

When you chasten and reprove, never mention it again; then you will be established in power, virtue and holiness and the wrath of God will be turned away. God designs to save the people out of their sins. Jesus said "Ye shall do the works which ye see Me do." These are the grand keywords for the society to act upon.

The tenth meeting was addressed by Bishop N. K. Whitney; President Joseph Smith being present.

Eleventh meeting, June 8 h—President Joseph Smith: "It grieves me that there is no fuller fellowship; if one member suffers all feel it; by union of feeling we obtain power [with God]; Christ said He came to call sinners to repentance and to save them. Christ was condemned by the righteous Jews because he took sinners into his society; he took them upon the principle that they repent. Nothing is so much calculated to lead people to forsake sin as to take them by the hand and watch over them with tenderness. The nearer we get to our Heavenly Father the more we are disposed to look with compassion on perishing souls. I say to this society if you would have God have mercy on you, have mercy on one another. How mildly the Savior dealt with Peter, saying: 'When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren;' at another time He said to him 'Lovest thou me? Feed my sheep.' The society is not only to relieve the poor but to save souls.

Sixteenth meeting held in the Grove, August 31st, 1842. After relating recent difficulties he had encountered while being hunted by his enemies, he said the Relief Society has taken an active part in my welfare, in petitioning the Governor in my behalf. These measures were necessary, and your influence helped to bring about my redemption from the hands of my enemies; I have come here to bless you. The society has done well; their principles are to practice holiness. God loves you, and your prayer shall avail much; do not cease to let them ascend to God in my behalf. The enemy will never get weary. I expect he will array everything against me; expect a tremendous warfare. He that will war the Christian warfare will have the angels and all the powers of darkness continually arrayed against him.

A few things had been manifested to him during his absence respecting baptism for the dead, which he would communicate next Sabbath if nothing should occur to prevent it. He then offered a fervent prayer to God in behalf of the society. After the transaction of some business, in the adjustment of which President Smith offered counsel, he said he had one more remark to make respecting baptism for the dead, which must suffice for the present and until he had the opportunity to present the subject at greater length.

All persons baptized for the dead must have a recorder present, that he may be an eye-witness to testify of it. It will be necessary in the Great Council that these things be testified of. It should be attended to from this time. If there is any lack it may be at the expense of our friends. This was the last R. S. meeting that Pres. Joseph Smith attended.

During the two years' administration

of Pres. Emma Smith and her associates, visiting sisters were appointed to search out the needy, to find work for the able-bodied, to receive contributions and to report conditions.

The labors of the society were extended to the four wards of the city.

Twelve hundred and seventy-six names were enrolled as members. The recorded receipts were \$415.24.

#### AFTER THE DAYS OF NAUVOO.

An interesting paper on the work of the Relief Society after the days of Nauvoo, prepared by Emeline R. Wells, was read by Apostle Abraham H. Cannon.

When the Saints left Nauvoo the meetings were necessarily discontinued, but the noble institution was never lost sight of. Vilate Kimball, Mary Ann Young and Elizabeth Ann Whitney, among many others, accomplished a noble work in ministering to the afflicted, and as soon as a settlement in this valley was effected, the sisters had temporary societies in several wards, and their noble work was carried on. In 1855 President Young called upon the Bishops to organize the Relief Society, and Eliza R. Snow was called to assist in this work, with Zina D. Young as counselor. The coming of Johnstons army again interrupted the work for some time, but as soon as order had been restored, a permanent organization was effected throughout the several States of Zion.

#### "THE DAUGHTER OF ZION"

a song composed by Emily H. Woodmansee, especially for this occasion, was beautifully rendered by the Tabernacle choir.

#### PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

on behalf of the First Presidency offered prayer. This was a special feature of the exercises, it being arranged that all the relief societies in the whole world should engage in prayer at 12 o'clock noon.

After prayer, he addressed the congregation. This Relief society, he said, has always had the hearty endorsement and the approval of the First Presidency since its first organization, fifty years ago. It had occurred to the speaker that it would be an excellent thing to erect a building or buildings, as the case might be, where there could be a hall for the Society to meet, and which would be in a measure self-sustaining. He did not know whether this matter had been considered yet. It had already been stated that the Prophet Joseph Smith had presented the Society with a building lot, and he did not see why the plan of building could not yet be carried out. It appeared to him to be an easy matter.

With regard to the gift of tongues, the speaker said, it was one very much liable to mislead. The adversary can easily take advantage of it. However, where the Spirit of the Lord directs it, it is a good thing. Sometimes, however, persons speak under the influence of a wrong spirit.

In relation to laying on of hands by sisters, the speaker said it is a proper thing for mothers, who have received their blessings in the house of God, to pray for their sick and to rebuke diseases. It is just as much the right of the mother as of the father, although he, holding the Priesthood, can do it by virtue of this, as well as in the name

of the Lord. The women are not especially called upon to visit from house to house to administer to the sick, but they can do so properly, if called upon.

The speaker was thankful for the opportunity of meeting with the Saints, and wished that the Lord might bless the work. He exhorted all to live their religion and do their duties faithfully.

#### AN ADDRESS BY BETHSHEBA W.

##### SMITH

was read by Apostle John Henry Smith. She was one of the first seventeen members that were identified with the organization. The Prophet Joseph Smith often met with the sisters and gave them instructions and counsels. The speaker quoted some of his memorable sayings:

"Every virtuous woman should be long to this society."

"This organization is not only for the purpose of administering to the sick and afflicted, the poor and the needy, but it is to save souls."

"If the sisters come before the Lord in humility and faith and lay hands upon the sick and the Lord heals them, none should find fault."

"If we were pure in all things nothing on earth or in heaven could hinder the angels from associating with us."

At one meeting he said, he would not be with us much longer to instruct us. This made us all feel sad. His words soon came to pass and rung our hearts with sorrow and grief for the great loss we had sustained in losing our dearly beloved Prophet,—for a true prophet, I know, he was.

#### AN ADDRESS BY M. ISABELLA HORNE

was read by Apostle Abraham H. Cannon.

She said she was thankful to have had the privilege of having been associated with the first organization and heard instructions by Emma Smith. She referred to the experience of the Saints when expelled from Nauvoo and on their weary journey across the plains, experiences only to be understood by those who had been through them. A vivid description was given of the difficulties with which the first pioneers had to contend in this valley. It is hard today to account for the success that attended our first labors here. But in all, our hearts were filled with gratitude. The settlers gladly shared their scanty provisions with those who had less.

The speaker gave an interesting sketch of the labors of the society in Utah. Thousands of dollars have been collected for distribution among the poor besides other useful work that has been accomplished.

#### DR. ROMANIA E. PRATT

read a paper on the administration of Eliza R. Snow in the Relief Society. She was elected president over all the branches in Zion, at a meeting held in the Assembly Hall, June 19th, 1880. Zina D. Young and Elizabeth Ann Whitney were elected counselors, Sarah M. Kimball secretary, and M. Isabella Horne treasurer. On July 14th, the officers were ordained to the various positions, by President John Taylor.

Various branches of work in which the society has taken an active part were mentioned. In June, 1882, the Deseret Hospital was established with