

The choir sang,  
We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet.  
Benediction by Patriarch John  
Smith.

— — —  
2 p. m.

The hymn which begins as follows  
was sung by the choir and congrega-  
tion:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salva-  
tion;  
No longer as strangers on earth need  
we roam,  
Good tidings are sounding to us and  
each nation,  
And shortly the hour of redemption  
will come.

Prayer by Elder George C. Parkin-  
son.

Singing:

All hail the glorious day,  
By Prophets long foretold,  
When, with harmonious lay,  
The sheep of Israel's fold  
On Zion's hill His praise proclaim,  
And shout hosanna to His name.

#### ELDER ANTHON H. LUND.

Missionary work in the Orient—Opposition encoun-  
tered—Changes in Palestine—An American  
Colony,

I hope that I may be in possession of  
the same spirit that inspired our  
brethren who addressed us this morning  
I feel happy to be in your midst, to  
see so many faces, happy faces, of the  
Latter-day Saints as I see here before  
me today.

When you last met in general Con-  
ference, I did not have the pleasure to  
be with you, as I was then laboring  
among the Saints in the Orient. I had a  
very interesting mission to that part of  
the earth. As you know, we have a  
number of Saints in the Turkish em-  
pire. During the massacres which oc-  
curred in Armenia a few years ago, our  
brethren and sisters there were left  
without any Elders from Zion to pre-  
side over them. The Presidency of the  
Church sent Brother Hintze and myself  
over there last December to organize  
the Church more fully. We found that  
the Saints there, though left without  
Elders from Zion to preside over them,  
had not lost the spirit of the work. It  
is quite a testimony to me that the  
Spirit of God works the same, makes  
the same manifestations wherever it is  
enjoyed. The Saints there enjoy the

spirit of the Gospel, rejoice in that  
which they have received, and the  
Spirit had led them to a right under-  
standing. I was pleased to see them so  
well grounded in the principles of the  
Gospel, especially when I thought of  
their not having access to any of our  
Church works. Only a few of the Saints  
were able to read English, and we have  
not yet any of our Church works trans-  
lated into Turkish. A few tracts have  
been published, but the works of the  
Church have not yet been translated  
into that language and consequently  
our brethren and sisters there have  
not been able to read our accepted  
works except the Bible, nor any of  
our published sermons; and still we  
found them in full accord with the be-  
lief and faith of the Church, showing  
that the Spirit of God leads into all  
truth. They were very happy to have  
us come and visit them. We found quite  
a number ready to receive the Gospel,  
and had the joy of leading quite a num-  
ber into the waters of baptism. Some  
had been baptized, but for the want of  
an Elder had not been confirmed mem-  
bers. They were glad to receive this  
blessing. We organized a branch of the  
Church at Aintab. I do not  
think that such a condition will again  
arise there, as that of the Saints of the  
largest branch being left under the  
presidency of a Priest only. We found  
brethren there worthy of presiding,  
worthy of the Priesthood, and ordained  
them.

We also found that our adversary  
was not pleased with our work, nor  
with the work of the Saints. Persecu-  
tion was raised against the Saints there,  
the mob disturbed some of our meet-  
ings, but the Lord was with us; none  
was hurt, and it caused more of a spirit  
of inquiry amongst the people. The  
government and the officers of the gov-  
ernment were friendly to us and prom-  
ised us protection. I found that it was  
mostly members belonging to different  
Christian denominations which raised  
this persecution against our people. The  
Turks themselves did not act in any  
way unfriendly towards us. They won-  
dered what all this turmoil was about,  
and came to us and wanted to know  
what we really believed. While the  
Turkish government is not one that an

American would like to live under, still it gives greater religious liberty to our Saints than they would be permitted to enjoy in countries like Greece, Italy, or Spain. The Mohammedans do not interfere with our brethren in the exercise of their religion, or forbid them to believe as they desire, but give freedom to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience. I may qualify this by saying that the Mohammedans themselves do not enjoy this freedom to the same extent as the Christians. If a Mohammedan should leave his religion and join any other religion in that land, he would be ostracised from the society of his relatives and friends, and would be in danger even of his life. But as to the Christians, the Mohammedans are willing that they do as they please in regard to their religion, and I believe the more contention they see amongst the Christians the more they like it.

