

the Apostles, and in Luther's translation they are called famous Apostles. Hence they did have more than the original Twelve. As long as the true Priesthood remained upon the earth these officers were found in the Church, fulfilling the purpose for which they were placed there.

I rejoice that we live in a day when the Lord has revealed His will unto men and has given us His Priesthood. He has also given us many promises, which we know will be fulfilled. It is for us to live so as to show the Lord that we appreciate what He has done for us; to do the best we can in the places which God has called us to occupy, and to make ourselves better men and women. May God bless us, and bless His work upon the earth, that it may prosper, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG.

The Gospel a great educational system—Overruling power of God—Present necessity for perfect organization.

I am thankful for the privilege of being here this morning, and rejoice in the words that we have heard from the Presidency. There are many things in the Doctrine and Covenants which we read and re-read without fully understanding them. I have often read the revelation which President Smith has referred to, and have tried to study and comprehend the order which God has instituted, but I must say that entirely new ideas came to my mind while President Smith was speaking. I see that it is impossible for humanity to come directly and without proper training into the presence of God. It is a long, hard labor that we shall have to perform to prepare ourselves for His presence. We need cultivation. It is like the farmer cultivating the soil, or like cultivating the mind in an educational way, only this is the greatest system of education that I have ever heard of. It is a gradual raising of the people. The mind is clearer each day in the man who studies and who understands the ways of God. In this way we draw nearer to God; and by and by, when Jesus appears, we shall know Him; for we shall be like Him. Without this training we would be as

ignorant as the world at large; but with this system of education and cultivation which God has instituted, we may rise to the dignity of being heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

I thank God for the knowledge He has given unto us. I thank Him for the testimonies of His Spirit, which He has given to me. All that I could reasonably claim at His hands has been given me, and He has never forsaken me in days of trial. This is an epitome of the history of the Latter-day Saints. God has been with them, individually and as a people. Our individual circumstances are known to him; the circumstances of the people are known to Him, and He overrules in every emergency for the uplifting, strengthening, and binding together of His Saints. We witness this in our daily lives. Every day there is a closer communion between the brethren who hold the Priesthood, in their quorums, if they are magnifying their Priesthood. Every day there is a closer communion between the husband and the wife, if they are magnifying that which God has given unto them. Every day there is an increase of affection between the children and the parents, an increase of faith and confidence in neighbor for neighbor; and we are growing together, under the admonition and power of God, in a manner that is astonishing; at least, it astonishes me, for I find it in myself as I do in my brethren.

I rejoice in the organization of the Church as it exists today. After we had paid our last respects to our late beloved President, I felt the Spirit in me so strong that I could not rest in my feelings until the First Presidency was organized. I wanted a President of the Church; I wanted him to have counselors, and to see the organization of the Church perfect. I never saw a time in my life when I believed the perfect organization of the Church, with all the strength and power God has given us in the quorums of the Priesthood, was more necessary than it is today. God intimated through His Spirit that it was His mind and will that the organization should be completed. I do not speak of men; I speak

of principle. It was the mind and will of God that these things should be done; and I do not know of anyone, unless it was President Joseph F. Smith, that had more anxiety of mind on this subject than I had. It is now accomplished, and I feel thankful that we behold this day, when the people have come together, in answer to the call, for the purpose of ratifying what the Spirit of the Lord so strongly impressed upon His servants to do. It may seem to some that action has been taken with unseemly haste, but it was the prompting of the Holy Spirit to attend to the organization of the First Presidency and not allow it to linger.

I remember the time when the Latter-day Saints were led by the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with President Young at their head, and I recollect, when the First Presidency was organized at Kaneshville, in the winter of 1847-48, my father saying that he had worked for three years with one hand tied behind him, and that, according to the spirit in him, the First Presidency should be organized. It seemed all right to everybody until the Spirit began to manifest itself through the leaders that this was a necessity. We had gone along from the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith in 1844. We had passed through those terrible scenes while journeying through the then Territory of Iowa, when it seemed to me as if there was death on every hand. I was but a boy at the time, but it looked to me as if there would not be enough people to last till we could emerge from that dreadful ordeal in the months of February and March. Day after day those who were in the rear part of the train thought they were doing well if they could camp where the head of the train had camped the previous day. If they made in one day a journey of three miles, they thought they were doing excellently, because they had to bridge the streams, and over every swamp they had to build corduroy bridges. I never will forget them. They were like the lives of the Latter-day Saints. We have to journey sometimes in water up to our necks, where we can hardly keep our mouths above the surface. So it was at that time. We would make these

