

of the disregard for religion by the people of the State is largely their pleasant environments and the wealth of that land. Next to this is the individualism of the people, who interpret the Scriptures for themselves and care not for authority for prophets or revelation.

God bless you, my brethren and sisters; may peace be in your homes; may you cleave fast to the covenants you have made, and be true to yourselves, to your brethren and to your God, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The choir sang the anthem:

"O How Amiable."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Hyrum M. Smith.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

Sunday, 2 p. m.

The choir sang the anthem,

"In Our Redeemer's Name."

The opening prayer was offered by Elder John Nicholson.

The choir sang the anthem:

"God of Israel, Hear our Prayers."

RULON S. WELLS.

The Bible and Book of Mormon—Both true—Latter fresh from pen of Prophet—Word of the Lord today is "get out of debt"—Seventies willing to go on missions—Many hindered by debt.

My brethren and sisters, I sincerely hope that I may be sustained by your faith and prayers. As one of the presidents of stakes was coming upon the stand this afternoon, after having been invited by President Smith, he stopped and shook hands with myself and Brother McMurrin, and asked that we pray for him. In standing before you here I feel like shaking hands with the Latter-day Saints and asking them to pray for me, because I believe that the prayers of the Saints are heard by our Heavenly Father, when they are offered up in faith.

Brother Kimball made reference this morning to the Bible, and I am reminded of an article of our faith, which

says that we believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly. We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. While he was quoting this article of our belief, the thought came into my mind, how often has it been quoted in the mission field, and how frequently have our enemies and those who have not accepted our faith criticised us in making reference to the Bible and qualifying it by saying that we believe it as far as it is translated correctly. "O yes," say they, "you Latter-day Saints believe the Bible when it is convenient for you to accept of it, but when it is not convenient, then you fall back upon the provision which says "as far as it is translated correctly." In giving this article of faith the Prophet Joseph Smith was inspired by our Heavenly Father. Suppose for a moment that he had left out that condition. The question would at once arise, Which Bible do you Latter-day Saints believe in? Do you believe in the King James translation of the Bible, or do you believe in the revised edition? Do you accept the Catholic Bible, or the one that was translated by Martin Luther in the German language? There are a great many different editions of the holy scriptures; which of these Bibles do you believe in? because in many particulars the translations are at variance, and do not always agree. There was inspiration in the putting in of that condition. We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; and when it has not been translated correctly, we do not believe in that. To all intents and purposes, however, the Bible which is common among us is accepted by the Latter-day Saints as the word of God. When you refer to the Book of Mormon, however, you say that the Book of Mormon is the word of God, without any qualification.

Now, what is it that the Latter-day Saints believe in? We believe that holy men of old spake and wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and that which they spoke and wrote was the word of God; and if that has been handed down to us in its purity, we accept it as being the word of God. The Book of Mormon comes

to us fresh from the pen of the prophet, and was translated under the inspiration of our Heavenly Father by one whom He raised up for that purpose. Consequently we can accept it without qualification as being the word of God. We also believe in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, because it contains the predictions of the prophets and the revelations of God delivered unto this people by the living oracles upon the earth in this day and age of the world. We read in the scriptures that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The Latter-day Saints understand that the Lord will yet reveal many things pertaining to the upbuilding of His kingdom upon the earth. In other words, we believe in learning the will of God through the proper channels, and then to do it. That is our creed, our faith. We have among us the living oracles of God. The mouthpiece of the Lord has spoken to us at the beginning of this conference, and in his remarks he gave unto us the word of the Lord. He gave us counsel upon certain things that are of great importance to the Latter-day Saints, and we will do well to heed the counsel of God as it is delivered unto us. I take this lesson to myself, and I believe it ought to be the feeling of every Latter-day Saint, to hearken to the warning voice. As Latter-day Saints, we pray unto our Heavenly Father that the President of this Church may receive wisdom from on high, and the inspiration of His Holy Spirit and the revelations of His mind and will, that we may be guided and directed in the ways of all truth. How willing, therefore, and how eager we ought to be to hearken unto his words and carry them out in our daily lives. The great spectacle that I see before me this afternoon is an evidence that the Latter-day Saints are eager to hear the words of the servants of God. No doubt, many have come today with the expectation of hearing the voice of the mouthpiece of God. But what would it avail unto us unless we tried to carry out his advice and counsel?