When persecution was raised against us, the Saints were desirous of our appealing to the government for help, but on second thought we felt that this would not be wise. We did not like to raise strife between the Mohammedans and the Christians. It is not a long time since a great many Christians lost their lives in Armenia, and we were afraid that we might be the cause of starting this race hatred between the two parties, and we thought it would be better to suffer a little wrong than to be the cause of wrong being done. I told the Saints that I did not think the persecution would amount to much, and I knew that the Lord was able to protect His Saints.

Wherever the Gospel has been introduced it has always met with opposition. The Turkish mayor of Aintab said to me, when I asked him to look after our people, that they should not suffer any wrong at the hands of their enemies, "Wherever a message of truth is sent, those bearing it will suffer persecution." I knew the sentiment was true, but it sounded curious to hear it from his lips. He promised to protect the Saints, and I learn from them that he has fined some of the mobocrats.

I believe there is a great future for our people in that land; and that there are many of the honest in heart, and I hope our brethren will find them. They love to hear the Gospel. They love the truth, and when they receive it they enjoy the Spirit, and the signs follow them that believe, even in that far off land.

In company with Elders Hintze, Maycock, Larson and Nishan, the latter a native Elder, I visited the Holy Land, and traveled over the places so familiar and so interesting to us from reading the Scriptures. We examined the country and the conditions existing there carefully with a view of finding a place of gathering for the Saints.

You remember that in the forties Apostle Orson Hyde was sent to that land, and that he dedicated it unto the Lord, and for the gathering of the Jews. That land had been cursed on account of the iniquity of its people, and for hundreds of years it has been a testimony to the world that the Lord honors the words of his servants, the words spoken by the inspiration of His Spirit. Moses, thousands of years ago, was permitted to see the future and prophesied concerning it, warning the people of Israel that if they did not obey the commandments of God they should be scattered amongst the nations of the earth. You who have read history know how literally this prophecy has been fulfilled, and that the land given to Abraham and his seed has been occupied by strangers, and that the blessings of God which once made that land a delightful place in which to dwell, were withdrawn and it was turned into a barren and forbidding land. Brother Hyde went there and blessed it. The mission given to the servants of God was to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles first and then to the Jews. This was declared very early by the Lord as the mission given to His servants. His chosen people were not forgotten. They, also, should receive the Gospel message; but this time the first should be the last. The Prophet Joseph was inspired to send Brother Hyde to that land, and look at the change! A spirit has come over the Jews, over the House of Israel, to gather to that land. This was not

felt by them before but since that time.

This spirit has come upon them in whatever part of the earth they dwell. We found in traveling in that land whole settlements of Jews who have gathered there of late years. In talking with them. (Brother Hintze being able to talk the language) we learned that they were not gathering in faith; it was not because they believed that the Lord had opened the way before them, but they had a desire to go there. A learned Jewish doctor told us that his people wanted to become again a nation. They longed to be once more a people upon the earth, and to own the land given to their fathers.

In Jerusalem we found quite an increase in the number of the Jews; during the last three years, fifteen thousand had settled there. The sultan is not pleased with this and has prohibited the Jews from emigrating into Palestine, but still the movement is going on, the Zion movement among the people of Israel, and they are looking forward to inhabiting that land. It is one of the signs of the times. Before long I believe the Lord will touch the hearts of that people and they will believe in Jesus as their Messiah. The Book of Mormon has the prophecy that when they do believe in Him that land shall be given them again as their inheritance. I do not believe that time is far distant. I believe that the time is hastening when the Lord will accomplish what he has spoken by His servants the Prophets.

While in Jerusalem we met a colony of Americans. These people have been impressed that they live in the last days and that the coming of Christ is near, and so they have sold out their possessions, taken their means with them to Jerusalem that they might live there when Christ comes, believing that He will come to Mount Olivet.

