

THE YOUNG MEN MEET

Opening of the Y. M. M. I. A. Conference Yesterday.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Apostle Thatcher's Eloquent Address The Remarks of President Willford Woodruff Sentiments by the Young Men.

The custom of holding general annual conferences of the Y. M. M. I. Association of Utah, while a new one, is bound to grow in popularity, and will prove one of the best means for bringing the young men of the territory together for the exchange of thoughts and ideas that has yet been conceived.

The second annual conference of this organization convened at 10 o'clock yesterday morning in the big tabernacle. There were present: President Willford Woodruff and Moses Thatcher, of the general superintendency; James F. Wells, Milton H. Hart, Robert C. Badger and Joseph A. West; President George Q. Cannon, Apostles Lorenzo Snow and John Henry Smith, and many others prominent in annual improvement circles.

The music for the occasion was rendered by Prof. Sturges' juvenile chorus. After singing by the children, Apostle Lorenzo Snow opened the conference with prayer, and the choir sang "Lord, Accept our True Devotion."

President Woodruff, President Willford Woodruff addressed the congregation as follows:

In my view there never before was a time when all the powers of heaven, earth and hell were working in their respective spheres as hard as they are now for the advancement of the purposes of God. The Lord labored from the creation to lead men to do good and to obey such laws as would result in good to mankind.

What ever leads to good, we are told, is of God, and whatever leads to evil is of an opposite source. As a people we understand somewhat the kingdom of God and know the way to it, and we are not to be discouraged in the carrying on of this work. We cannot expect any less opposition than has been shown to the work of God in past ages.

There has always seemed to be a determination among the powers of darkness to frustrate the purposes of God. This has been especially the case in this age. We know that God has again revealed His will and established His kingdom. John the revelator foretold the flying of an angel through the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel. Many declarations of scripture point to the restoration of the gospel in these last days.

We have gathered in these valleys, perhaps 15,000 saints from all parts of the world, and from various occupations. The weak things of the world have been chosen to bear the priesthood and testify to the restoration of the gospel.

THE RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL. Those who have listened to and obeyed their messages have received the Holy Ghost, and have been led together. If this message had not been from God, the people who embraced it would not have gathered, and Utah would have still been a barren desert.

Since the saints gathered they have had the same trials and temptations which the saints in all ages have had to contend with. The hosts of evil spirits who were cast down out of heaven, are warring against the saints and all good men.

We have different organizations of our youth for their proper spiritual training. There are the primaries, where the little children are taught truths of the gospel; also the Sabbath schools, which embrace 60,000 children. Thank God there are so many. From these the youth progress and become members of the Mutual Improvement Association.

I regard the work awaiting the youth of this people as equal in importance to that which ever lay before a class of young men and women on earth. It rests upon them to take the kingdom of God and bear it forth; to stand in the midst of the judgments which are coming upon the earth. If we regard the present generation as lying in as deep darkness as the generation of the earth. A thousand murders are committed now where there was one seventy or eighty years ago.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Its keys and priesthood are here, and I want to say to you, young brethren who are present, Lead you follows from that which is evil, and lay aside every thing that can corrupt either mind or body. No man can inherit a kingdom of glory without abiding the law of that kingdom, and we are all awaiting, or should be, for a celestial kingdom.

Nine out of ten of our young missionaries now being sent abroad are chosen from the Mutual Improvement Association. The members of these organizations are preparing themselves for the ministry. In company with some of my brethren, I have the honor to be associated with these institutions, but I have not much time to spend with them.

In 1844, about seven thousand persons were baptized in England; but now the labors of our missionaries are like gathering grapes after the vintage is done. In an elder, during a mission of two or three years, baptizes half a dozen or a dozen persons, he thinks he has done a good work; and he has.

Young men, leave your shoes alone; avoid everything that is evil; remember that you have law to obey and never break it. Keep the law of purity and chastity.

I pray God to help you to comprehend your position, duties and labors. I am sometimes asked, why does not God preserve His saints from persecution and temptation? God has His own way to deal with men. In no age has He kept His people from contact with persecution and temptation. We have to meet these things; therefore prepare yourselves for them.

