

There are small things which we should more closely observe, in order that we may be prepared for greater duties.

SUPT. EDWARD H. ANDERSON

gave a favorable report of the labors of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations in the Weber Stake. There are 22 associations in the Stake with a total membership of 865. During the quarter 410 lectures had been delivered on various subjects, while the members had read over 12,000 chapters in different Church works, and prepared many other exercises.

PRES'T GEO. Q. CANNON

was pleased in listening to the reports of the Sunday Schools and Mutual Improvement Associations. The condition of the members of these societies shows what will be the character of those who will in a short time be the rulers in Israel. He felt a great delight in the growth and development of our children. Our labors in the world result in few conversions, and many of these lose the faith, but more satisfactory results are obtained in properly training and cultivating the minds of the young. All who have taken an interest in this work can well judge what has been the value of the teachings of these schools and societies on our young people. Those who now go out as missionaries, go with a wider intelligence as to the history and principles of the Church. The condition of our Sunday Schools will bear us up in the assertion that we are progressing. The 50,000 children that are, today, enrolled in the schools will soon be the fathers and mothers in Israel, and if they are properly taught we can imagine what an effect they will have upon society. There are a few things which are of the utmost importance that our children should be taught. If we look on the outside of this work, the picture is indeed discouraging. The chief cornerstone of prosperity is virtue, and Joseph Smith early received revelations on this subject, showing the necessity of purity in thought and action. In most cases of people who have apostatized from our Church this is due to the non-observance of this great subject.

Considering this, how necessary that we should early lay a foundation of purity in the minds of our children, by teaching them the priceless value of virtue. If cases of transgression are permitted to go on unchecked in our midst, there will be loss of the spirit of God and a withdrawal of His spirit from us. There is only one source of strength for us; it is this, that we live so that we can merit the undivided approbation of our God. The most persistent efforts are made to destroy the Kingdom of God, and to make it odious in the sight of mankind to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ. To combat this influence we must be virtuous, we must live the lives of Saints, carrying out God's commandments; we have no other strength. If we prevail, which we undoubtedly shall, it will be through these fortifications of strength—more powerful than the riches and influence of men.

As for the speaker, he would honor his God, and he believed the majority of the Saints would do the same, regardless of consequences. God, in building up His Kingdom, does not take the methods of men, but He does as He thinks proper. Many things which men admire, God despises. He delights in a valiant and courageous people, as we have illustrated in the life of Lehi. When a people is full of courage God gives them victory; if we are valiant, He will stand by us. Let us show our faith by our works, and remember that God has not taken pattern from the kingdoms of the earth in establishing His Kingdom—a kingdom in which all men are protected alike. This land is a land of liberty, and as long as liberty is protected, so long will the nation prosper—no longer. Those who are battling against us are traitors to the Constitution and enemies to the proud banner of liberty which we are being called upon to defend through their traitorous acts. Liberty is eternal and will stand forever, no matter how many millions may oppose it. We must maintain our rights in a spirit of calmness, and band ourselves together for this purpose more closely if necessary. We are accused of exclusiveness; the very nature of our persecution causes this. When hounds are set upon a flock of sheep they close together. Self-preservation demands it; so it does with us. Persecution against us will signify fail, if we keep the commandments of the Lord.

Many have an idea that no Church official should hold a civil office. In our Church nearly all the men hold the Priesthood; therefore, how can we have any civil officer who is not an officer in the Church? Is it good argument to say that because a man is a Church officer he is not fit for a civil office? No. Our religion cannot be severed from our lives, yet there is not a people who draw the line of distinction between civil and religious offices more closely than do the Latter-day Saints. Will any true Latter-day Saint accept the peace—the kind of peace—that is offered for the renouncement of his religion? No. What next? We must then be deprived of our rights. Will mobocrats come next? Not yet. There will be fun if it ever comes to that. We will have mobocrats in the form of Court officials, and it will devolve upon us to battle peacefully through these

Courts for our rights and see if our country will protect us.

It is our duty to so live that when we call upon God, He will hear us; so live that we can throw ourselves before His feet, and place implicit trust in Him—that when the darkest hour shall come He will extend His arm of deliverance and with the imperial power of Heaven deliver His chosen people. Two men are, to-day, in prison for obeying the law of God. Some were inclined to censure Rudger Clawson for his indiscretion. These people would probably have considered the same about Daniel, had they lived in his day. As a rule, we are never injured by the wicked acts of our enemies. When Governor Murray gave the certificate of election for Delegate to the wrong man, he did not do the injury to Utah that he had intended. The people were certainly not harmed and the speaker, the Delegate-elect, was certainly much relieved. With all our persecutions it is the same. Look at the attempts of our enemies. Have our fields been less fruitful? have our numbers grown less? is our peace less calm because of their efforts? No. But look at those who have persecuted us and apostatized. Where are they? Is there one of them with whom you would exchange places, to-day. It is safe to say that you would not. What then have we to fear? Our God is not like the Devil who deserts his victims in time of need, but the Lord protects in the darkest hour and delivers when oppression is the most stringent. May we remember this and put our trust in Him to the end.

