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Delivered at Syracuse, Davis County,
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PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I am very pleased this morning to have the opportunity of meeting with the Latter-day Saints in this ward, and under such favorable circumstances. I was thinking while I sat here this morning how much President Woodruff would enjoy meeting with you, and how much you would enjoy his presence. Probably it would be interesting to you to know that President Woodruff's health is improving, and, though not very strong, still he is able to come to the office every day and attend to business. He has surprised us all by the manner in which he has recovered from this severe illness which he has had. It would not have surprised many, I suppose, if he had sunk under this sickness. It seemed at times as though he was going to leave us. But his recuperative power is wonderful, and I attribute it to the constant prayers of the Saints which are offered, I have no doubt, every day from every habitation where the Saints dwell. It is a very delightful thought to realize that the Latter-day Saints are bound together by such tender ties, which, though tender, are exceedingly strong.

I have traveled a good deal of late, and there is one thing with which I have been impressed: the difference there exists between the Latter-day Saints and those from among whom we have been gathered. Outside of our Church and our community you find the people, as a rule, taking very little interest in each other's welfare. There does not seem to be that love and affection and kindly interest taken by the people in each other, either in their affairs or in their health, which is exhibited among us. The predominant feeling appears to be for everyone to take care of himself, to look out for his own interests and those of his family. This is in striking contrast with the spirit that has been brought into operation by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not, as a people, take that interest in each other that we should do, because we have come from the world and brought with us its traditions, its habits, its methods, and a good deal of its feeling. We have not yet outlived these nor shaken them off. The Gospel has not freed us entirely from these influences, though it has to a very great extent, so much so that there is a striking contrast in this respect between us and other denominations. The power of the Gospel has been felt in this direction, and will be felt more and more. I have no doubt it gives us great joy to know that there are others who feel for us; that there are others who take interest in us; that there are others who pray for us; that there are

others, if we are sick, who will administer to us, and whose feelings are drawn out towards us. I do not suppose there is any one in this congregation that ever prays for himself and family without praying for others, without praying for his brethren and sisters, without praying for President Woodruff and the First Presidency and the Twelve, and for all the officers in the Church, without praying for the sick and afflicted, the distressed, the poor, the widow, the fatherless, and for those who mourn, that they may be comforted. I do not suppose that these desires escape the attention of the members of this congregation when they pray. What a delightful feeling this is! How it comforts President Woodruff to know that throughout the entire world, wherever Latter-day Saints dwell, he has an interest in their prayers, and that the blessing of the Lord is sought for in his behalf! It comforts us all to know that the Saints take this interest in us. They may not know the afflictions or the trouble that we have to contend with; but they pray for all of their brethren and sisters, without regard to name or place. When they hear of affliction their hearts go out in sympathy to those who are afflicted.

Brethren and Sisters, this, I may say, is a comparatively new feeling in the world. Not but what there is love still remaining among the children of men; all are not destitute of love; but it is to a very great extent limited and confined to very few persons.

Now, where has this love that I refer to come from? Has it come from our gathering together and being in our present state? Is it the mere gathering together of the Latter-day Saints in this land that has brought this love? Certainly not. However much that may have contributed to the existence of this love, it has not been entirely due to that. You brethren and sisters, who embraced this Gospel in other lands, where did you first feel this love, and how did it come to you? You doubtless can recall the time when a new love took possession of your heart, when feelings you never had known before were aroused in your hearts, and you felt that you had been born again. Your hearts were changed, and you became new men and new women. When did this occur? All of you who received the Gospel in other lands can turn your minds back to the day you heard the Gospel declared by a servant of God for the first time, and how new sensations took possession of you. It seemed as though a veil of darkness had been taken from your minds, so that you could perceive things in a new light. The Bible, with which you had been so familiar from your youth up, appeared in a new light. You understood its contents as you never had understood them before. Then you gave heed to the testimony of the servants of God and their exhortations to repent of your sins, to be baptized for the re-

mission of them, and receive the Holy Ghost, and when you did this, you felt that you had indeed become new creatures. Your hearts were touched, your feelings were aroused, and you became new men and women in Christ Jesus. You were literally born again by the baptism of the water and of the Holy Ghost. A love then entered into your heart for everything that proceeded from God such as you had never known. You loved your brethren and sisters. When you met with the Saints you had no desire to separate from them; you wanted to be in their society, to dwell with them. And this was not confined to one; it extended to all who received the testimony of the Elders. A great change was effected in your feelings, in your thoughts, and in your desires. You had no desire to remain where you were. Everything that was then around you, all your old associations and surroundings, with which you had been familiar from your childhood, appeared distasteful to you. They no longer had attractions for you, and your hearts went out to a distant land, to a strange people, of which you had heard or thought about but very little before.

Was not this the time when this love of which I have spoken was begotten in your hearts? I think if you were to have the opportunity today of testifying, you would say, "Yes, that was the time. It was when I heard the Gospel and obeyed it. It was when I was baptized by a servant of God and I received the Spirit of God through the laying on of hands. It was then that my heart was changed, and I felt that I was born again—born of God, and that a new love had been aroused in my heart which changed my whole being and all my desires."

This was the change that was wrought in the hearts of the people who received the Gospel through the preaching of the Elders. And this change has not been confined to one nation, or to one people; but it has been as universal as the preaching of the Gospel. Everywhere where the Elders have gone they have carried this power with them. You who had joined the Church in other lands know that this was the case. No matter where you were born, or what language you spoke; whether you were baptized in the sea, or in a river, or in a place where there was only water enough to immerse you, this effect followed in every instance.

Why was this? Was the power in men themselves? Did they possess it by inherent right, or did they derive it from some other source? You will all say—for many of you have had the same experience in operating upon others as others had in laboring with you—that this power and this influence was not inherent in the men, but it had been bestowed upon them.

Where did it come from?

It came from God.

It is a wonderful story to tell—wonderful in its condensation, wonderful in the glorious effects that have