

number whom I had not met before in Zion, but whom I had had the pleasure of bringing into the Church through baptism. I thought, Oh! if I could only dedicate all the talent God has given to me and all my powers to trying to keep these souls in the Church, and if I could cause that they should remain faithful until the end of their days, how happy I should be! But in administering in the ordinances of the Gospel we do not, as servants of God, feel to take any praise or honor unto ourselves. We have been left helpless so many times, we have been shown our weakness so many times, that we are in no condition to take praise or honor unto ourselves. But we rejoice when others are made happy; we rejoice when others are brought to see the Gospel as it is; we rejoice to see souls sought out of the dark corners of this world who are willing to come forward and unite themselves with the work which has been set up by the power of God, and which will never be destroyed. It gives us pleasure to see people who, notwithstanding the opposition that is aroused as soon as they express their willingness to become members of the Church of Christ, are still willing to come forward and show their individuality, and manifest by their course that they are men and women willing to stand for what they know to be right, no matter what public opinion may be. Public opinion has led more people to degradation than anything else that I know of. The Latter-day Saints have not gone very much on public opinion. They do not care what the world thinks as long as they know they are trying to keep the commandments of God. The Elders, in preaching the Gospel from door to door, may be turned away, may be rejected, and their testimony may not be received; but if they are true and faithful in hearing that testimony and in discharging their duties, they are happy, and they are willing to leave the result with God. Those who bring members into the Church of Jesus Christ have no right to take any honor unto themselves; for one has planted, another has nourished, and another may reap. Those who are brought into the Church by one may be the result of the efforts of another. But if we are able, through our efforts, to touch the people's hearts, to get them to understand the Scriptures which they have read for years and years and have not understood, and to realize that if they only get the Spirit that they will not only have the dead letter, but they will have the Spirit which maketh alive, and which will bear testimony to their souls concerning the written word of God, and what is necessary for them to do to be saved in the kingdom of our God—if we are able to do this, we perform a great labor. This Spirit accompanies the testimony of the Elders. It bears testimony to all who will receive it that this Gospel is from God. It has caused those who have read their Bibles without understanding them to read and understand. This is what is meant by the reception of the Holy Ghost, which is promised to all those who will repent of their sins, be baptized, and have the hands of the Elders laid upon them. We cannot understand either the written word or the living oracles of God, except we have His Spirit. It is only through the spirit of man that we understand the things pertaining to man; it is only through the Spirit of God that we are able to understand the things pertaining to God. If the world have not the Spirit of God, having led lives that would not entitle them to the enjoyment of that Spirit, is it any wonder that they cannot understand the work of our Heavenly Father? Not at all, because they have alienated themselves from His Spirit; and in many cases His Spirit, which has striven with

them from time to time, has become grieved. We understand that the Spirit of God will not always strive with man. Therefore, the world should give heed, while there is yet time, to the teachings of the Gospel, which is so simple that even a child can understand it, and yet so deep that man will never be able to fathom the beauties thereof.

