REMARKS,

by the President Brigham Young, at the 36th Semmi- Annual Conference of the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Great Salt Lake City,

                                                          Saturday, Oct. 6th, 1866.

                                                           Reported by G. D. Watt

In directing the exercises of this Semi-Annual conference, I wish and sincerely desire that all the Elders of Isreal who address the congregation of Saints, may be filled with the Spirit of their calling -- understand the operations of the Holy Ghost to that degree that they may Speak the mind and will of the Lord to the people.  I pray for this.  It is my daily prayer that all the Saints may be filled with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding to that degree that they will never be deceived, stray from the paths of truth, and get into bye and forbidden paths, receive that for the gospel which is not the gospel, and fall out by the way.  I wish the brethren who speak at this Conference to speak as the Spirit shall give them utterance.  Would it not be a good text to follow this conference as a general thing to testify of the work which the Lord has commenced in this our day.  I have borne testemoney, with thousands of others, that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, called of Him to establish His kingdom on the earth to remain forever, and to swallow up, and cercumscribe the kingdoms of this world, and gather all things in one. <This kingdom is now established in part as far as the Church and its ordinances goes>.

The kingdom of God was fully established in the days of Joseph, when he gave to a few their blessings pertaining to the sealing ordinances.  He said to the Twelve apostles many times, "Brethren, I have given to you the keys of the kingdom, even all that can be given to man upon earth while in the flesh".  To me the prophet <always> seemed to be in a hurry in his ecclesiastical labors which pertained to the organization of the kingdom of God, and the introduction of the Gospel and its ordinances.  In his day, the kingdom of God was organized and set up, and will eventually exist in perfection to gaurd and protect the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  The prophet Joseph finished his work and the Lord took him to himself.  The Church still lives, and the kingdom lives, and we know that it has prospered.  I do not <acknowledge> admit for one moment that the<re> leaders of this people, who have the right to counsel them, <one and practice pr a single principle> have introduced a single principle to lead them astray <has been admitted into the faith of the people the least thing which tends to evil>. Joseph instructed us in our duties pertaining to the building up of tbe kingdom of <heaven> God upon earth, the spread of the Gospel, the gathering of the Saints, the redemption of the Centre Stake of Zion, and the building up of the various stakes of Zion.  We have practiced upon these principles and doctrines and nothing else; and by taking this course we have greatly prospered as Saints.  Of this the Saints on earth, and in heaven, and all men can see and judge for themselves.

<If there are any of the people of the Saints who doubt that the> The Church has been greatly prospered and made good progress <since the death of Joseph> in the knowledge of the truth.  If there any <of> who think that this is not the case, it is because they have not lived in such a manner as to have the light of heaven shining in their hearts. I would ask <them> such persons who has hindered them from living their religion so that the heavens might be <are> opened to them, and that <they can enjoy> the Holy Ghost <as> might be their constant companion.  Who of the leaders of this people has <has> taught you doctrines and set you examples that would in the least degree deterr you from obtaining the highest blessings that can be enjoyed by man upon the earth?  With regard to this matter out of your own mouths you shall be judged.  Nothing has been done to arrest your progress in the faith of the Gospel.  I am a wittness of this. <It is not my intention to extend my remarks to any great length at this time, but I may take <have> another opportunity to speak to you before the conference comes to a close.  I shall call upon others to speak.>

If there were no such thing on the earth as the Kingdom of God, <if> the Lord our Heavenly Father <had no one on earth to bring forth His work, He is capable of> could send<ing> an angel to an individual <as he did to whom he may call to such a work> and He could instruct him as He did Joseph and Father Adam.  The Lord showed Father Adam <him> how to make aprons of fig leaves; and in due time he showed the children of men how to make vessels of copper, and then how  to unite the metals to make <copper and> brass. When necessary the Lord still takes this liberty of giving instructions to His children.  There is no need for the Lord to reveal that which is already known, but he will help all those who ask him, to apply their strength, <and> their wisdom and the force of their minds to aquire knowledge; He will guide and direct them by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that they can improve very fast.  The Lord will not come and plow and sow <grubb> our fields, because He has already <learned> taught us to do so, and to procure the necessary food for ourselves and for our friends that reside with and visit us.  He will not come here, and go into our schools to teach our children; this we have to do ourselves -- it is our business, our duty.

When a man rises to speak from this stand, or any other stand, to instruct the people, he is expected to use the wisdom that God has given him -- Shall I say the wisdom of the natural man?  Yes, for that is the wisdom which God has given us, and which we are required to use by the power of the Spirit of the most High.  The gifts of God to a man may be used for good or for evil.  That has often been shown to us in the preaching and teachings of the Elders.  When the Gift of language is given to a <man> servant of God to reveal the good things of the kingdom to the people, he is expected to use his best skill and ability, the Spirit of the Lord helping him, while he is addressing himself to the understandings of the people for their <best> good.  He can dwell <upon> upon this subject or that as it pleases him, and, if a faithful Elder, the Spirit of God will help him.  This we should understand.  And I will say the wisdom of the natural man, not of the unnatural man -- not that wicked disposition <which is> in man which he has received through the fall -- but the natural man, is to be taught of God to do right.

It is not my intention to extend my remarks to any great length at this time; but I may take another opportunity to speak to you before the conference comes to a close.

I will now call upon some of the Elders to give their testemony to this Conference, that the faith of the brethren may be strengthened.           To bear testemony of the latter day work will do as much good as any other kind of teaching,  if the brethren shall speak as the spirit giveth them utterance.