

not know how to use it, yet it is part of our very being; we exercise faith all the time in natural things. It is this principle which prompts us to action.

We are brought forth in the likeness of God; we are His seed; the spiritual part of man is His offspring, and all the powers which exist in their perfection in the bosom of Deity exist in us in an embryonic state, and if we will take the course He has pointed out, look to His precepts, commune with Him, walk in His ways, and be guided by His Spirit until it possesses us in its fulness, we will come up like Jesus Christ, our elder Brother, to the "fulness of the Godhead bodily," and exercise all the powers that belong to Deity.

Faith opens the eyes of the spirit and enables us to see and discern God and His purposes. We should cultivate this principle within us, the first principle of the everlasting Gospel. It comes to us by hearing the Word of God. That is a natural process, though we may call it supernatural. People are not converted entirely by hearing the Word; it must be accompanied by the Spirit. Faith is exhibited by works. If, therefore, we will exercise faith in the Gospel that we have received and do its works day by day, that faith will increase with the using, just like any other faculty that we possess. There is a great lack of faith in the world; it is at a discount and we Latter-day Saints should try and bring it to a premium.

There are certain gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Lord has revealed to us in these latter days that all these gifts are for us. Every gift enjoyed by the primitive Church is for this Church also.

Among these the speaker mentioned the gift of knowledge, of wisdom, of discernment, of healing and being healed, speaking in tongues, the gift of prophecy, of seeing visions and having divine dreams. All these come from the exercise of faith. But the exercise of faith is not simply for the benefit of the individual, though he cannot obtain salvation without it; he has to exercise it for the good of others as well as himself. Study the principle of faith; it is worthy of investigation. All things must be done in faith; for without it it is impossible to please God. When we pray we should pray in faith; if we want to accomplish anything that is good we should exercise faith; then the Lord will hear us and work with us. There is an increase of spiritual force when two or three are agreed in its exercise, as there is in physical force. If your prayer meetings meet together in faith, and let there be union in the midst of the brethren.

We ought to be a people of faith in these mountain valleys, for we came to Zion to build up the Kingdom of God. Do not indulge in skepticism; do not let your minds run in that direction; but train your children to have faith in the true and living God. Let us exercise faith together and we will be able to remove mountains of prejudice and ill-will against us.

We are a small people numerically, and also as regards wealth and learning, but we are improving in that direction. We are small in many ways, but if we have faith and use it in the way God has appointed, the powers unseen will work with those that are seen, and together in our faith we will prevail, and God will give us the victory.

The choir sang the anthem, "The song of the redeemed."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Henry P. Richards.

THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK.

THE Democrats are happy to-day. The election returns indicate a triumph for their party. Of course the count is not complete, and later news may change materially the current estimate. But from present appearances the next House of Representatives will be in control of the Democratic party.

Apropos of this, it is amusing to see the comments of the Republican "Liberal" organ of this city. On its front page it publishes an estimate of the political standing of the next House of Representatives, as compared with the present, giving a clear gain to the Democrats of 25 members and a majority of 40 in the House. The totals, however, are not correct, but the figures, when properly deduced, give a House majority to the Democrats of 34. And it is stated that "additional returns are not likely to decrease the Democratic majority." But the same paper says editorially: "At this writing it does not seem probable that there will be any serious changes wrought by the election in the majorities in either House of Congress."

The editor must have been dazed over the results of the local election, in which he was more immediately interested, or he had not recovered from the effect of that champagne on wheels, or, with his usual disregard of facts and common reason, he desired to give comfort to his fellow Republicans at the expense of the evident truth.

Setting the unreliable statements and figures of the unreliable "Liberal" organ aside, it looks as though the force bill and the tariff bill had done their work and reversed the majority in the House of Representatives, and this gives new hopes to the Democratic party of further victory when the next presidential campaign shall be fought.

THE Utah Central is surfacing up its Fourth West Street road, and grading the adjacent parts of the street.

PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion convened in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, on Saturday, November 1, 1890, President Joseph E. Taylor presiding. All the wards of the Stake were properly represented except the Second, Tenth, Thirteenth and Eighteenth city wards, and Bluff Dale, Granger and Hunter wards of the country.

President Joseph E. Taylor repeated the instructions previously given regarding the issuing of recommendations to the House of the Lord, remarking that too much haste is indulged in by many persons; that sufficient time—say one or two weeks—should be allowed to receive the final signature. A void haste in this respect, for haste only produces confusion.

Another question. It would now be wise and fraught with considerable good to renew the practice of block meetings, especially in this city and all places in the country wards where the people live in close proximity to each other. Gather the Saints together, as many as can be got into your dwelling houses, and there hold prayer and testimony meetings as was our practice in the early days in this city and other places throughout our Territory. Good Teachers, wise and efficient brethren, should be selected to preside at these meetings. In early times it was customary to hold these meetings in the various wards of this (Salt Lake) city on Thursday evenings of each week. You will find, as the Saints did at that time, that great good will result from these gatherings.

It has been suggested that the Bishops reorganize their auxiliaries, the Priests, Teachers and Deacons' quorums, as far as it is practical to do this. Then, again, the Bishops should get nearer to the people—that is, visits should be made by the Bishops of the different wards to the people at their homes. You are the "fathers of the people;" under your jurisdiction, therefore, visit them and make their acquaintance. In some instances, as some of the members of the Church claim, their Bishops have never visited them in their homes. Some of the old members say that they have not seen the Bishop in their homes except about once in twenty years. I realize that you have numerous duties to perform, but notwithstanding this, some time should be allotted by the Bishopric to these fireside visits. As you administer to the people they will love and respect you, and you will gain prestige and influence.

Bishop William B. Preston spoke for a short time on the more perfect organization of the Lesser Priesthood, particularly Priests' quorums. The duty of the priest was to carry the Gospel to the homes of the Latter-day Saints, and preach, teach and expound the scriptures in plainness to the people. I know of no calling of greater importance than that of the Priest. That of the Teacher follows, but the last named is to assist the Priest, and see that the Saints perform their duty faith-