I pray God to bless you all, to guide you and preserve you in the name of Jesus. Amen.

I solemnly realize that the committee on program have assigned me a subject—"The Life and Character of Brigham Young"—and I have contemplated with no degree of confidence, feeling, as I did, utterly incompetent to do his great merit more than even partial justice.

By diligent and perseverant effort, the amateur might succeed with tongue or pen, in delineating some of the beauties of his life and power. In like manner the unschooled laborer, with form and color of shrub or tree, imitate graceful curvatures of majestic rivers, and even catch the semblance of nature's smile kissing dew drops on fall and morning; but still indeed must be the sculptor, who who approaches without reverence, and without awe, the towering mountains—rock, without and strong, torn into volcanic seams, hoary with age and streaked with yet a fiercer beauty by tints and shadows lingering around canon and cliff, or glorified with the rays of the morning sun playing on ice world of heights, and the sunbeams and throbbing with inward power by mortal man, immeasurable.

Standing at the base of Popo atepeli one gazes, ENRAGED AT ITS SYMMETRICAL BEAUTY; then, as the idea of the magnificent pile lavors upon the mind and conception of its breadth and height, determine its magnitude, admiration supplants rapture, and admiration in turn yields to an overpowering sense of awe, the soul finds expression, and while no words are uttered, a voiceless something distinctly utters—"He is great is God, how marvelous His works!"

As I contemplated surrounding mountains, I thought of Brigham Young to most men known to me.

When gazing upon that king of mountains with its throbbing heart of fire, I was impressed especially as when looking on its mighty scope of intellectual power. In each instance common thoughts yielded without personal volition. To those of the people, and in about the same manner, the best language reach beyond the mountain to the maker of the mountain; beyond the man, to the creator of the man; and in the saint of truth, and truth eternal was the guide of Brigham Young.

Brigham Young did not create Mormonism; but Mormonism form a character of Brigham Young. A noble man, this act of the noblest of men, and in about the same manner, the best language reach beyond the mountain to the maker of the mountain; beyond the man, to the creator of the man; and in the saint of truth, and truth eternal was the guide of Brigham Young.

He of whom we speak was great in great things, and always greatest when great matters pressed for solution and dangerous emergencies confronted and baffled, and when the world was in a state of great distress and he was able to build upon the firm foundation of wisdom and justice, forecast the future, meet the demands of the present, and in a breath show his confidence in God, his freedom from care by caressing the lips of innocent childhood and tenderly winning the love of babes. His powers appeared upon all occasions equal to the comprehension and foundation of generalities of the greatest magnitude and of

CHANGING THE SMALLEST DETAILS. He could speak the language of the stars, discourse eloquently respecting the organization of worlds and them in simple terms direct how to plow and plant, reap and sow. His spiritual and temporal families were so perfectly and harmoniously organized that the world could not see where he left off and the others began. He above all men I have known put "life under the very ribs of death" by expounding in word and act religion as a live thing, helpful here and here of salvation in the great hereafter.

The gospel of Christ as expounded and practiced by him became a vitalized force full of marvelous beauty, sympathy and power—a perfect law of liberty, comfort, healing life and light, justice and judgment.

Under the inspiration of God his mind was capable of the loftiest conceptions remote to man, and in his wisdom the simplest principles of domestic economy were made to shine as gems of the first water. In that early day, when dark clouds gathered over the nation, and the weak minds wavered and discord allied with division, it was Brigham Young who wrought order out of chaos, and traitors plucked for usurpation and innocent blood shed, that the "lost sheep" of the Lord and the fate of incompetent apostates. Then if not before God placed on Brigham Young the seal of success—his truth.

THE PARTING OF JOSEPH. Those who travel through in the hour of their lives, only that scene—that awful scene in the garden where Jesus, the spotless Son of God, sweat blood while heavy-eyed slumber bore in senseless sleep every human heart capable of sympathy, emotion or pity for His deathly agony.

