

cial unrest will stand, to use Goldsmith's words,

"As some tall peak that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale and midway leaves the storm,
Though round its base the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

God grant that we remain true to this Church; that we may ever be found defending the men whom God has called to guide us and realize that harmony with them means that we are in harmony with God for He sustains them. Amen.

The hymn, "O, give me back my Prophet dear," was sung by James Moncar, Hyrum J. Christiansen, Howard Anderson and Walter Lamoreaux.

ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH, JR.

John Taylor's hymn a loving tribute to the martyrs.—The Church continuously guided by a Prophet.—Counsels of inspired men should be heeded.

I have been deeply impressed and edified during the sessions of this conference in listening to the remarks of the brethren, and I rejoice with you, my brethren and sisters, in the counsel and instructions that have been imparted unto us by those who stand at the head, who are possessed of the Spirit of the Lord, and whose right it is to teach Israel. I have also been impressed this afternoon by the singing of this hymn, sacred to me, composed by President Taylor, who dearly loved the Prophet Joseph Smith. I never read this hymn or hear it sung without being touched in my soul and I shall take the liberty this afternoon, in my weak and imperfect way, to read it, for I realize

that in the singing we do not always get the full comprehension of the words, which may not be impressed upon our souls, especially in a large gathering such as this, as we would like to have them:

O, give me back my Prophet dear,
And Patriarch, O give them back,
The Saints of Latter-days to cheer,
And lead them in the Gospel track!
But, O, they're gone from my embrace,
From earthly scenes their spirits fled,
Two of the best of Adam's race,
Now lie entombed among the dead.

Ye men of wisdom, tell me why—
No guilt, no crime in them were found—
Their blood doth now so loudly cry,
From prison walls and Carthage ground:
Your tongues are mute, but pray attend,
The secret I will now relate,
Why those whom God to earth did lend,
Have met the suffering martyrs' fate.

It is because they strove to gain,
Beyond the grave a heaven of bliss,
Because they made the gospel plain
And led the Saints to righteousness;
It is because God called them forth,
And led them by His own right hand,
Christ's coming to proclaim on earth,
And gather Israel to their land.

It is because the priests of Baal
Were desperate their craft to save,
And when they saw it doomed to fail,
They sent the Prophets to their grave.
Like scenes the ancient Prophets saw,
Like these the ancient Prophets fell,
And, till the resurrection dawn,
Prophet and Patriarch, farewell.

My heart is always touched when I hear this beautiful hymn, or when I read it. I understand the spirit that rested upon President Taylor when he wrote it; but I rejoice, my brethren and sisters, in this fact—although the prophet who stands at the head of the dispensation of the fullness of times, and the patriarch who stood with him have been taken from us, the Lord has not left us

helpless. There has never been a time since the restoration of the Gospel when we have not had a prophet, some one to lead us, to direct us, to teach us the commandments of God that we might walk in the straight and narrow path. We are not without leaders; and the time shall never come when the Lord will not find some one that He can trust; in whom He has confidence, and who will be qualified to stand to represent Him among the people. This is my testimony and I rejoice in its truth. I do not feel that because the Prophet was taken and the Patriarch; because President Young was taken, or President Taylor and other leaders were taken, that the time has come when we have not an inspired leader to teach us the truth. The time will never come when we will not be able to put confidence and exercise faith in the teachings and in the instruction of those who lead us. I am satisfied of this for I know the promises of the Lord are sure. I know that these things are true; the Lord has not forsaken His people, and will be with them even to the end. Therefore it behooves us, as Latter-day Saints, to put our trust in the presiding authorities of the Church, in the Priesthood of God; and accept of their teachings.

No man ever went astray by following the counsel of the authorities of the Church. No man who ever followed the teachings or took advice or counsel from the one who stands as the representative of the Lord ever went astray; but men who have refused to accept counsel have gone astray and into forbidden paths, and in some instances have even denied the faith. Others who went astray because they failed to understand and to heed the coun-

sels that were given unto them for their eternal good, have humbled themselves and come back to the Church acknowledging their error. In connection with this I desire to read just a word or two from the revelation, known as the preface that the Lord gave to His book of commandments:

"Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear: Prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and His sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of His servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people; For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish His righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own God, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall."

Therefore, we must put our faith in those whom the Lord hath called, if we want to have a standing before the Lord, and none of us desire, if we have the proper spirit, to be cut off from among the people. But this punishment will befall those who do not prove faithful and will not pay that heed or give that attention to the counsel of those who are called and appointed and inspired of the Lord to teach and direct us in all things.

We should be first and foremost, as it has already been expressed, for the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Let us be true and faithful always, with a desire to

keep the commandments of the Lord and honor Him and remember the covenants we have made with Him. This is my prayer in behalf of all Israel in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER JAMES E. TALMAGE.

Modern revelation essential.—The latest news eagerly awaited.—The Bible not the only book of scripture.—Irrational to believe that God has not spoken to man since the Bible record closed.—The Church is truly progressive and up to date.—True and false progressivism.—This nation a nation of promise.—This land a land of liberty.—True liberty and its spurious imitations.—Many counterfeits and adulterations on the market today.—Satan a clever imitator.—True liberty distinguished from license.—The right to seek advice.—False liberty is selfishness.—The present is built upon the foundation of the past.—The Constitution of our nation an inspired document.—The coming of the Christ near at hand.

In common with many thousands present, I too have rejoiced in the words to which we have listened during this conference, and more than in the words have I found joy in the spirit that has been manifest in the utterances of the speakers and in the receptive condition of the hearers. We cannot be oblivious to the fact that there has been manifest amongst this vast assembly this afternoon and in the assemblies that have marked the preceding sessions of this conference, a spirit of unanimity and harmony that testifies to the presence of the Spirit of God. I have never had any fear that discord would be preferred by the Latter-day Saints to harmony, and I know that the people are standing as a whole true to the faith, true to their covenants, true to their duty and obligations as

Latter-day Saints,—that is to say, holy ones of the latter days. I am glad to have been present, to have heard the latest word, to be informed as to the most recent news in this great kingdom of the Lord, for it is characteristic of the spirit of this work and of this people that we are not content with the news of the past but are ever listening for the latest and the newest news if you please.

Doubtless you were impressed as was I by the manner in which the article of faith relating to continuous revelation was read to you or quoted to you this morning. That is one of the fundamentals, one of the essential features of the Church of Christ, that we believe not only in what God has revealed, but in that which He does now reveal; and moreover we are living in confident assurance that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God. These bound volumes of scripture are necessary and essential to us,—the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and more modern records,—absolutely essential for our instruction and guidance, but we want in addition something later and more nearly adapted to the times. This book known as the Holy Bible professedly ends as a historical record about one hundred years after the birth of Christ, and there be some who say that God hath not spoken since that time, that for nearly nineteen hundred years He has never uttered a word by way of direct instruction unto His people. I cannot believe it; I cannot accept any such creed, nor have I room in my heart for any such belief, for in every other field of human thought we are ever on the alert for the new. Not content with bound books we