

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

have been made by President Brigham Young. I trust that in the future, as the Lord shall manifest His designs in connection with the development of His work, the power, wisdom and judgment to exercise the functions bestowed will be given to the men who may stand in the forefront of the work, as He has guided and directed the movements of that grand body of men who have wielded the destinies of this people up to the present moment. I believe that it would have been possible, after the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch of the Church, had the Saints seen the necessity of action in connection with the presiding quorum (although it is not for me to cast words of censure), to have preserved the Church from a number of factions that grew out of the circumstances surrounding the people at that time. You can see the attitude in which we would be placed today if, as was the case in those days, the Prophet of God was taken by the hand of assassins, and twelve men holding the Apostleship should each one presume to strike out in any direction that he might think proper without regard for the opinions of the others. We recall that Lyman Wight went in one direction, and other bold spirits went off in various directions. Had such examples been followed generally by the Apostles, we would have been a broken, disorganized band, and the power and force of the Priesthood among the people would have been shattered. But when the time was reached that the man whom God selected to guide the destinies of His people and plant them in these mountain vales began to exercise the functions of His Priesthood, in harmony with the wishes of his associates, the few that were dissatisfied withdrew themselves, or, surrendering their views, united themselves with the body and aided in the gathering of Israel and the establishment of the Gospel among the nations of the earth.

My brothers and sisters, these are matters for thought. The union of the people should lie near to our hearts. The development of our beings in harmony with divine rule should be our wish and ambition. It should characterize the actions of the presid-

ing authority in this Church, whether it rest upon a First Presidency of three or whether it falls briefly upon the shoulders of that body of men to whom the Prophet made the remark that where he was not there was no presidency over the Council of the Apostles—not meaning himself personally, but that species of leadership couched in a Presidency of three, who should direct the movements of the Apostles in the dissemination of the Gospel, calling the Seventies to work in harmony with them for the accomplishment of this purpose.

I recognize the fact that our time is far spent; but I say to you that I have never discovered in all my association with this body of men since the death of that eminent leader, Lorenzo Snow, the least thought on the part of him who now stands at the head, or his associates, to do aught than carry out the purposes of our Father in the organization of His Church and in the establishment of that rule of Priesthood given by Him, which is destined to guide the work until it shall accomplish His purpose in regard thereto. I bear testimony to its truth, and to the revelations of the divine will to myself, showing me the positions which Brother Joseph F. Smith and Brother Brigham Young occupy today as the President of the Church and the President of the Twelve Apostles respectively. God gave me a revelation concerning this as clear and explicit as ever came to any man, and it was given to me over ten years ago. I saw then the positions which these brethren would occupy in connection with this work; and yet my associates will credit me with being as modest as a man need be in relation to this; for at no time or place, save on two occasions, have I ever presumed to say that my Father had revealed to me and pointed out the way in which the leadership of this Church would be developed as it stands today. I pray that His peace may abound in your souls, that the knowledge of His truth shall be written upon your hearts, that a comprehension of His purposes may ever be with you, that every movement made for the development of His Zion and the establishment of His righteousness shall find a response in your souls,

that your action shall indeed be in harmony with His holy will. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The choir and congregation sang:

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform.

Benediction was pronounced by Patriarch John Smith.

CLOSING SESSION—2 P. M.

The choir sang the anthem, "Arouse, O ye mortals."

Prayer was offered by Elder Marriner W. Merrill.

The choir sang:

The nations bow to satan's thrall;
He fills with strife the souls of men.
He seeks to blind them, one and all,
Lest they the way of life obtain.

The quorums of the Priesthood were present, in solemn assembly, for the purpose of voting, in that capacity, for General Authorities of the Church. They were arranged in the following order:

The First Presidency, Apostles, First Seven Presidents of Seventies and Presiding Bishopric, in their respective places on the main stand.

On the south wing of the stand, the presidencies of Stakes and High Councilors.

On the north wing, Patriarchs, Bishops and their counselors.

On the south wing and adjacent section of the floor of the hall, High Priests.

On the north lower wing, Bishops.

On the four central and rear sections of the body of the hall were, each in respective order, the Seventies, Elders and Lesser Priesthood.

The remaining portions of the building, including the galleries, were occupied by members at large.

ORDER OF VOTING.

President Joseph F. Smith said that in voting it was expected that each quorum or body of the Priesthood would rise to their feet and raise their right hands, and be seated quickly in order that the business to be transacted might not be delayed. Those wishing to vote negatively were to rise and raise the left hand.

The order of voting by quorums and as a whole was as follows:

First—The First Presidency.

Second—The Apostles.

Third—The Patriarchs.

Fourth—Presidents of Stakes and their counselors, and the High Councilors.

Fifth—High Priests.

Sixth—Seventies.

Seventh—Elders.

Eighth—Bishops and their counselors.

Ninth—Priests, Teachers and Deacons (the Lesser Priesthood).

Tenth—All members of the Church, evidently embracing the whole congregation.

In each instance, successively, President Smith announced the motion to sustain the authorities and called for the affirmative vote. After the response the negative of the question was presented, and those who favored it, should there be any, were requested to express their will in the matter.

The voting was, however, affirmatively unanimous throughout.

The spectacle presented by the immense assembly, especially while the voting was in progress, was indescribably grand and impressive.

OFFICERS VOTED UPON.

Following were the officers voted upon:

GENERAL AUTHORITIES.

Joseph F. Smith—As Prophet, Seer and Revelator and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

John R. Winder—As first counselor in the First Presidency.

Anthon H. Lund—As second counselor in the First Presidency.

Brigham Young—As President of the Twelve Apostles.

As members of the Council of Twelve Apostles—Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Matthias F. Cowley, Abraham O. Woodruff, Rudger Clawson, Reed Smoot and Hyrum M. Smith.

John Smith—As presiding Patriarch of the Church.

The counselors in the First Presi-