

## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

*Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of the Weber Stake of Zion, held in Ogden Tabernacle.*

SATURDAY, April 21st, 2 p. m.

The Congregation was called to order by President L. W. Shurtliff. Apostle F. D. Richards was present.

The choir sang the hymn on page 67:

Praise ye the Lord, 'tis good to raise.

The opening prayer was offered up by Elder James Taylor.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Behold the mountain of the Lord

In latter-days shall rise.

The Bishops' reports were then resumed; the Slaterville Ward being reported by Bishop John A.

Allred; Uintah, Counselor Samuel Dye; Plain City, Counselor P. C.

Green; West Weber, Bishop John I. Hart; Huntsville, Bishop F. A.

Hammond; Hooper, Bishop Gilbert Belnap; Eden, Counselor Armstead Moffatt.

### APOSTLE F. D. RICHARDS

addressed the congregation. He was pleased to meet with so many of the Saints on this occasion. It is possible to get a large audience on Saturday, if properly worked. If the Bishops gave reports in an interesting manner, meetings would most certainly be as well attended as on Sundays. Each Bishop should study up his ward in detail, and report them so, and wherein matters are not as they should be, make suggestions as to how they would like to have them. Regarding laborers on the Temple, we should make energies to have more men laboring upon it. There are a thousand things that can be said by the Bishops. Let them study up their wards, and make suggestions whereby industry and zeal in our religion be created in the wards and among the people. It is not enough that we swim along leisurely upon the tide, but we must labor and show that we are now farther advanced, stronger, and better able to battle with the difficulties of life than ever before. The Lord has shown us by His mercies in the past that He will not forget His people. The Seventies should take courage and be up and doing. The Lord has signified that He is pleased with their organization. They have been broken, from time to time, to make Presidents of Stakes and Bishops. It is now concluded that a reorganization shall take place, and all vacancies be filled. A great labor is devolving upon the Presidents to gather up all who belong to these quorums, to hunt through Israel as with a lighted candle, and to make a more formidable organization than has ever before been in the Church. The existing quorums should not abate their labors, but continue with all diligence, and soon published regulations will be presented by the authorities so that all will understand what requirements are made. May God bless us in all good works. Amen.

### ELDER W. W. TAYLOR

occupied the remaining portion of the time. It is very important that the organizations in the lesser quorums of the Priesthood be active and well organized, in order that the young may prepare themselves for the labors that will devolve upon them in the future. It may be said there is much trouble in this, but this is no argument the young should be organized and receive the blessings attendant upon organization and system. The Lord has claim upon us all our lives, and we should not consider that there are no labors in the Kingdom except to go abroad to preach. The mother who thinks it too much trouble to show her daughter household work, will tire herself and discourage her daughter. The Bishop who does all the ward work, discourages the members under his charge, and when we as older people do all the Church work, the younger portion feel they have nothing to do and hence take no interest in the work. But ordain them to the Priesthood and get them to work and soon you will have abundant aid in those who are now considered unable to take part. The speaker also advised the looking after the records of the wards.

The choir sang the hymn:

O, my Father, thou that dwellest.

Conference adjourned till Sunday, 10 a.m. Prayer by Prest. C. F. Middleton.

[Concluded on page 2.]

## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

[Continued from page 1.]

The usual Quarterly Conference of the Weber Stake was resumed in the Tabernacle, Sunday morning, by Prest. C. F. Middleton calling the meeting to order, at 10 o'clock, and the choir singing the hymn on page 104:

O thou, at whose Almighty word  
The glorious light from darkness  
sprung.

Prayer was offered by Bishop N. G. Flygare.

The choir sang the hymn on page 142:

Sing to the Great Redeemer's praise,  
All praise to Him belongs.

ELDER RICHARD BALLANTYNE

addressed the congregation. It was a privilege to stand before his brethren and sisters to represent an interest of importance connected with the Great Work in which they were engaged. In the infancy of the Church the Prophet Joseph while but a youth was often worked upon by the spirit of the Almighty to declare that a great and a marvelous work was about to come forth—a work that was to be everlasting. Under the influence of this teaching and inspiration the work had spread abroad into various nations of the earth and had gathered together a people into the valleys of these mountains, and sometimes they were inclined to think that that Great Work was almost completed, that the elect had been gathered from the nations, and that the nations were about ripe for ruin and desolation. This might be the case to some extent as regards the nations of the earth, but, as regards the nations of Israel, it seems to him that the day of salvation was just beginning to be opened, and he would add in this connection that as far as they were concerned a great and marvelous work had yet to be done. They had in the Weber County in the Sabbath Schools about 3,000 scholars composed of young men and women and children who were being educated for that work. They had between 300 and 400 teachers—male and female—who are employed teaching those 3,000, and he felt to say to all the officers of schools who were present that in order to be qualified for that work they needed the spirit of the work—the inspiration of the Almighty. It gave him great joy that those who were laboring with him—the Bishops, Counselors, Superintendents, &c.—felt that the strength of Zion depended upon the rising generation.

