

His only Begotten Son, who performed a work the effects of which are felt to-day throughout the whole world. Particularly do we find the result of His work and that of His Apostles among the so-called civilized nations of the earth. The impress of divinity is upon the work of Christ. He was the greatest Prophet that ever trod the earth. Judging from the same standpoint, whenever the Lord has raised up any prophet the impress of divinity has been upon the work that he was called to accomplish. It has always been something important, and it has had for its primary object the salvation and betterment of the children of God. When the Lord raised up the Prophet Joseph, he ushered in this great gathering dispensation. It was not an idle purpose; it was not merely for the amusement of mankind; but there was something grand to be accomplished namely, the gathering of the house of Israel from all the nations of the earth, in fulfilment of those wonderful predictions uttered by many prophets who lived hundreds and even thousands of years ago. Today those who are familiar with the development of this work; those who have visited the various Stakes of Zion, from one end of this intermountain region to the other, and have seen people from all nations with their feet planted in these fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains, have not failed to see that there was a vital force that seemed to possess the people—something beyond the power of man—that was accomplishing a wonderful work in the earth. I recollect a certain valley here in the southern part of Idaho. A number of people not of our faith first went and settled in that valley, and called the place Gentile Valley, and they made the boast that never should "Mormons" come into that valley and take possession of it. A short time ago I had the privilege of visiting the Bannock Stake conference. It was held in Gentile Valley, and there I saw a congregation of Latter-day Saints, who had gathered there from the nations of the earth, in fulfilment of these mighty predictions. They were planted in that valley, tilling the soil, and their cattle were grazing upon the hills; and I was informed that you

could count the Gentiles, as they termed themselves, upon the fingers of one hand. Even that is an object lesson to me illustrating that this is the land of Zion, appointed and dedicated for the gathering of Israel in the latter days. The impress of divinity is upon this work, the Lord is with His people, and we see it manifest on every hand.

I bear testimony to the fact that I know Joseph Smith is a prophet sent of God. The Lord has manifested it to me as an individual. I have felt the impress of the Spirit of the Lord. When I have been in the missionary field and have borne this testimony, I have felt tingling in all my being, the Spirit of the Lord, bearing witness within me that the words which I spoke were true. My young brethren and sisters, who have not yet had experience in the missionary field, let me tell you that this is the work of God, that the Lord is at our helm and will bear us on triumphantly, and that the thing called Mormonism, despised though it be in the world, is the greatest thing on the earth. It is the Church of God established upon the earth, never again to be thrown down. It is the little stone that was hewn out of the mountains without hands, and it has begun to roll, and will continue to roll until it shall fill the whole earth. Through its operations sin and iniquity will be banished from the face of the earth, and righteousness shall predominate and cover the earth, even as the waters cover the mighty deep. This is my testimony, and I bear it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS.

A God of miracles—Saints should not scatter abroad—Priesthood should be consulted—Work of auxiliary organizations.

While Elder Seymour B. Young has been speaking to us this morning many thoughts on the topics to which he has referred have passed through my mind. He first spoke of the Lord answering the prayers of His people in behalf of the sick, and I believe that at the present time the Lord is very markedly doing this. I have heard some of my brethren and sisters speak as though there was a time in the Church when these manifestations of God's power

were more frequent than they are today. In this I do not agree. My experience tells me that there never was a time in the history of the Church when God was more willing to answer the prayers of His people than He is now. A discussion has been going on recently among our friends, on the question of the healing of the sick through faith and prayer, and whether God is a God of miracles today or not. From my standpoint, this discussion is absurd, almost grotesque; for my testimony is that God continues to hear the prayers of His people, and that we are living in a period of daily miracles amongst this people. It is simply those who will not see who are blind to these circumstances. The Prophet Mormon has told us in his record that God's ways are one eternal round; that He is the same yesterday, today and forever; that He was, He is, and He ever will be a God of miracles, or He would cease to be God. The God who answers prayer today as He did anciently; the God who listens to the pleadings of His children and loves them with the same all-powerful love as He did those of former dispensations, is the God in whom I believe, and whom I worship. I believe in Him among other things by reason of the manifestations of His power that I know are taking place in the midst of the Saints, not only in the healing of the sick, but in their enjoyment of the gifts of the Spirit which He has promised to the believers; and I have good reason to worship Him.

