God's hand. He will hear our prayers and answer in accordance with the contract He has made with us.

Apostle Smith has no fear nor doubt that we shall be able to accomplish the purpose for which He designed us. Many may lose the faith and fall away, but those who are faithful will find themselves on the high road to the approval of the Almighty. He closed with a prayer that the work of God may spread until it covers the whole earth.

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## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

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After singing by the choir

APOSTLE MOSES THATCHER

took the stand. He rejoiced exceedingly in the work which God has given us to do. We have gathered from the nations of the earth to establish His Kingdom and redeem Zion. We have many improvements to make. We understand and see now in part, but we do not comprehend the end from the beginning. The understanding of the spirit has been clouded by the flesh. Spirit wars with flesh, and flesh, with spirit, until what came from heaven overcomes the flesh or the flesh darkens the spirit. The spirit of God gives understanding. The small still voice within us will, if we listen, prevent us from slipping.

There was a commandment, ages ago, that rests upon all the human family, the beasts of the field, the fish of the deep, and the fowls of the air: to be fruitful and replenish the earth. This unconditional law was given in the beginning and we were there. The speaker here sketched the history of creation from the first chapter of Genesis and the formation of Adam and Eve out of the matter of the earth. Adam and Eve had been in existence ages before, as spirits. In the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve were placed in control of all things surrounding them. In the Pearl of Great Price we find a record different from that in Genesis. The former states that man was the first flesh on earth. We learn that the earth was formed by three great personages, Elohim, Jehovah, and Michael (or Adam). The speaker had no doubt but that many of the present congregation were there. Then one-third of the heavenly hosts fell off, and are ever since warring.

Above all is the great law to "multiply and replenish the earth;" this law we are striving to obey in celestial marriage. A rib was taken out of Adam's side and Eve formed thereof, as a sign that the wife shall cling to him and he to her. They were married not only for time, but for all eternity, as there was no death in the Garden of Eden. They were pronounced man and wife by God, they were man and wife when they were banished, and they are man and wife even now. Marriage is the chief cornerstone upon which we must build if we want to dwell in the presence of God.

It is said "Adam fell that man might be." He fell with his eyes wide open, he was fully cognizant of the fact, understanding perfectly well what he was doing. Suppose Adam had not fallen. There was his wife who had partaken of the forbidden fruit, and who, therefore, was doomed to banishment and death. But he, Adam, was bound to her for time and all eternity, and he fell lest he be separated from her and rendered unable to fulfill the first grand law.

The speaker, in illustration of the principle of marriage, read from Matthew, chapter 19th and 22nd, where Jesus gives the Pharisees and Sadducees the divine principles of celestial marriage.

Apostle Thatcher wished to urge upon the young particularly, the necessity of celestial marriage. If an Elder gets married by an Elder, a Bishop, a Seventy, or anyone else except the one appointed by high Heaven to hold the sealing power, his marriage is illegal in the sight of God, though they may pass as husband and wife in time. Apostle Thatcher drew attention to the words in Doctrine and Covenants (423, last edition) with regard to contracts and covenants. God will not accept in or after the resurrection a marriage that has been solemnized by any other than him who holds the keys and the sealing power.

Whatever the world may say or do, this work will go on, for it is of God. A man who understands this great God-given power cannot live in the low way in which so many live. None can have the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob unless they pass through the rightful ordinances. No man without the woman can be made perfect. The U. S. Government must take the responsibility for saying "No" when we obey the law of God. The fallen spirits cast down from heaven, about sixty to every man, woman, and child, are stirring and impelling the wicked up against the work of God.

God inspired Geo. Washington, the Adamses and others who could give property and lives to establish religious liberty. The constitution guarantees us the exercise of religious liberty. We are free and our boys will be freemen. They will preserve the Constitution and defend the religious rights and liberties of all men of all races.

Whenever we have a desire to oppress no human being, we will be free and the Kingdom of God will

be established. We cannot love God and hate man. We do not hate or persecute men. But the men who come here to oppress us, to persecute us, they indulge in the pernicious principles of hate.

Wherewith does our marriage system interfere with the nations of the world? The religion of the Lord Jesus Christ has made us in these valleys better husbands, happier wives, purer sons, chaster daughters, than there are to be found in any part of the world. The speaker gave a graphic picture of the enormous depravity and corruption in the nations of the world, exemplifying with the statistics of France, where we find one child to thirty-six persons, while we here in Utah show one to three-and-a-half.

We came to these mountains to grow, and we are made of the stuff to grow. We will respect the constitution, we will honor the Stars and Stripes, we will pray for the Government of the United States, that the spirit of God may open their ears and eyes that they can see the powers of God.

Our great and grand nation has the very elements of self-destruction within itself. Looking at the financial condition of the country we can read signs of danger ahead.

Ninety-five per cent of all the business done is "one man's note given to another." Remembering the panic of 1873, the Pittsburg riots, and similar occurrences, we behold an awful condition of things. Capital and labor are not in harmony. When those awful catastrophes recur again, the Government will have something else on hand than the Latter-day Saints.

Our Government is a weak one, because the political bosses are at the helm of power. No President of the United States dare express his own opinion.

But here is this little Kingdom, "the stone cut out of the mountain without hands," which is approaching its triumph. The boys and girls who are growing up in these mountains will ultimately assume the reign of power.

Apostle Thatcher, before closing, most earnestly admonished the young to marry in the right principle, the ordinance established by the Almighty.

We are growing in these mountains, keeping the law of God, multiplying and replenishing the valleys. We have had some corruption and temptations, but the boys and girls of Utah as they hear the voice of God, will keep themselves pure and spotless and the blessings of God will rest upon them by day and night.

Husbands should love and cherish their wives, making the homes of their children pleasant. With a powerful arraignment of the abominable prostitution, disease, and vice of the Christian world, he referred to the law of 1862, in regard to which the speaker feels like Daniel: he obeys the Lord in confidence that He will overrule all things for the best. But we will not bow before the graven image, God being our helper. Amen.

PREST. D. H. PEERY

warmly endorsed the remarks made at this conference and expressed his delight and joy at the righteous and holy principles brought forward so beautifully by Elder Thatcher. He also expressed his unutterable joy at the principle of celestial marriage which is the greatest boon conferred upon man.

Prest. Peery, before closing, stated the necessity of a larger new Tabernacle, commensurate with our growing population, and was confident we would soon have one worthy of the Saints of Weber Stake.

With an anthem by the choir and benediction by Apostle F. D. Richards, the conference, which had been one of the most interesting and edifying ever held in Ogden Tabernacle, closed.