We spent a very pleasant evening with them. They lived in the united order, having everything in common, and they use their time in doing good, in going to the sick and helping the poor. So far they are doing a good work. Mrs. Spofford, the president and leader of the society, told us that in studying the Scriptures they have come to the conclusion that Christ will soon appear, and she said: "We

were struck very much by the prophecy uttered by Zachariah in the 14th chapter, 10th verse, and also by the prophecy of Jeremiah concerning Jerusalem, in the 31st chapter, in which it is foretold how the city of Jerusalem shall be built on certain lines. When reading the chapters closely we find that the time alluded to is the latter days, and it is said there that the city of Jerusalem should be built from the tower of Hananeel to the king's wine presses and from there to the valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes." She pointed out to us this fact, that the city is being built now exactly on these lines. They did not know at first where the tower of Hananeel was. Nobody seemed to know, and if you look into books giving descriptions of Jerusalem, that place is not designated, but a few years ago when they were digging the foundations of the Grand hotel in Jerusalem they discovered the foundations of a tower and among inscriptions found was the name of Hananeel. This made them believe that this must have been the tower of Hananeel. Taking that for a starting point, and to the king's wine presses and down to the valley of ashes, Jerusalem is being built as thus described. These people took this to be one of the signs of the times. I take it to be one of the signs of the times, that God is working upon His people, His chosen people, and that they are gathering to that land.

As for our people gathering there, we feel that our brethren should be well grounded in the faith before we move them, and still being in their infancy it would be better to strengthen the branches and have more come into the Church, and then gradually gather them down to a place selected in the Holy Land, and this is a work that will be accomplished. There will be a Zion in the East as well as in the West, "for the law shall go forth out of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Brethren and sisters, I delight in dwelling upon these things. I see the Lord working with the nations. He is gradually accomplishing His purposes, and His work will grow in the earth, and all the opposition in the

world will not stop it. He has revealed His will to men. He has established His kingdom upon the earth, and it will grow until it becomes, as Daniel saw, a kingdom that will fill the whole earth.

May the Lord help us to be faithful and true and to have a share in His kingdom forever, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### ELDER MARRINER W. MERRILL.

An occasion for self-scrutiny—The labor committed to the Saints by the Lord—The Church the most perfect of all organizations—Local officers should be active and discreet—No unworthy person should be recommended to enter the holy Temples—The great work for the dead.

In arising before you, my brethren and sisters, I desire to make you hear the few words I may speak to you this afternoon.

In looking over this congregation, I realize that we all have an object in view in coming to the Conference from distant parts, and as was observed this morning, perhaps a large majority of the congregation here today is from remote parts of the country. We are here to be instructed. We are here to listen to the voice of the Spirit of the Lord. We are here to have a refreshing from the Lord in our assemblings together during the Conference. It is a good time to reflect, it is a good time to look over our history, that is our private history and our private life and the acts thereof. It is a good time to sit in judgment upon ourselves and judge ourselves as to our standing and fellowship with the Lord. The Lord has been very merciful to us, very merciful to the Latter-day Saints. We are constrained to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in His kind dealings with us in this mountain country.

Those who have had a few years experience can see visibly that the elements have been tempered. The earth has been blessed and sanctified for the good of the people, so much so that it produces in abundance to the husbandman; it rewards him for his toil; while but a short time ago it looked as though the country was a barren waste. But we find that the Lord has blessed the earth; has blessed the people; has multiplied them in the good

things of the earth, so much so that all, or seemingly all, have all the bounties of the earth.

The Lord has also given unto us the charge of His work in the earth; given unto us the charge of organizing His people, to teach them the Gospel, and to send the Gospel to the distant parts of the earth, as we have been hearing this afternoon. This charge and labor has been committed to the Latter-day Saints, and we are obligated to the Lord to preach the Gospel in all the world, to every nation and to every people. This is the work that we have in hand; this is the labor that is marked out for us; and we come together from time to time at the conferences of the Church, and we usually hear from the brethren who are posted with regard to the spread of the work in other lands and in our own land, and we are led to exclaim: "Praise the Lord for His goodness and for His mercy and His long-suffering to us as His people."

We have, my brethren and sisters and friends, a beautiful organization, complete in all its details, such as no other people has; such as was not in the wisdom of man to give to the people. I often think about it, think about how we are situated, the circumstances under which we are placed. We are not left to depend upon ourselves, upon our judgment in matters of interest that pertain to ourselves. We have been advised to seek counsel of each other, to seek the counsels of the Lord. In the midst of counsel, it is said, there is safety. I have thought sometimes that we did not appreciate this beautiful system that the Lord has revealed and made known to man under which we may live and have full fellowship with each other. I have thought, my brethren and sisters, that if we were a little more careful, and should give a little more attention to the organization that we have, it would save us a great deal of trouble and also save our brethren trouble.

I have said that I thought it was a good thing, and I say it from experience, for the authorities of a ward, the organizations of the Priesthood in a ward, to have their meetings frequently. The Bishop in a ward should call his