There is another thing that has impressed me in the remarks of the brethren before this conference. I refer to the warning they have given to some of our restless brethren, and possibly sisters, who seem to be always inclined to go further and further from the headquarters of the Church and take up their residence in far-off lands. I have lately had the privilege of visiting some of the more remote settlements of the Saints. Within the last few weeks I have been to Alberta, to Grande Ronde valley in Oregon, and to the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming; and I have been full of gratitude to God to see the vast extent of good country—almost measureless—that still remains for

the Saints to occupy, with soil as good and rivers as large as any yet settled upon and brought out by our people. Yet there are some people who would go still further afield. We are told that there are some of our brethren who have wandered off to the north of Alberta, far on the Edmonton road, which lies 300 miles to the northward of our settlements. Others have wandered off in different directions, apparently to get from under the influence, direction and counsel of the servants of God. To do this is a suicidal policy on the part of those who attempt it. In the kingdom of God the path of obedience is not only the path of safety, but it is the path of salvation. All our strength, all our power with God, comes from our union with the Priesthood, with the living oracles, who have the right and the authority from God to direct us in things both great and small, if we may use that expression, for all things are but relatively large or small; but everything that it pleases God to reveal to us is important, because on it hinges our salvation. It is by neglect of the small things that we too often wreck our faith. As the scriptures tell us, it is the little foxes that spoil the vines. I have greatly marveled and been pleased with the prospects of our people in their new settlements and colonies; and I can perceive that there is vast room for Israel to grow, and grow legitimately, without spreading beyond the borders that the servants of God recognize as proper places for homes for Latter-day Saints.

As one interested in the youth of Israel, I have felt great satisfaction in the remarks of the brethren. Many of you know me more as a Sunday school man than in any other position in the Church, and the instructions which have been given at this conference with regard to the training of our youth find an echo in my heart. I know the necessity of this training and development in righteousness, and in fighting that which God has said is not good for us. Surely it is inconsistent in the highest degree for those who claim to be Latter-day Saints to take the name of God in vain, to disregard the teachings of the Church with regard to the Sabbath, and to treat with disrespect

those whom God has called to be His servants. We need encouragement to do right, warning to avoid wrong. We need a reformation in some of these matters, that we may live nearer unto God. I feel that our Sunday schools, our Improvement associations and other auxiliary organizations have a great work before them, to lead the youth of Israel in the path in which they should walk, first by us who claim to be teachers setting the example, and then by good instruction persuading our children to follow in our footsteps. May God bless you, and bless this conference. I ask it through Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen.

ELDER J. W. McMURRIN.

Manifestations of divine favor—Educational foundation laid by the Saints—Disposition to build up and beautify the land—Excellence of public school system—Paramount importance of Church schools—Tribute to those who have aided their establishment.

I certainly feel, my brethren and sisters, that to stand up in the presence of this vast congregation of people is a very serious responsibility, and I could appreciate the words whispered to me a few moments ago by Brother Golden Kimball. I suppose he felt that I would be called upon to occupy a portion of the time of this meeting, and he whispered in my ear, "Brother Joseph, brace up; you have my sympathy." I feel that I need the sympathy, the faith and the prayers of this vast multitude, if I am to say anything that will be of advantage to you who have assembled together in this conference to worship the Lord.

There is a responsive feeling in my soul to the words that have been uttered by the brethren who have occupied this position during the conference. My heart has been made glad, and I have felt that my spirit was in harmony with the Spirit that actuated the brethren in the instructions they were led to impart; and I hope that, through the kindness of my Father in heaven, I may be prompted by the same Spirit.

In connection with the brethren, I marvel at the wonderful development of the work of the Lord and the manifestations of our Father's divine favor on every hand in the remarkable advancement being made by the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. While sitting here today I have wondered what the feelings must be of strangers in our midst, who have been told all manner of falsehoods concerning the Latter-day Saints. I have had some experience as a missionary in the world, and among those who had not investigated the doctrines of the Gospel I found almost universally the feeling that the Latter-day Saints were a priest-ridden people, held in a condition of ignorance and of bondage, and that they had to be kept in such a state, lest they might break away from the priestly rule that dominated them. I have often wondered what the feelings of the people could be who visited us in our mountain home and discovered that this chief city of the Saints is a city of peaceful and happy homes, and splendid schools.

Beautiful buildings have been erected here for the education of the rising generation; and while it is true that they have been built by the united effort of all the citizens of this city, "Mormon" and non-"Mormon," it is nevertheless a fact that the desire to give education to the youth of the Latter-day Saints has always been a prominent feature in the building up of Zion. The foundation of the education now so richly given in this state of Utah was laid by the Latter-day Saint pioneers. The great University that stands upon the brow of the hill, overlooking this city, was founded by our people in the days of their poverty; and in establishing it they looked forward with the eye of faith to the future educational necessities of the children and the development of the country. Traveling through the various Stakes of Zion, we find in almost every settlement costly and beautiful buildings that have been erected for educational purposes. When we think of what has been accomplished in this direction, we should be exceedingly glad in our hearts. If we are judged by our works, it will be very difficult for honest, observing men and women to go away from this community with the feeling that the Latter-day Saints are opposed to education.

I had the privilege recently of taking a visit with Apostle Cowley through some of the outlying Stakes of Zion—