

Elder Sylvester Q. Cannon of the Council of the Twelve Apostles since April 14, 1938, and former Presiding Bishop, died May 29, 1943.

May Green Hinckley, General President of the Primary Association since January 1, 1940, died May 2, 1943.

President Joseph Quinney, Jr., of the Canadian Mission and former Logan Temple president, died September 13, 1943.

Robert S. Hillier, Second Counselor in Presidency of the Summit Stake and former Bishop of the Hoytsville Ward, died July 7, 1943.

Bishop Vyvyan B. Clift, Arlington Ward, Los Angeles Stake, died September 4, 1943, after having served about three years.

Bishop B. Franklin Birtcher, Globe Ward, St. Joseph Stake, died September 4, 1943, after having served about 14 years.

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*President McKay:* Up to eleven o'clock this morning we were greatly in hopes that President Grant would give his message in person, but the doctor advises that he refrain from addressing you on this occasion. At President Grant's request, therefore, I now read his message.

### PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

It is not thought safe by the doctor for me to make a talk of any length at the conference, so I have decided merely to thank the Saints for their faith and prayers in my behalf, and to assure them I am gaining a little all the time. I hope that by the next conference I may be able to address the Saints at greater length.

#### ARCHITECTS OF OUR OWN LIVES

I have decided to have read to you what I desire to say, and also to add what I said at a meeting a number of years ago, as follows:

"If you want to know how to be saved, I can tell you: It is by keeping the commandments of God. No power on earth, no power beneath the earth will ever prevent you, or me, or any Latter-day Saint from being saved, except ourselves. We are the architects of our own lives, not only of the lives here, but the lives to come in eternity. We ourselves are able to perform every duty and obligation that God has required of men. No commandment was ever given to us but what God has given us the power to keep that commandment. If we fail, we, and we alone, are responsible for the failure, because God endows his servants, from the President of the Church down to the humblest member, with all the ability, all the knowledge, all the power that is necessary, faithfully, diligently, and properly to discharge every duty and every obligation that rests upon them, and we, and we alone, will have to answer if we fail in this regard."

#### THE SOLDIERS REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

As it was during our meeting last April in our Annual Conference, so today we have thousands of our young men in the armed forces of the warring nations.

Constantly I pray that the Lord will bless each and every one, and that he will help each of them to live in accordance with the principles of the Gospel, so that he may have a claim to the blessings of the Lord to the full extent that accords with his wisdom. I pray that, so far as it accords with the providences of the Lord, each of them may be preserved from accident, sickness, and death, to return in due course to his loved ones. I pray God to help them to stand up under the terrible strain which they must meet. I appeal to the Lord to bring the war to an end at the earliest possible date.

#### SYMPATHY EXPRESSED FOR PARENTS

Constantly my heart goes out in the deepest sympathy for the comforting influence of the Lord to be given to the fathers and mothers of the sons who are in the war at the present time. May the comforting influence of the Spirit of the Lord be given to them in carrying their burdens, and to bring solace to their yearning hearts.

I am praying with all my heart and soul for the end of this war as soon as the Lord can see fit to have it stop, and am earnestly praying for the influence of the Spirit of the Lord to be with all who have loved ones in the war.

I pray that the spirit of peace and of increased faith may pervade all the homes of the Latter-day Saints, and with all the power and authority I have to bless, I invoke God's blessing upon the Church as a whole and upon the honest in heart everywhere.

#### PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR

*First Counselor in the First Presidency*

My Brethren: With you my heart has rejoiced at the love and the blessings which have just come to us from our respected, honored, loved, and revered president, Heber J. Grant. May the Lord vouchsafe to him for many years to come those blessings of life, strength, vigor of mind and body which he shall require to perform the duties and obligations that rest upon him.

We thought that perhaps at the beginning of the conference before we return to the more highly spiritual levels to which President Grant has raised us, that it might be well for me to make a few observations regarding the temporal affairs of the Church—what one might call its semi-business affairs.

#### CHURCH FINANCES

I should like in the first place to say that we of the General Authorities return unto the Saints our deepest gratitude for their faithfulness in the payment of tithes. The largest tithing in the history of the Church up to that time came in 1941. In 1942 our tithes increased over fifty percent over 1941. Thus far in 1943 our tithes have increased over 1942 by more than fifty percent.

The Lord has blessed the people in their crops, and he is continuing to bless them. While I do not personally advocate the payment of tithes