

tions of the Saints in their conferences, when I am permitted to meet with you in your homes and in your meetinghouses. I rejoice in that privilege, because there I always find the Spirit of the Lord. I feel it. I come away filled with it; it is that same influence that has caused you to come here today and stand for two hours; that which has caused others to crowd into the buildings, and what for? To hear the word of God, for we are seeking knowledge and strength that we may better serve the Lord. We know that just so far as we have in our hearts a desire to learn of his will, we are blessed and strengthened and are better able to carry on the work and the responsibility that rests upon us as Latter-day Saints, and I pray sincerely that I may have an interest in your prayers, in your faith, the sustaining influence of which will enable me to do that which is required of me, that I may better uphold and emulate the noble example which has been set me by my beloved father.

May God bless us all in my prayer, and I ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

We have another long-time associate of President Smith with us in Bishop John Wells, of the Presiding Bishopric of the Church, who will now address us.

#### ELDER JOHN WELLS

(Of the Presiding Bishopric.)

I hope I shall be able to make myself heard to this large circle of my brethren and sisters who have gathered about this building this afternoon.

I am thankful to the Lord for

the gospel of Jesus Christ and to all that it has done for me. I appreciate sincerely my membership in the Church as a Latter-day Saint. Many honors and privileges have come to me through my associations with my brethren and sisters. I am thankful, I am grateful, to be associated with the good men who preside in this Church. They are men after God's own heart; men who are full of faith and integrity and who have set me a splendid example; men who are willing to do everything within their power to serve God and to bring about his purposes on the earth. The Lord has established this great Latter-day work. It is a marvelous work and a wonder, wherein the wisdom of the worldly wise shall perish and the understanding of the prudent shall come to naught. It is only upon this idea that we grasp or understand the magnitude of the work that the Lord has established in these latter days, so that he may bring about the gathering of the House of Israel and the establishment of his kingdom upon the earth.

It has been my pleasure and privilege, as an officer and an employee of the Church, to become personally acquainted with the late President Joseph F. Smith. I remember him well, from the year 1893, when I was an employee in the Presiding Bishop's Office. I called upon him for counsel, many of the leading brethren being away, and some of the duties of the Presiding Bishop's Office had at that time devolved upon me. I waited upon President Smith and asked his counsel and advice concerning what to me was a very intricate problem, and my first impression of President Smith was that he was sound

in judgment, and had a wonderful comprehension of human nature. It was my first interview with him, and we sat side by side talking on the problem I presented to him. I had looked upon him previous to this as a great man because of his exalted position as one of the First Presidency, but when I had concluded that interview, I had a more profound impression of his greatness than ever before.

At one time I was coming across the continent. I met President Smith and some of his family at Omaha. We traveled westward in the same car. I was sick with something akin to sea-sickness, caused through traveling several days on the train. I appreciated his kindly sympathy. He blessed me, and that blessing I will never forget, because it came from the Prophet of the Lord and his blessing gave me peace and rest for most of the night. That same night, as the train was moving across the plains of Wyoming, President Smith stood at the back of the car taking a rest from a long, tedious day's journey. Any of you who have traveled day after day in a railway train know what relief it is to stand up or move around for awhile. I tell you this incident to show you how President Smith was susceptible to the Still Small Voice. While standing at the back of the train he heard a voice telling him to go into the car, and he did so. Later he was walking up and down the corridor and was told by the same Voice to sit down. He did so. A few moments later the engine ran off the track and tilted the train on an angle which scared us all. Had President Smith been in the back of the train or walking in the corridor he might have been

very seriously injured, but the Lord had regard for him and he was prompted by a Voice which he understood so well, and he acted accordingly. President Smith has always been susceptible to the influence of the Spirit of the Lord. He knew its promptings, and what they meant. As he heard the Still Small Voice directing him and inspiring him, he knew that Voice and knew it well.

President Smith was a kind man, kind to employees as well as to his friends and family. He frequently gathered the employees of the Bishop's Office at the Beehive House and other places, and mingled with them in social gatherings, showing that even with the dignity of his position and calling he was always the same unaffected and kindly-disposed man.

I revere his memory. I revere him for many things. I will never forget as long as I live the blessing he gave to me when he ordained me a bishop. I never want to forget those sweet, kindly words, the admonition and counsel that he gave to me before I assumed my duties as a counselor to Bishop Charles W. Nibley.

I feel today that if he were here and could tell us what he would like us to do, he would say, brethren and sisters, roll on this great work, be prepared to carry the message of the gospel to the nations of the earth who are now being liberated, sustain the presiding brethren of this Church, whom the Lord has sent to preside in the various quorums and departments, sustain them with all your might, mind and strength, and help them to bring about and accomplish the purposes that God has designed to accomplish in these latter days.

I sincerely pray, my brethren and sisters, that the spirit of this great latter day work may be in our hearts, that we may pray for the spirit of it; exercise our office and calling, that we may never be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to those who receive it.

May God add his blessings, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

An instrumental trio was given by Mae, Alice, and Rachel Andersen; Leone Amott, accompanist.

#### ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

The choice of President Smith as leader of the Church a remarkable evidence of the truthfulness of the work—Testimony of his noble character and work—The tremendous influence of two mothers contrasted—The mantle of President Smith has fallen upon President Grant.

There is no task that I have been asked to perform which gives me greater pleasure and more real happiness than on this memorial day to speak of our late beloved prophet-leader, President Joseph F. Smith, whom, like my brethren who have preceded me, I love with that same love and affection I had for my own father—for he was a father to me and to every man and woman who became acquainted with him who loved the Lord and sought to keep his commandments. I bear witness that President Smith was a lover of such men and women.

The selection of President Smith to preside over this Church, as in the case of his predecessors, is one of the remarkable evidences of the truthfulness of the work called "Mormonism," that God is in it,

that his hand has been over this work and guiding the destinies of this Church, and he is indeed the source from which light and truth and knowledge have come to the men who have directed the affairs of this Church.

I recall many years ago being in the city of Nauvoo, attending a celebration of newspaper men of the state of Illinois, in that city. The representative of one of the leading newspapers of that state was giving the history of the city of Nauvoo. He told of its growth until it became a city of twenty thousand people when Chicago was only a small village and St. Louis on the south was only a trading post. He told of the prejudice that inspired the hearts of those who drove the Latter-day Saints from Nauvoo, and how Nauvoo had gone down until it had but twelve hundred souls and not a railroad yet. He told of the vandalism that prompted the burning of the Nauvoo temple, and that even while the blackened walls of that temple stood, the steamboats stood half a day at the wharf to allow passengers to come and view its ruins. And then he told of the travels of the Latter-day Saints in their pilgrimage across the plains to these valleys of the mountains, how they had made the desert to blossom as the rose; and said, "Maybe God likes the 'Mormons' better than he does bigots and vandals, if not, why doesn't he give the inhabitants of Nauvoo better evidence that it was all right to drive the 'Mormons' out?"

I felt as I listened to his utterances, that any man who would follow this Church, and become acquainted with its leaders must be blind indeed if he cannot see that