The choir sang an anthem and Conference adjourned until 2 p.m. Prayer by Pres't N. C. Flygare.

2 p.m.

The congregation was called to order by Pres't L. W. Shurtliff, and the choir sang:

"Sweet is the work, my Lord, my King."

Prayer was offered by Elder W. W. Burton. The choir sang the hymn beginning:

"Sweetly may the blessed spirit."

The Sacrament was administered.

Elder E. H. Anderson, Clerk of the Stake, read the Statistical Report of the Stake, after which the General Authorities of the Church were presented and sustained; as were also the Stake authorities. Elder John Stoddard was sustained as Second Counselor to Bishop W. Farr, Third Ward, Ogden, in place of John Hastings, deceased. Elder Austin C. Brown was sustained as an alternate in the High Council. Elders W. H. Crandall and C. H. Rhee were added to the missionary list. Elder W. R. Stowell was sustained as one of the Sunday School Missionaries. The following brethren were called to be missionaries in the Y. M. M. I. Association for three months:

Geo. E. Cross.....Utah
J. L. Skeen.....Plain City
J. F. Allred.....Slaterville
Jos. Taylor.....East Henrieville
C. F. Wade.....Pleasant View
S. G. Crowley.....Lynne
Sam'l S. Hammond.....Huntsville
H. H. Butler.....Marriotts

All the authorities were unanimously sustained by the large congregation present. Following this,

APOSTLE F. D. RICHARDS

addressed the Conference. He was greatly pleased with what had been said in this Conference. He pointed out the unparalleled works that the Gospel had performed through the humble of the earth, who, without money, ignoring many of the good things of earth, have gone to gladden others with the sweet sound of salvation. Contemplate the army of Elders and Seventies we have in our midst! They are the comforters of Zion, who should spread the glad Gospel to earth, and cheer up those who tremble in Zion. We hear much of the good that the Relief Societies and Improvement Associations are doing, and while we hear of this, let us not forget the Primaries—the little ones in Zion, that these who are of the Kingdom of God may be taught to grow up and become the bright gems in the crowns of their fathers' glory.

We are being educated in a school. Anciently we hear of the people battling with carnal weapons, not so in our day. Even we have been forbidden to use guns to celebrate the Fourth of July. It is evident God does not desire that we should fight our battles except with the sword of the spirit and the eternal and secure armor of truth inspired by the Spirit of God. We are placed upon the defensive, that we may importune at the feet of the Judges, the Governor, and the President, as we are told in the revelation; and when we have done so the Lord our God will come out of His hiding place and show the nation His might and power. How shall we plead with the nation? President Brigham Young once said that he wished we could raise up hundreds of young men to be lawyers to plead our cause before the Courts of the nation. It is a good remark. We need men of this class who will plead for justice and equity in the Courts of the land, and who will remain faithful and true to the work of God.

The gift of wisdom is better than strength or weapons of war. Hence we should be encouraged. No great object has ever been attained without much labor and some fighting. The greatest affliction that many of us have is that something dreadful is going to happen. Do not be

troubled thus. Lie down upon your bed of rest calmly with clear consciences, as well as minds besides, and, in the likeness of the resurrection, arise, in the morning, and without fear renew the contest that will result in a great victory for the righteous, preparatory to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign a thousand years with His chosen Saints.

PRES'T GEO. Q. CANNON

said: The "romance" of "Mormonism" never wears out. The spirit of God ever keeps the people bright. When we come together, we always receive that which we desire if we have the spirit of God with us. It is not always necessary that the speaker should be an Apostle to edify the Saints. Many good instructions have been given by those who hold no special office in the Church. The speaker had been greatly edified in listening to the testimony of men and women who bore testimony to the way in which they received the truth. We have already heard that God's ways are not like the ways of man. Hence many stumble because of this, saying: "If this is God's work why does He not convince the world by signs?" God does not work in this way. We must seek Him through faith. This is something that many of our young people do not understand, and are, therefore, led to doubt.

There is one great principle which we all should comprehend. It is the principle of man's agency; much more depends upon this than many of us comprehend. The Lord cannot compel us to receive His truth. If we go to His Kingdom we will go because we ourselves choose to go. We should study this until we understand. It is for this reason that God does not make signs to the wicked. To those who seek, He will manifest Himself. If it were otherwise, how could we rejoice when we should find? If man could be saved in spite of himself, what joy could he find in his salvation? Adam fell that man might be, and man is that he may have joy. Because of this we are here. "Well," says one, "would it not have been better had it not been so?" The speaker said, "no." The Courts of Heaven were crowded with spirits anxious to take upon themselves bodies. God knew that man would fall, and, therefore, before man was placed in Eden, before Eve fell, God had provided a Redeemer and prepared a plan of salvation. He knew that by this fall there would be a means whereby the spirits of all men should come to the earth. He caused a dark veil to be drawn between Himself and the inhabitants of the earth which can only be pierced by faith. Man can be saved if he will, and no power in earth or hell can prevent him, and no man can go to hell except he himself will. If there are circumstances that are unfavorable, in some cases, God will mete out justice accordingly, and he who has had but little knowledge shall be beaten with but few stripes, while he who knew and rejected shall receive the just condemnation of his Father in Heaven.