They had commenced two schools for music under the very able tuition of Bro. Evan Stephen, of Salt Lake. One school, consisting of children under 15 years of age, had already 350 members enrolled, while another class of adults had also been organized, which crowded the Second Ward meetinghouse every Saturday evening. He felt that this was a most important feature and tried to impress upon the parents the necessity of sending their children in order that they might receive this much-needed musical education.

ELDER E. H. ANDERSON

read the statistical and financial report of the Relief Societies of Weber County for the six months ending March 18, 1883, also the report of the Young Ladies' and Men's Improvement Associations, and the statistical report of Weber Stake of Zion for the quarter ending April 15, 1883.

ELDER E. J. TAYLOR,

Tithing Agent for Weber County, said the receipts for tithing were greater for 1883 than they were for 1882, and urged the Saints to fulfil the law of God in this respect, in order that they might receive the blessings following the observance of this requirement.

ELDER L. F. MONCHI

represented the day schools of the County. He felt to rejoice that there had been a much larger average attendance during the past year than at any other time. Having reference to the Central School he said they had 622 scholars enrolled on the school register, being fifty per cent of the school population in the district, add to this those who were enrolled last winter and fall they would have a per cent of eighty, and with the addition of those enrolled, this year, they had about ninety per cent of an attendance. School a musical class had been organized, and whereas in times past they had been compelled to go to Salt Lake City for a teacher, they had in this instance employed a young lady of Ogden.

ELDER E. H. ANDERSON

then presented the general authorities of the Church, and the local authorities of the Weber Stake all of whom were unanimously sustained.

ELDER W. W. TAYLOR

rose to speak on the organization of the quorums of the Seventies. He stated that, a short time ago, before his death, Apostle Orson Pratt, who was probably as well acquainted with the history and organization of the Church as any man who was ever in it, remarked that the Church then was more perfectly organized than it ever has been since the 6th of April, 1830. There was, however, at that time, one organization that was very much depleted, he referred to the Seventies. Through the ordination of some of the brethren to other quorums to act as High Counselors, Bishops, Presidents of Stakes, &c., and in other positions, that department of the Priesthood had been left in a somewhat deficient condition. The first Presidency and the Twelve Apostles had given this matter their consideration, and as a result of their deliberations some instructions were given at a meeting of the First Presidency of the Church, the Twelve Apostles, and the Seven Presidents of the Seventies, on Saturday, April 14, 1883, and were embodied in circular form.

PREST. GEO. Q. CANNON

next addressed the congregation, and said if there was one thing more delightful than another in connection with the work of our God that He had established upon the earth, it was the reflection that He was the head thereof, had not gone on a journey and was not asleep, but that He was still the watchful head of His Church, giving unto His servants the knowledge, the wisdom, and the counsel, which were necessary to enable them to conduct all the affairs thereof agreeable to His mind and will. This had been manifested from the very commencement of the work on the 6th day of April 1830; in fact, the same remarks applied to the time anterior to the organization, for the Prophet Joseph was required to perform in order to prepare for the organization. But the Lord, when He came and visited the Prophet Joseph, in company with the Lord Jesus, actually commenced a work which He had not neglected or forgotten, but which had been constantly before Him, and constantly the object of His solicitude and care, and there never had been a moment from the day that the Church was organized till this day that the Latter-day Saints had been without the word of the Lord. There had always been a man in their midst holding the keys and the authority of the Holy Priesthood, a Prophet, a Seer, a Revelator to the Church, and not only had that been the case but God had diffused that spirit and poured it out, not upon one man alone but upon the whole body of the Priesthood, so that in all the various departments thereof wherever the sons of members bearing this Priesthood had been called upon to officiate, they had been able, through the power and the gifts and the qualifications of the Priesthood which God has bestowed upon them, to stand as it were as Prophets to the people, as Revelators in their various capacities in their various fields of labor, subordinate, of course, always to the head, to him who holds the keys as the prophet, seer, and revelator to the Church. There were men before him that day who knew that to be true, who knew that God had revealed to them His mind and His will concerning them and concerning their labors, and concerning the people among whom they had labored, and whom they had been called over to preside, and there was not an officer in the Church, who lives in the faithful performance of his duty, who ever lacked for that spirit of revelation at the very time it was needed, whether it was as a President of a Stake, as a Counselor, as a Bishop or a Bishop's Counselor, or as a High Counselor, or as a Teacher in the Church. In every capacity that men are called upon to labor, the Holy Spirit was given unto them according to their faith and their burdens and the responsibilities which rest upon them with its gifts and its graces.