To understand what the prophet suffered when sending away the few men in his day with all the spots and stains of sin, he could implicitly rely, we need only remember how his sensitive nature called him back from life to death, when false friends—back from the shepard of deserts, how his sensitive nature called him back from life to death, when false friends—back from the shepard of deserts, how his sensitive nature called him back from life to death, when false friends—back from the shepard of deserts.

I have wandered from Brigham to Joseph. Well, God made them one—brothers before they came here—brothers here, brothers hereafter. In life their love and devotion to each other was touchingly tender and beautiful. In life Joseph the Prophet was true to Brigham, his foreknown successor. In life Brigham was equally true to Joseph. And why one word of reproach ever fell from his lips after Joseph sealed his testimony with his blood?

Brigham Young was human and no doubt had human imperfections; possibly they might have been shown to the living, but I do not think that he was ever jealous of the dead. The sun has spots; I am not able to say that God had not placed them there for their temporal salvation of man made in His own image. I am not able to bear more light and heat than comes from the day of glory. In life their love and devotion to each other was touchingly tender and beautiful. In life Joseph the Prophet was true to Brigham, his foreknown successor. In life Brigham was equally true to Joseph. And why one word of reproach ever fell from his lips after Joseph sealed his testimony with his blood?

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THINKING OF HIS PRESENT WORK, and trying to grasp the scope of his great mind, I am much in the condition as when, after two days' hard work, I failed to reach the top of a volcanic mountain in Mexico. I joyfully traversed the belt of flower and fern, then passed, much fatigued, the upper skirts of the timber beyond which vegetation yielded to the sway of eternal ice and snow. "Get above and within. I know what a throbbing, though stammering heart of fire, the extent and force of which no man could estimate. Still struggling upward, anxious to reach the highest peak which I had talked, my feet grew cold, my head hot, while the heart beat hard, the brain grew giddy and reason uncertain, but something whispered, "You have measured your strength."

So with the character of Brigham Young. However great I may think it, it still is greater than that. However much I may try to exalt him, I still think beyond him, and I can think his capabilities, they were broader than I can estimate. However high I may place his wondrous character, it still—like that volcanic mountain, is higher than I can reach. Its height and breadth and depth are

beyond the scope of my powers. In contemplating them I am amazed even at my faint conceptions of its magnitude, and yet that line, and expressed the idea that the greatest of all the great achievements of that iron hearted soldier was at Appomattox when white-winged mercy prompted a division of successful conquerors to federate horses and mules offered by General Robert E. Lee. "No," said Grant, "not a horse, not a mule, general; your people will accept them for the spring plowing." In that simple expression, revealing the tender heart and magnanimous soul of U. S. Grant is found the sequel of his noble character, largely of his success as a hero soldier.

A little later one of the brethren referring to my remarks about Grant, drew, in eloquent language, a touching picture of Lee, the general of the lost cause, and showed his greatness, not alone in victory, but in defeat as well. In listening to the recital of how that mighty commander of the "Lost Cause" of the South, after regiment, melt away under terrific cross fires, and finally saw the hope of the confederacy crushed on the bloody field of Gettysburg, with a heart that broke, and heart was breaking, exclaimed, "we cannot always win battles." I confess that while I did not think Grant less great, I thought Lee a greater man, and a greater soldier, and beyond the other; and when after all is the evidence of greatness save that found in the lost.

On this, I recall, where stands Brigham Young, a man of God, a man of God, I beseech you, below the highest our great country has produced. No boast do we make that he killed, or gave command to thousands of men to follow him. I am aware that the highest laurels are woven into garments to crown the brows of war's blood stained heroes.

But where others conquered on the field of carnage, Brigham Young conquered in the field of justice and reason. When the vision of the world was darkened by the clouds of the martyr's blood, and the martyr's blood was revealed to his mind, his first thought was "Has Joseph taken the keys of the kingdom?" and his second thought was "I will follow him." He was a man of God, a man of God, I beseech you, below the highest our great country has produced. No boast do we make that he killed, or gave command to thousands of men to follow him. I am aware that the highest laurels are woven into garments to crown the brows of war's blood stained heroes.