If we are faithful, it will add to our joy in Heaven, while on the contrary, if we disobey we shall have the sting of conscience added to our torments that we ourselves have brought our own condemnation upon us. God leads us in His path and tells us what shall be the reward of His faithful servants, whose glory shall be endless. Before we can reach this exalted station we must be tried. Because a man cannot remember his first estate, shall he, therefore, say he had no existence before he came upon this earth? As well might he say he was not born because he cannot remember his birth. The veil has been drawn before the face of God for wise purposes. We may all attain to the Celestial Glory of our God, but there will be but few who will reach it. Some are overcome by obstacles and fall, but many have pressed forward and broken every obstacle, swept away every trial to reach the great and glorious boon in view—Celestial Glory. Shall we be faithful and gain it, or shall we fall? Every soul who has ever lived upon the earth will receive a glory according to his work. God grant that in the exercise of our agency we may sacrifice everything to gain the glory which we seek, that shall lift us high in the Courts of Heaven and make us Kings and Princes in the Celestial Kingdom of our God and Father.

The choir sang an anthem and Conference was adjourned for three months. Benediction by Elder Lorin Farr.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Of the Weber Stake of Zion, held in the Ogden Tabernacle, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 17th and 18th, 1885.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17, 2 p.m.

After the usual opening exercises, with prayer by Elder Lorin Farr, the reports from the Bishops were continued as follows:

Hooper.....Bp. G. Belmont
Marriotts.....Bp. J. Ritchie
Pleasant View, Counselor A. Maycock
Plain City.....Bp. G. W. Bramwell
Slaterville.....Bp. J. A. Allred
Huntsville.....Bp. F. A. Hammond
Eden.....Bp. D. McKay
North Ogden.....Bp. Thos. Wallace

These Wards were favorably reported, the majority of the Saints being prepared to do every good word and work in their power to build up the Kingdom of God. There was little or no sickness, the scarlet fever etc. which was so prevalent in Plain City, a short time ago, having subsided. The people of this settlement had lost about \$20,000 or \$25,000 through the failure of the salt crop, this season, which was severely felt by the people. The Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. Associations were doing a good work, and the various other organizations were effectual in accomplishing much good.

BISHOP F. A. HAMMOND,

in the course of his report, said, that his experience had taught him that our accomplishments rarely came up to our expectations, hence there is always room for improvement. At present, this people are very much embarrassed financially, and it is much of a question how to get out of it. We must learn to live within our means and if we cannot make one thing furnish us a living, we must find something that will. We have had an experience which, if applied now, will carry us safely through this difficulty; and if we will only look up, all will be well, and it will prove a lesson unto us. About three months ago, the speaker was called to take a mission to the San Juan country, and he had been making preparations to fill that mission; for he realized the necessity of being obedient; although, if his own feelings were consulted, he would prefer to stay here. But he was expected to go, and having himself taught the doctrine; "Not my will but Thine be done" there was no way to get out of it. The San Luis Valley he considered one of the finest countries he had seen, and admirably adapted to the class of people we have here. Had he not heard of the country before he saw it, he would have condemned it on sight. There are a few families settled in one part of the valley, and they are doing well. They have well filled granaries, and it is a good stock country, with plenty of timber for all purposes. The speaker considered this a first rate place for our young people to settle in, as they would have plenty of room to spread out, and become well fixed in a short time. Durango, the terminus of the D. & R. G. in that region, is one of the best regulated towns he had seen. Bishop Hammond had intended to go through to Bluff City, where it is calculated he would make a settlement, but he was unable to do so, in consequence of snow storms. The climate of San Juan is well adapted to kitchen gardening, but not for large amounts of grain. Land is at a low figure and he considered a splendid opening for all who wish to make a home.

The choir sang: "Come Ye that Love the Lord." The benediction was pronounced by Bishop R. McQuarrie, and the Conference was adjourned till 10 a.m., Sunday Jan. 18th.

SUNDAY, JAN. 18, 10 a.m.

The congregation was called to order and the choir sang a hymn. Prayer was offered by Elder John Stoddard. The choir sang another hymn. There were present on the stand, besides the Presidency of the Stake and the Bishops, President Geo. Q. Cannon and Apostle F. D. Richards.

(Supt. RICHARD BALLANTYNE reported the condition of the Sabbath Schools. These excellent institutions have never been in better condition than at present. There were 19 out of 25 schools which had reported, and the reports of these showed an increase of over 400, so that, to-day, there are as many pupils enrolled in 19 schools as there were, three months ago, in 25 schools. The teachers and officers had done much for the youth and had endeavored to do their duties, but there were yet many things which we should live more closely up to, among which is the Word of Wisdom and morality.