PART 2 — DESERET EVENING NEWS. — 9 TO 12

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1896, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

DISCOURSE

Delivered at the Morgan Stake Conference, Morgan, Sunday, February 16th, 1896, by

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I can say, my brethren and sisters, that it is with some degree of pleasure that I have the privilege of meeting with you on this occasion, as it has been a number of years since I had met with you. We have all, no doubt, passed through various experiences since then. A number of us, by a certain standard, have grown much older and grayer, if not better; and I presume a large proportion of this congregation have grown up from comparative childhood to men and women since I was here last and that is such I am comparatively a stranger, and they strangers to me. I hope that we have grown, at least a little, in the right direction during the lapse of these years. We are here upon the earth for the purpose of growing, of progressing, of developing, and of fulfilling the mission of our mission upon this footstool, our Father. We are born into the world in a very helpless condition, we of great dependence and ignorance. We have to begin at the very foundation and learn all that we know in the course of a lifetime. We have not only to develop the body, but also the mind, the spiritual or immortal part; for we are dual beings, possessing mortality and immortality—a body and a spirit. While the body may reach the limit of its development in a few years, the spirit is of a different character. It may, may reach the limit of its dimensions; but never perhaps will it reach to the limit of capacity to acquire knowledge, power and understanding. There is no limit to the development in this direction, so far as we know any knowledge; for there is no end to our progress. God our Heavenly Father is still progressing. While He knows all that is, all that has been, and possibly all things that He designs for the future and what will be in the future, yet He is constantly adding to His dominion, constantly increasing His power, constantly developing in Ha resources and in His glorious aspirations. This, at least, is our understanding of the condition of our Father in heaven. The thought has been expressed and accepted as a truth that as we are now, God has been, and as God is now we may be; and if we adhere to the truth—which I have no disposition to dispute it—then I expect that even God our Heavenly Father has not reached the ultimatum of His greatness, His power, or His capacity, but that He is continually increasing and expanding in power, in dominion, in glory and in greatness, if I may be permitted to express myself in these words. These words may seem unknown or better words will likely occur, in connection with the Supreme Being, the Father of us all. All of us have had more or less experience in the world, and from the time we were born until now there has been opportunity for us to improve our mental and spiritual faculties, to develop our intellectuality and spirituality, to increase our powers of comprehension and our knowledge, and to profit by our experience in the world. Those of us who have had improved our opportunities as we should have done, ought to be ahead, if possible, to renewed determination, to make a resolve that we will begin again in the spring of life on the road to spiritual and mental growth and development in every way that is good. The man who is still growing under the weaknesses of mortality should resolve that from this time forth he will begin anew to try to rise above those weaknesses. Let him pick out an ideal in life, if he can, for an example unto himself. Let him study the character and attributes of that chosen example, and see if it is not possible, week and month and year by year, to overcome his weaknesses, imperfections, and build the letters that bind him to those glorious principles, and rise above them, and emulate the example of one who is more perfect, more noble, and better in some if not in every respect than he is. If any man has been guilty of the practice of doing wrong, let him say at once, "I will seek for an exemplar, who will be as a beacon light to me, to guide me in the right path, that I may not err and fall over I may rise above the evil that I have been guilty of, and become a better man than I have ever been." This is the mission that we have come to fulfill in the world. The man who seekers his kind and better heart in the great battle of life proves himself a pioneer in the performance of the great mission that he has come to fulfill. A man should determine in his heart that he will emulate the examples of the good; that he will cleave unto them; that he will try again, however oft he may fail in the attempt, and he shall attain to the high mark he has set for himself, no matter what the obstacles may seem to be. If he feels true in his heart, he will succeed; there will be no such word as fail in his vocabulary. Though he may not succeed at first, that he may not succeed at first, that he may not succeed at eighty, yet each time he does not succeed he will gain strength to try the next attempt. The blacksmith's arm at first becomes weary in welding the iron; but he sees how it strikes pressure it better for the next, and by and by it becomes strong and well adapted to the labor which it has to perform. So it will be with us in our resolutions and determination to overcome evil and to establish ourselves in works of righteousness. As I said before, we are here to progress and improve in every good word and work. The purest and best standard that has ever come set for man in this world is the man Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. He has given precepts and lead which the world today, after eighteen hundred years of experience and culture in teaching the word of God, still fail to comprehend or appreciate. Some of the most important principles laid down by our Savior and the most easily to be understood are today among the most neglected and concealed, or in their true light by those who profess to be the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. A company of men, a company of men, a company of men, have gathered together, and they have taken upon them the name of our Savior, and they have organized themselves together, and they have taken upon them the name of our Savior, and they have organized themselves together, and they have taken upon them the name of our Savior, and they have organized themselves