No duplicity or fear or doubt in those eyes that followed from his lips. In the finishing of the Nauvoo temple under the circumstances then surrounding the saints, is there any evidence of infinite trust in God and of greatness?

Alexander each, no doubt, understood how to plan campaigns and conduct retreats; but history affords no evidence that either or either could have organized a people to organize a destitute, despoiled people and successfully lead them as did Brigham Young. General Lee's hopes were crushed when he was defeated at Gettysburg. But Brigham Young, driven with his people into a howling wilderness, did neither faint nor falter. Search the annals of war and conquest from the beginning and learn that great courage and most lofty devotion are not exhibited on

THE BATTLE FIELD OF CARNAGE AND DEATH. But to lead a people destitute almost to starvation and nakedness requires greatness of the first magnitude. What Brigham Young accomplished in that respect has but one parallel in history—that of Moses leading ancient Israel out of Egyptian bondage. Witness what he did at Winter Quarters!

His aim and making the most of the resting place of those daily dying from exposure and want Brigham Young certainly sought to distract the minds of the people from their present troubles, by directing their minds from the woes of the present, to the hopes of the future. Think of introducing the dance and encouraging some unwholesome and unprofitable conditions. Think of his pleadings to the people to secure the conquest of California and to fight, if need be, in the war with Mexico.

Who shall say that tests like those are not to be met with in the future? Brigham Young, with his masterful conception of the future, yielded the strength of camps and devoted it willingly to the service of the country that had permitted his people to be robbed of every thing that is in American citizen except to honorably die. One can readily believe that treatment of this kind would inevitably tend to make the recipients in turn harsh and cruel.

TO THE NARROW AND HIDDEN GOLF. It undoubtedly would have that effect. But not so with Brigham Young; quite the contrary, as evidenced by the precept and practice of the humane doctrine—when he came in contact with aborigines—that "it is better to give than to receive." Cheaper in the saving of property, cheaper in the saving of human life, both of the white and the red man; cheaper every way and more in harmony with Christian sympathy and divine law.

It is not necessary that I should dwell on the trials and tribulations attending the exodus of a numerous people. They are all of record with the records of the world who wish to know the facts. There are many sad details connected with the unparalleled journey into the wilderness or into the desert, but I will not dwell on the details of their sufferings. It is more pleasing to reflect on the glorious outcome and mighty achievement wrought by a merciful God through his servant Brigham Young. His greatness appears in his management when coping with an invading army backed by the determination of the mightiest nation on earth bent on destruction to craftily public prejudice. In the supreme moment of the struggle, the thought of making the city of Moscow was born of emergency, but Brigham Young was its author. On all occasions promptness and decision were characteristic of his operations. His great question arose where it might, all Israel felt when it reached God's prophet leader it would find preparation and when solved would be solved by wisdom.

I have spoken of many things respecting the life and character of Brigham Young, known perhaps to all the people, BUT THERE ARE OTHERS, very numerous and of deep interest of which I would like to say something, but an admission that it would not be prudent to attempt to do so, and that the domestic and domestic economist. As colonizer, organizer and reformer all the world may know him if they choose; but as prophet, leader and inspired, humble, devoted man of God, only those who have known him personally or through the revelations of the Lord can understand the unmeasurable love in which the saints held and still hold him.

To others he largely left the process of argumentative reasoning to establish truth. He boldly announced it as fresh from the mint of heaven and left his hearers to ascertain if they wished why it was true. Earnest, watchful and prayerful none whom I have known seemed to have the faculty or inspiration of getting so near the heart of the matter as to make the dignity of his personal presence was exceedingly captivating, and the sympathy almost constantly exercised toward the weak and the timid to win all hearts. In the great moment of the making of the city of Moscow, at a glance he was able to comprehend the inmost springs operating the emotions of pain or pleasure. How quickly he could detect the signs of illness of body or mind, and with a glance of the eye and he knew it all. How many grateful hearts remember even now the soft kind words, "Sister, you are well; it has fallen to our lot to partake of your ability; but do not put yourself alone, if you will only show as a