Not only upon them, but it was poured out upon the body of His Church, and that men and women, and children, even, received of that spirit and partook of it and rejoiced in it having a testimony for themselves that it was from God. Now, if there was, as he had said, any one feature connected with that work which was more delightful to contemplate than another it was that they were in communication with God and with the Heavens, that the channel was clear, that all obstacles and obstructions were removed, so that every faithful soul by humbling himself and herself before the Lord could receive testimony and knowledge, in fact a revelation from the Lord concerning this and concerning the duties devolving upon them, also concerning the work of God as it was on the earth, and concerning the servants of God, whether they were the servants of God, or whether they were pretenders to that power. It was that which gave stability and permanence to that work. Take that power away from it and it became the work of man, and like all the works of men would perish, would go down, and there would be an end to it.

But God had so arranged and organized the Church that every pure soul connected with it received a testimony concerning the truth. The Elders of the Church were not required by force of logic and of argument, and by the presentation of strong reasoning, to maintain their

standing and their claim in the midst of that people to the authority which they wield, but God sustains them by the pouring out of His holy spirit upon the people and every man and woman becomes a faithful witness as to the validity of the claims of the Elders of the Church who receive the authority of the Holy Priesthood.

The speaker then referred to the matter of the Seventies, and said the fact that they had received the word of the Lord concerning the organization of the Seventies was a source of great joy and satisfaction to him. He had for some years felt dissatisfied with the condition of the Seventies. He had always taken great interest in the organization of the Seventies, because it was an effective and powerful organization, an organization capable of doing a great amount of good. It was the duty of the Seventies to act in conjunction with the Twelve, and God had laid upon them the responsibility of carrying forth the Gospel as special witnesses, first unto the Gentiles and then unto the Jews, but as Brother W. W. Taylor has told them there had been some laxity in the organization in consequence of the changed condition of affairs. There had been a time when the Seventies were all located in one city—the City of Nauvoo—and then quorums were organized in great numbers and the Seventies were a very powerful body and they could be controlled. There they had their headquarters, and held their meetings, and the various quorums met without trouble; but when they came to this land they became scattered, and the organization of the Seventies has not been quite so satisfactory, especially of late years. In Nauvoo, after the death of the Prophet, the first ten quorums were organized, and the First Seven Presidents constituted what was known as the First Quorum, and it was the understanding that the whole body of Seventies were to be presided over by the First Seven Presidents and were called the First Seventy. They were men, the most of them, as far as they held the Priesthood of the Seventies, who had been in the Camp of Zion. They had the preference and were made Presidents of those quorums, but if they ever had a meeting it was not known. He had no recollection of them having a meeting and he used to be familiar with the organization of the Seventies. Though he was very young, still he became connected with them and took a great interest in the organization, and if there was ever a meeting of the First Seventy he had no recollection of it and there was no record of it. Most of those men had passed away. The question had arisen as to what should constitute the First Seventy, and who they were to be and how it should be.

President Cannon, after explaining the mode of operating in times past and that contemplated in the future, urged the Seventies to be ever ready to discharge any duty they might be called upon to do, and said no man should take upon him the responsibility of a Seventy unless he was willing to go to the people. These were the men who gained experience in traveling and laboring among the people, and of necessity were eligible because of that experience to fill offices which required wisdom, as High Priests, Presidents of Stakes, Counselors to Presidents of Stakes, Bishops, and Bishops' Counselors. There was a constant stream of young men floating into the Seventies, as the more experienced material was taken out, and they would continue to increase until they would number one hundred and forty-four thousand. The revelation said that in this work they were at liberty to ordain seven times seventy, but the Prophet said they were to ordain until there were 144,000; in fact there was no limit.

He prayed, in conclusion, that God would bless them in their meeting in Conference, the remainder of the day, and pour out His Holy Spirit in power upon them, that the Bread of Life might be given to the servants of God to administer to them and that they might be prepared to receive it and do a mighty work in the name of Jesus.

After the singing of an anthem by the choir, and prayer by Bishop Robert McQuarrie, the Conference was adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m.

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]