

testify to you this afternoon that I know that this is not the work of any man. I know it is not the work of President Grant, nor is it the work of President Pratt, with reference to the Mexican mission, but that it is indeed the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is my testimony, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

#### *Of the First Council of Seventy*

*My brethren and sisters:* The significant and reassuring fact about this conference is that we are growing in a testimony of the truth of the work of almighty God. There is something substantial and unimpeachable about these meetings, for they indicate that we as a people are growing in grace and spiritual power, and that some day we will emerge into our highest selves, and vindicate by our spiritual lives the supreme ideals for which we stand. We appreciate the fact that we are citizens of the United States. This government under which we live was brought into being by the highest concepts of the finest types of men. When Christopher Columbus landed on American soil in October, 1892, he uttered a prayer which is significant and prophetic. From the Latin I give it to you in translation:

"O, Lord God, eternal and omnipotent, by thy sacred word, the heaven, the earth, and the sea, thou hast created. Blessed and glorified be thy name, praise be thy majesty, which has been made worthy through thy humble servant, that thy sacred name be recognized and proclaimed in this other part of the world."

We are told in a book of holy scriptures, namely, the Book of Mormon, that a man, chosen from among the Gentiles should discover this continent and the remnant of the people of Israel. This was Christopher Columbus, and we are further told that others would follow him, and that this land should be dedicated to the highest principles of liberty. When the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock they drew up a compact which was fundamental to the Constitution of the United States. This compact in part reads:

"In ye name of God, Amen. We whose names are written, the loyall subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord, King James, by ye grace of God, of Great Britaine, France, & Ireland, King, defender of ye faith, &c., haveing undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancements of ye Christian faith, and honour of our king & countrie, a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Viriginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually, in ye presence of God, and one of another, covenant & combine ourselves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering & preservation & furtherance of ye ends aforesaid: and by vertue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just & equall lawes, ordinances, actes, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete. \* \* \*"

We Latter-day Saints believe in the sacredness of the *Mayflower* compact, and we hold very reverently in our hearts the Constitution of the United States. This document is the greatest expression of

government that has come forth in all history, and its principles, if lived up to, will change the political and civic life of the world. The beautiful thing about the American government is that it is an expression of the lives of the people, and if the people live magnanimous and Christian-like lives, so will our Government become greater and greater. There are problems today to be solved, and I consider that the greatest ills of society are: first, the unprecedented challenge of authority and disrespect for law; secondly, hatred between man and man; and thirdly, the excessive search for pleasure as the aim of life. I believe that we people should be the greatest lovers of the law of any people living, for just law expresses our ideals and concepts of life. We should dedicate our lives to the highest political and civic truths and we should grow in the abiding thought that man is made in the image of God; that the Christian virtues are the highest codes of ethics; and that immortality and the establishment of God's kingdom on the earth are illuminated because of the restored Priesthood which we hold. With such ideals we will be able to contribute more to the solution of the problems of the world than any other people. I pray that we may not only see the problems of human society that lie before us, but that we will be able to meet them with a potency that comes as a result of the deepest faith in almighty God and his purposes. May we not sing:

"Higher yet and higher,  
Out of clouds in night,  
Nearer yet and nearer,  
Rising to the light."

### PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

Presented the General Authorities and the General Officers of the Church as follows, being sustained in their offices and callings by the unanimous vote of the conference:

#### GENERAL AUTHORITIES OF THE CHURCH

##### FIRST PRESIDENCY

Heber J. Grant, Prophet, Seer and Revelator and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Anthony W. Ivins, First Counselor in the First Presidency.

Charles W. Nibley, Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

##### PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Rudger Clawson

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Rudger Clawson

Reed Smoot

George Albert Smith

Orson F. Richards

Orson F. Whitney

David O. McKay

Joseph Fielding Smith

James E. Talmage

Stephen L. Richards

Richard R. Lyman

Melvin J. Ballard

John A. Widtsoe