Whatever may arise as a hindrance to the work of the Lord ought to be dis-

persed with, and that which interferes with the performance of our duty ought to be set aside. The adversary of the souls of men is striving with all his might to thwart the purposes of our Heavenly Father; but in no particular do I think that he has had greater influence upon the people at large than he has in taking advantage of their weaknesses by persuading them to go beyond their means and into debt. It does not necessarily require a wicked man to yield to that influence at times. We are all more or less susceptible to it. Even some of the characteristics of our people which are to be commended—that, for example, of being unselfish and willing to let go of the substance that has come into our hands, have sometimes been a means that the adversary has employed to lead our people into debt. We have received, as has already been stated, a great many letters from the Seventies whose names have been suggested for missions to the nations of the earth, and the great majority of those letters have brought with them the spirit of the Gospel. The brethren have shown a willingness to respond to every call, and many of them have set forth their circumstances, but have closed their letters with a statement something like this: "These are my circumstances. I do not offer excuses. I am willing to go into the mission field, and lift up my voice and cry repentance unto this generation. I am willing to leave my home, because I know this is the work of the Lord." They have thereby placed the responsibility upon the authorities of the Church to decide whether or not they should go. Notwithstanding this, there has been no disposition to work any hardship upon the Seventies or the brethren suggested for missions, and many of them have been excused when we have known their circumstances. Over 100 have been released on account of their financial condition. Thus the going in debt has been a hindrance to the work of the Lord. It has hindered the brethren from going out and magnifying their callings. It has been the means of depriving them of privileges which they might enjoy if they were only free. Those who are encumbered with debt, indeed, know what it is to be in bond-

age. It is a block in the way of their magnifying their calling and responding to a call that would bring to them great joy and blessing. Oh! how willing we ought to be, and how careful to overcome the difficulties that stand between us and the performance of our duty.

I ask the Lord to abundantly bless His people, and to bless all those who are striving to live by every word that cometh forth from the mouths of the prophets. May the Lord lead us to do His will and keep His commandments, that thereby we may keep pace with the work of the Lord and do our part in helping to roll it on, in my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER HYRUM GOFF,

(President of Jordan Stake.)

My dear brethren and sisters, this is the first time in my life I have been called upon to address so large an audience. I rely upon the Spirit of our Heavenly Father to sustain me; for I realize that I am surrounded by some of the best men upon the earth. In arising to represent the Jordan Stake of Zion, I do so with great pleasure. Our stake is yet in its infancy, being only about three years and three months old. It is located in the southern end of this county. Its area is about 15 by 30 miles. We have 13 wards, and I believe all the organizations that we have been called upon to establish are fully organized. I take great pleasure in representing our Sunday schools. They are in a very good, flourishing condition; also our Mutual Improvement associations. Those who have been called upon to preside over these organizations are faithful men and women, who observe the law of tithing, and, I believe, the Word of Wisdom; for these are two of the qualifications required of them. We desire those who represent these young people's associations to strictly adhere to these things, that they may set an example to the others. I have had called to my assistance two worthy men as counselors. We are working together in perfect harmony. Our High Councilors are men of God, who are willing

to sacrifice their time and talents to promulgate the Gospel in our Stake. They are willing, when called upon, to do missionary labor in the various wards, and labor with the people at their firesides, holding cottage meetings, etc. This has proved a great blessing to us, and we feel that great good will come of it. We have many aged people who are not able to attend public gatherings much, and it is our privilege to carry to them the joy and satisfaction that we have in the Gospel. We have many good, faithful Latter-day Saints, and we have some to whom it is necessary to preach repentance. I have taken great pleasure myself in visiting the homes of the Saints in the various wards. I desire to say that we have a good people there, and that we are enjoying the spirit of our religion to a goodly extent. We have what is termed civilization with us. It should be "uncivilization." Out of our 13 wards we have 10 that have no saloons; but I am sorry to report that in the other three we have enough to supply all the rest.

My brethren and sisters, I take pleasure in testifying to you that I know this is the work of God. I have a testimony of it. When I got that testimony I do not know; for something over 53 years ago I was born in the Church, and that testimony seems to have been born within me. I desire that this testimony may be increased within me, and I know that it will as long as I am on the road of progress and intelligence. The more I learn of the Gospel, the stronger becomes my testimony, and I believe that is the case with all of us. I wish to testify that it is through the power of the Almighty that I am here today; for I know, had it not been for the power of the Holy Priesthood, I should have been gone hence before now. I feel a desire in my heart to testify to the goodness of my Heavenly Father in this line. I pray God to bless the faithful Latter-day Saints, and to stir up those who are not so faithful to renewed diligence. I ask these blessings, with all others that are necessary for us to prove true to the end, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.