THE RUSSIAN LINE. The Russian line entrenched behind their guns were demoralized by the awful cannonading of the French, who for hours poured upon them shot and shell, until the heavens and earth were filled with the din of hell as appeared as if tearing out the very bowels of earth. Suddenly, as if by magic, the roar of artillery ceased all along the line, and a moment's silence, as if the world were dead, was broken by a supreme; then followed a sound like the dropping of gentle rain on dry forest leaves. That seemingly harmless sound grew again as it came thundering forward, increasing as the voice of the ocean wave, until breaking through the sulphurous smoke the irresistible cavalry charge shattered the Russian line as the lightning sweeps the reed-shadowed marsh. Beneath the wheel lay the father, who died at his post, and beside him, near the breach of the great gun, crouched the boy soldier, undergoing his first baptism of blood and fire. Around him gathered the great Napoleon and staff, one of the latter crying excitedly, "A great victory, a great victory." "Yes," replied another, "but what a cost! half our army lies dead or maimed, we should fall back and recruit our broken regiments." Then Napoleon turned with a cold sneer upon his lips and said, "We turn not back, but our next bulletin from Moscow, gentlemen: an omelette cannot be made without the breaking of a few eggs." And the boy of the great general burst into a fit of laughing as no longer with Napoleon, and that the star of the merciless must soon be hidden forever in the

DARK CLOUDS OF RUIN AND DESPAIR. A little time since I incidentally spoke in this building of the heroic Grant, and victoriously repudiated the numerous battles, and referred to his indomitable perseverance and courage; how amid raging

little we can wait upon ourselves, without taxing you beyond your strength." How soothing, how comforting, such kindly consideration and sympathy. Brigham Young read more than books! God made man, man makes books! The innocent hearts of children he liked most to read, and how happy they were when in turn they could

TENDER HIM THEIR LOVING GRATITUDE, as he traveled among the people. And yet with all this tenderness—who that knew him does not feel that a refusal on his part to grant a request came of you, more accept able than the assent of others, because realizing that the refusal must be founded in wisdom. The least evidence on the part of a friend would be detected by him in a moment, and the cause inquired into. If he was compelled to disappoint anyone, how kindly he could explain the reason for doing so. And yet, with all his tenderness, how terrible was his resolve, because realizing that the refusal must be founded in wisdom. The least evidence on the part of a friend would be detected by him in a moment, and the cause inquired into. If he was compelled to disappoint anyone, how kindly he could explain the reason for doing so. And yet, with all his tenderness, how terrible was his resolve, because realizing that the refusal must be founded in wisdom. The least evidence on the part of a friend would be detected by him in a moment, and the cause inquired into. If he was compelled to disappoint anyone, how kindly he could explain the reason for doing so.

He was quick; he recognized merit and humbly paid homage to goodness wherever found. In the streets of London he fervently stooped with head uncovered before the chapel dedicated to John Wesley. If the thought ever entered his heart to place the youth of Zion under his ban of suspicion or a moment I never heard of it. It has been said that a glance of his penetrating eye has checked the evil design in the murderers heart and caused the hand of the assassin, in deep remorse for his side, while his intended victim passed on with a smile. Such in part was Brigham Young, courageous, yet having the wisdom to properly use it.

The stamp of his genius—work, his greatness—goodness are everywhere apparent throughout Zion. Here let us pause.

God made Brigham Young all he was and is. The key of his power was the holy priesthood God-given and sacred. When he passed beyond the veil he did not take with him the keys of the kingdom. They are here and will remain until death and hell and the grave are conquered, and the curtain intervening shall no longer hide the living from the dead.

Other Remarks. Apostle John Henry Smith made some telling remarks on the subject of early training.

The sentiments: "The Privileges of Mormonism," by a member of Salt Lake Stake; "Government vs. Despotism," by a member of Parowan Stake; and "The Power of Prayer," by a member of Morgan Stake, were responded to briefly and ably.

After singing, the conference adjourned to 10 o'clock this morning.

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