corduroy bridges across swamps every two or three hundred yards, and they would sink till the wagon bed would be partly filled with water on some occasions. We traveled in this manner day after day, and I have seen the tracks of the wagons a quarter of a mile up and down a certain swale in the road, perhaps where they had diverged to cross a grassy place, because if a wagon cut through the sod there was no bottom to the lake underneath. I relate this to give you an idea of our condition in journeying through Iowa. I remember a little playmate of mine died, and was to be buried. In digging his grave as soon as they cut through about twelve inches of grass roots they struck a lake that seemed unfathomable, and they had to bury the child on top of the sod. All who died in that country had to be buried on the sod, and a fence built around to preserve them from the wild animals. It was a condition that appalled the stoutest heart; and President Young and the brethren of the Apostles were laboring day and night to avert the evils that seemed to come upon the people. But when the Spirit came upon them to organize the First Presidency, the whole people sanctioned it, just as they will do on this occasion, and as they would have done years before had the Twelve expressed themselves in that manner. I feel thankful that things have changed. I contrast today with the days of my early youth. If the Prophet Joseph could have stood in a tabernacle like this, with such a congregation, and spoken the revelations of God to them, it seems to me that he would have felt as if he was in heaven. As it was, he frequently faced a body of maniacs in the form of mobs, who thirsted for his blood. At no time, day nor night, within my recollection, was the Prophet Joseph Smith safe from assassination. He could not stand before a congregation like this, as President Smith has done—before his friends, and deliver the word of God. He had to face death at every step he took, and he never saw a moment when he was not liable to be arrested by men who would try to slay him. He scarcely ever stood before a congregation in which there were not some men armed to the teeth

and thirsting for his blood, only waiting the opportunity to kill him and to get away safely. What a contrast today! And what a sea of trouble we have waded through to reach it! Yet how the people have grown and increased! It is like a field of lucerne after it has been cut. Take the harrow and go over the field, tear it to pieces, and you get a better crop. The harrow has been upon this people, and they have thrived under it, because God is at their head. He is engineering this work, and He has preserved the people. So it will continue to be. Today I feel thankful for the blessing, prosperity, union, and the complete organization that God has given us. Thank God for peace that dwells within the confines of the state of Utah. Thank God for the people that are spreading abroad to the north and the south, to the east and the west. They are living in harmony, as a rule, and growing and prospering. Our children, too, are increasing, and crying. Give us room that we may dwell. I am thankful for the opportunity of bearing my testimony to this order which has been established, and to the work that has been done. I am thankful that we all have the privilege of lifting up our hands before God, angels and men, to manifest that we sustain this work and this organization with all the energy and power God will give us from this time henceforth and forever; which may He grant us strength and ability, good health and long life, to do, is my humble prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH.

Importance of maintenance of the organizations instituted by the Lord

My brethren and sisters, I rejoice with you in the privilege of attending this conference, although, with you doubtless, I have my regrets that it has been found necessary, so soon after our late conference, to convene the people for the purpose of considering questions that are of vital interest to us all. I am most happy in saying that the Council of Apostles have been a unit thus far in every action that has been taken by them. I am one of those that believe it is the duty, most sacred, of

the men who have been chosen to officiate as witnesses for the Redeemer, to see that the quorums and organizations of the Priesthood are fully and thoroughly maintained, and that no question is permitted to enter into our organizations that would weaken them in any of their functions. I believe that the methods used to break down the force of the Christian religion as presented by the Redeemer and sustained in the ministry of His chosen Apostles of that dispensation, were due in some measure to the fact that the brethren presumed to take long periods for their deliberations upon the question of the maintenance of the organizations that the Master had established. As a result, there grew up a variety of schisms, which so destroyed the purity and power of the organization that it degenerated into what we now witness in the world.

In the consideration of the questions involved in the speedy establishment of the presiding head in its proper place in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, there has been no quibble, no contention, but our spirits have been absolutely in unison with each other. There does exist in connection with this organization the necessity for a power that can legitimately and properly transact a great variety of business which no one is virtually in a position to perform until the body of the Church passes upon the question. While I presume no man or woman conversant with the doctrines of the Church and in harmony therewith would question for a moment the action of the Council of the Apostles in pointing the way for the performance of any part in connection with the work of God, there might arise in the minds of the people a question as to whether all the rights involved had been properly and thoughtfully considered by the presiding quorum, in such an exigency as has arisen since our last general gathering.

I endorse to the fullest the remarks made by President Joseph F. Smith, and the doctrine enunciated in the revelation from which he has read. I endorse the sentiments and spirit that have actuated the utterances of President Lund, as also the remarks that