

Singing by the choir and congregation of the hymn which commences:

Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear,

But with joy wend your way;
Though hard to you this journey may appear,

Grace will be as your day.

Prayer by Elder Elias H. Blackburn.

The choir sang:

O, my Father, Thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place!
When shall I regain Thy presence
And again behold Thy face?

ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG.

A visit to the Irrigation Congress—Old landmarks—The Missionary field.

My brethren and sisters, I was informed this afternoon when I first came into the building, that the brethren with whom I associate in the Council of the Seventies had had the honor and privilege of speaking this forenoon; so I thought that they had done my part as well as theirs. Nevertheless, I acknowledge that I am honored to stand before you in this vast assembly, and if I do not have the Spirit of the Lord to impress me with something to say, my standing here will have been in vain; for without that influence that comes from the Holy Spirit, as was truly said here yesterday, no man can edify this vast congregation.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Irrigation congress in the town of Lincoln, Nebraska. That is the town where the state prison is located, where my fellow laborer, Brother George Reynolds, was kept in durance vile for a short time for the Gospel's sake. I did not know the exact cell that he occupied, or I should have visited it. But I rejoice, for more than one reason, for the privilege of visiting the city of Lincoln. It lies about fifty miles from the main line of the Union Pacific, which is located on the old Pioneer road on which Brigham Young and his Pioneer band traveled on their way to Salt Lake valley fifty years ago. As I journeyed over the plains, I could locate many old camping places that we used to stop at during our transit across these arid regions by mule and ox teams, years before the railroad was established.

During our session of the Irrigation congress, no person from Idaho, or from Arizona, said anything about irrigation, and that was the avowed theme that we all expected to talk about, read about and write about during the congress. There seems to be an idea that irrigation started somewhere in the state of Ohio. I am not really informed as to whether they associate that fact (which is not a fact, however,) with the original home of the Mormons in that state. Then they drift along the lines into Nebraska; and one of their foremost publications, after the coming congress had been located at the city of the plains, known as Cheyenne, published an item on the following morning to the effect that it was a great mistake to hold the Irrigation congress at Cheyenne; it ought to have been located at Chicago, the central place of the irrigation district, Cheyenne being on the extreme western limit of that district. The western portion of the congress unitedly favored Cheyenne for the coming season, where the congress will no doubt be held, as it was so decided by the congress; and I believe that some idea of the irrigation system and the plan by which the pioneers and their followers were so successful in wringing bread and other necessities of life from the desert region upon which they located, will no doubt be more fully understood or at least discussed in that congress. We had a very pleasant time, however, and were greeted with great kindness and shown great respect, not only by the members of that congress, but by the citizens of Lincoln. The governor gave us a reception and ball the evening after my arrival, in which we were greeted and feted to our heart's content. Nebraska's people are something like our own people: they evinced by their language and by their hearty welcome accorded to us the true western hospitality.

While there I hunted up the missionary headquarters of the Nebraska conference, and visited with the sister who keeps the house and four of the Elders who are located in that district. I enjoyed myself very much in this association. I was invited very cordially to remain over a few days and attend their conference; but I had

a kind of longing to be present at this greater gathering, and on that account, and some others of minor importance, I hurried home.

I rejoice because I have a testimony to bear of the truth of the Gospel and of the organization of the Holy Priesthood upon the earth, and seeing so many of my brethren and sisters together this afternoon who, like myself, have the testimony and the witness for God in their hearts and shining through their countenances. By the spirit which is in the house, I judge that you have come together for the purpose of being fed and strengthened and built up in your most holy faith. I rejoice that we have had a great celebration during the Twenty-fourth of July and the days previous. A great deal of information concerning this people has been scattered abroad throughout this continent, especially the western and the eastern states, through representatives which they had here—newspaper reporters and publishers, and prominent men—during that celebration; and the fame of the Latter-day Saints will continue to spread over the land.

A gentleman asked me, during a recess of the congress, how many Elders we had in the missionary field. I told him that we had something more than twelve hundred at this present time. He said it would almost seem incredible that the Mormon people, so small in numbers as they were and so isolated as they had been for many years from their neighbors upon the East, could possibly have so many Elders in the field preaching the tenets of their faith. But I assured him it was a fact. He asked me how they were traveling, and how they were supported from day to day. I informed him that many of them traveled as did the ancient disciples and Apostles of the Lord Jesus, without purse and without scrip, trusting in the kindness of the people and in the spirit that prompted them, to win the hearts of those among whom they traveled, that they might be ministered unto, and be fed and clothed. The gentleman said that this was another feature of the disciples who associated with our Lord and Savior in His ministry, and one that was worthy of commendation in any religious denomination, and one which

he thought was calculated to try the faith of those who traveled in this condition. I said that it did not require the wealth of great religious denominations, or the wealth of individuals, to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; that one living witness, with a testimony of the truth in his heart, could go forth and win his way among the people, and preach the Gospel to thousands; and the few that would embrace these principles, in their turn became witnesses for God; and the Gospel was continuously spread in this manner. Granting that to be true, said he, how much greater is your chance for spreading the Gospel with twelve hundred missionaries constantly in the field.

I bear witness that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God; that the organization of the Holy Priesthood is correct and true today, and after the ancient pattern; and that if we are faithful to the truth and to the trust committed to us, we shall not fail of salvation; for the Lord has promised it to us, and He never fails. God bless you, my brethren and sisters, and increase your faith and your power to do good, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER C. W. PENROSE.

God is with His people—The Purpose for which he has Gathered them—A Mission for All—No Work done for the Dead will be in Vain—The Earth and its Inhabitants to be Redeemed.

I have greatly enjoyed this Conference. It has seemed to me that the Spirit of the Lord has been poured out in great abundance upon the speakers and upon the hearers. At every meeting which we have held we have received valuable instruction, and the testimonies that have been borne to us concerning the work of God have been prompted and inspired by the Holy Spirit, and all the proceedings of this Conference have been joyful to me. I thank the Lord, in the midst of the congregation, that I have been permitted to be present and to enjoy the good spirit which has been poured out upon us.

I also have a testimony to bear concerning this great work, and feel willing now, as I always have felt ever since I joined the Church in my boyhood, to bear that testimony, in public