

## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations of the Weber Stake, held in the Ogden Tabernacle.

SUNDAY, April 16, 10 a.m.

Owing to the inclement weather the societies of the various settlements were not fully represented, and the program which had been arranged for the morning services was dispensed with.

PRES. C. F. MIDDLETON

spoke of the existing animosity among other denominations against the Latter-day Saints. A member of the Josephite church had told him recently that they fellowshipped all the religious sects as Christians, except the "Mormon" Church in Utah. The reason of this was plain: we have the truth and God is with us. He had noticed in his experience that whenever outside oppression was brought to bear against this people it had tended to unite the inem, and it would ever be so. Money is the God of this world. We hear of millionaires springing up on every hand, and when they had secured one million they sought for another. This should not be the case with us. If we have an abundance of this world's goods we should devote it to the upbuilding of the Church.

He spoke at some length on the duties of the young, in obtaining a knowledge of the principles of the Gospel, and how to officiate in its ordinances. There are many advantages before the young people of the present day that the elder brethren had not; and if these opportunities were not improved the young people would be held accountable for their neglect.

PRES. D. H. PEERY

spoke of the work that was going on among the young people. Eulogized the efforts of the laborers among the Y. M. M. I. A. and the Sunday Schools. He warned the young against pride, cheating, swindling, and kindred vices. Exhorted them to devote their leisure time to the study of good books, and to store their minds with useful knowledge, which would remain with them through life and go with them into eternity.

ELDER WM. W. FIFE

was the next speaker. He said the Lord had a purpose in sending us here, just as much as He had in sending Jesus Christ; and if we were faithful in doing our work, we should be just as acceptable as Christ was in performing His. We progress more than any other people, and should, therefore, be more virtuous, truthful and devout. Truth does not change, but men do, and hence the confusion that exists among men in regard to the principles of the Gospel.

The speaker had been absent from the Territory for about three months in Arizona. He described that place as being the finest grazing country he had ever seen. The climate was excellent, so much so, that his mother, who had been an invalid for a long time, was much improved in health.

The spread of the truth alarmed the nations, and this should be a testimony to us of the truth of the Gospel. He alluded to the action of our nation in legislating against the Latter-day Saints. The weak would fail, but those who are firm in the faith would stand. But we must not stand idly by and "see the salvation of God." We must work; and if we do so we shall see "the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of God and His Christ."

The statistical report for the past six months was then read by Angus T. Wright.

Choir sang the anthem "Glory be to God."

Benediction by Elder G. R. Hill.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

2 p. m.

Conference was called to order by President E. H. Anderson. The choir sang the hymn on page 21, commencing "Mortals Awake."

Prayer by Elder Z. Ballantyne.

Hymn, "Ye children of our God."

A few extracts from Vol. III of the *Advance*, the organ of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of the First Ward, Ogden, were read during the administering of the Sacrament, also an extract from "The Prophet's Appeal to the Green Mountain Boys."

ELDER HYRUM BELNAP

addressed the Conference. There are few Saints who can get up before congregations to defend the principles of the Gospel of the Son of God, without fear and trembling. The speaker realized there was a cause for this: the power of the Adversary who is always on the alert to prevent any principle of the Gospel from being advanced. Hence every Latter-day Saint, when called upon to speak, should invoke the inspiration of the Lord. To illustrate this, the speaker read from the 12th chapter of Revelations, referring to the Dragon who sought to destroy the remnants of the Church who had the testimony of Jesus. For this reason: because the Latter-day Saints have the testimony of Jesus, and the Revelations of God—the world hate and persecute us. This testimony of Jesus lies within the reach of every mortal by compliance with the requirements of the Gospel. To this the speaker bore faithful testimony and prayed for the blessings of God to rest upon the Saints.

ELDER JACOB GATES

followed with an address on principles of the Gospel. It is almost impossible for our limited powers to comprehend the magnitude of the work we are engaged in. This peo-

ple, as compared to the population of the world, is only as a drop to the ocean. But great things grow out of small ones, and we have the revelations of the Lord through His prophets, telling us that we are destined to roll forth the work of godliness until righteousness fills all the earth. The first principles of the Gospel are plain. The first is faith, which gives us a knowledge and assurance of the things of God.

In looking over the history of the Church, through all the mobbings and persecutions, until we came to these valleys where God's Providence has prepared us a home, we can plainly discern the hand of the Almighty. All the experience teaches us most positively that this is the work and kingdom of God. And as it has been in the past, it will be in the future. Notwithstanding the pressure from the outside, the Church of Jesus Christ is progressing and growing. It only depends upon ourselves to come out triumphant, provided we keep the covenants we have made in holy places. All our former persecutions and apparent reverses have only been stepping stones towards our ultimate victory. The Lord has said He will fight our battles. He is long-suffering and abides his time. The Destroyer is at work; floods, cyclones, and other devastations are taking place all over the earth, on land and on water. It seemed to the speaker that all things are culminating towards the final winding-up scene. If the world refuse to take heed of the signs of the times, it behooves the Latter-day Saints to take warning and cry "Repentance" unto the generations.

The dispensation in which we live pertains, not only to the living, but penetrates through the dust of ages and reaches to the unborn creations of the future. In the dispensation of the fullness of times all things will be bound into one. The Lord is about to establish His Kingdom which shall never be overthrown, and all other kingdoms will be ground into atoms.

The speaker closed with words of satisfaction at seeing how the Lord is stirring up the hearts of the young, and inspiring them to bear off the Kingdom, and prayed that the spirit of God may strengthen them in following the good examples and perpetuating the godly works of their fathers.

ELDER EDWARD STEVENSON,

in referring to one of the articles read in the afternoon, quoted also the second chapter of Zechariah, beginning at the second verse, and having relation to the rebuilding and redemption of Jerusalem, to be accomplished by a young man receiving a message from an angel. This prophecy was fulfilled in the person of Joseph Smith, whom God raised up to establish His Kingdom in the last days. The speaker pointed out how various prophecies of ancient servants of God have come to pass in this fullness of times; he also referred to recent historical events (Crimean war, Russo-Turkish war), preparing for the return of the Jews to Jerusalem in this our own day.

The laws of the Lord is to go forth from Zion and the words of the Lord from Jerusalem. The speaker rejoiced to live in this day when the ancient predictions are being literally fulfilled, when we receive the laws of God to secure for us future exaltation. True, we incur the anger of the world; but all their oppression only makes us stronger, unites us more firmly, brings forth those who have been lukewarm and remiss. Here the speaker predicted that far from crushing "Mormonism," the Edmunds bill would help to invigorate and strengthen us. He recalled days of old, when the mobs attempted to crush out "Mormonism," but failed so utterly, as they will fail again, God being our helper.

The general authorities of Y. M. M. I. A., as presented at the April Conference in Salt Lake City, were then presented and unanimously sustained, also the authorities of the Y. M. M. I. A. of Weber Stake.

PRESIDENT E. H. ANDERSON

expressed his pleasure at seeing so many from the city present and was also thankful for the good counsel given, this day. He made instructive remarks as to the duties of the youth of Zion, and testified that God will protect His Saints if they follow in the paths He has marked out and obey His commandments.

He also made several announcements regarding the Y. M. M. I. A.

The interesting exercises of the day were brought to a close with an anthem by the choir, and benediction by Elder Joseph Hall.