I rejoice with you today, my brethren and sisters, in living in a day and time when God has again established His work. Why, when the Manifesto was issued and went forth to the world, the idea got abroad that Mormonism was a thing of the past. They thought that plural marriage was the principle upon which our faith was based, and that when this was done away with, all the rest would soon pass away. But how different it is to this! And right among those people who have entertained this idea, the Church of Jesus Christ is growing today more than ever. There are more Elders in the field today, proclaiming the word of God, than we have ever had. They are meeting with greater success today than they have ever met with before. This ought to be a source of gratification and joy to the honest in heart. Our Stakes have been strung out from Canada to Mexico, and branches have been organized throughout the Eastern and Southern States, and in Europe. And now, I understand, it has become the mission of one of the members of our quorum—Apostle Lund—to go to the Holy Land and find out what the prospects are there for founding a colony in that land. The Elders in Germany and Switzerland and in various parts of the continent of Europe, are meeting with success. All they lack is more Elders to preach the word of the Lord. There are many, many cities that have not yet heard the voices of our Elders, and therefore we cannot do otherwise than believe that this work will grow and increase. Aside from that, people who have been prejudiced towards us, and who have been opposed to us because they did not understand our motives, are becoming softened in their hearts. The Lord is pouring out His Spirit upon them, that they may be led to investigate this work and seek for a testimony for themselves. Our Elders do not require anyone to accept their words alone. They beseech all to seek God to know if their words are true. Those who will do this, if they are believers in the true and living God, can know of a surety if this Gospel be of God or of man. It would be a miracle in our eyes if we were to admit that it is of man; for there is nothing that can cope with it in all the world. All the fragmentary pieces of Christianity that we find throughout the world are only remnants of the grand old organization that existed in the days of our Lord and Savior. But here in the United States of America, through the instrumentality of the boy Prophet, has been organized the Church of Jesus Christ. It was organized on the 6th day of April, 1830, with but six members. We can see how it has grown, and how it has met all opposition and overcome every power that has attempted to thwart its progress. Therefore, we are encouraged, and we are not wont to believe that the work is going to the ground, although we are surrounded with temptation. We always will have temptation, because the Almighty will never rob us of that free agency which we exercised before we came to this world to take upon ourselves bodies. But this Church has been organized with Apostles and Prophets, and with the various offices of the two Priesthoods which have been restored. Our Elders go forth bearing this testimony. But sometimes when they return, they neglect their duties. On account of the lack of efficient work on the part of the Priesthood, every quorum not having performed its duty

as it should have done, it has been deemed wise to send out a great number of missionaries to labor here in Zion. Do you suppose, my brethren and sisters, that if we all had been doing our duty in every organization of the Priesthood—if the Priests had been going among the people and explaining the Scriptures, if the Teachers had been visiting from house to house as they are required to, in every ward of Zion—do you suppose it would have been necessary to send out missionaries among our own people? Of course, it would not. We must admit that there has been a lack of energy on our part in this regard. Elders who return home, or those who are not appointed to any special mission either at home or abroad, feel that they can be a little dilatory in regard to the performance of their duties as members of quorums and still be under no great responsibility. But it is my understanding of the Gospel of Christ that if we allow sin to exist in our midst and do not warn the sinner; if we allow conditions to exist that we know are foreign to the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, those upon whom the Priesthood has been conferred will be held responsible, at any rate to some extent. Now, we can divide this responsibility just as we please, and take it to ourselves as it fits us, because it does fit us all. We must acknowledge that if these quorums had performed their duties faithfully, if this whole body of Christ had been in a proper, healthy, working condition, there would be no need of sending missionaries to labor among the different Stakes of Zion. But this condition exists, and we must deal with it as best we can. Therefore, it has been a source of joy to me in meeting with the Saints throughout the Stakes, to see the awakening interest that the young people are showing in the Gospel, and many of them have expressed themselves that they would try to do better. A great many of us get the idea that we are going to live forever, and that we do not need to trouble ourselves about anything excepting the things pertaining to this life; but how mistaken we will be, and how we are led every now and then to realize how uncertain this life of ours is, and how helpless—how useless, I may say—is this body without the spirit! I was reminded of this a few days since by being at the deathbed of a little girl, the daughter of President Uriah T. Jones, of the Parowan Stake of Zion. The little one died of croup. While at her bedside and in being present when her spirit took leave from the body, I was led to think over these matters, and it strengthened my testimony; for I am of the firm opinion that the greater part of man is not his body, but the spirit that gives life to the body. At any rate, it is quite as much of our being as is this material body. What is this clay after the spirit has departed? How helpless, how useless, it lies before us! We see that those powers that have been the very life of the being have departed. The little one I refer to had been suffering very much in the evenings, and the father who was at Priesthood meeting had been sent for. He went home and found her in a very bad condition; and after the meeting Brother David H. Cannon and myself returned there, and we were requested to lay hands on the little one. We knelt down by the bedside, and laid our hands upon her, and the mother and brothers and sisters knelt down also and laid their hands upon the bed, and we poured out our souls to God that He would spare that child, if it were His will; but we felt to say, "Thy will, O Father, not ours, be done." As a result of our administration, the little one was very much eased and rested quiet-