

REMARKS.

By Elder Francis M. Lyman, at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, (during the General Conference) Tuesday morning, April 5th, 1892.

While I attempt to speak to you, my brethren and sisters, this morning, I feel more than ever in my life the necessity of your faith and prayers, and I suggest that it is good discipline for the mind, whenever our brethren rise to speak or pray in our behalf, that we offer up a silent prayer, asking God to bless our brother in his speaking and in his praying.

These are precious seasons where so many Latter-day Saints meet together to worship the Lord and to transact business that pertains to the building up of our Father's kingdom in the earth. The Lord has been very gracious to all of us during this conference, and in spite of the bad weather the people have had faith enough to gather together in great numbers, manifesting their deep interest in the work of the Lord; and our brethren have been greatly blessed in speaking to us the words of truth and of instruction suited to the requirements of the Latter-day Saints.

We find that from the beginning the children of God have had seasons of trial. All the changes, all the revelations, all the movements of the people have in a measure tended to try some of those who profess faith in the Lord. The trials of the people go as far back as we are acquainted with their history, not only in this dispensation, but in all dispensations. There seems to be a power and an influence opposed to the purposes of our Maker, trying to thwart His designs; and, looking at it from a human standpoint, the opposer of the Lord has been apparently successful; at least, a great many things have occurred that would seem to disappoint the hopes and expectations of the followers of the Savior; and I suppose that no greater disappointment ever occurred in the experience of God's children on the earth than when the Savior Himself laid down His life. With all that He had said, with all the references that He had made to the laying down of His life, and with all that had been said in the revelations to the Prophets of old, no one was prepared for the death of the Savior. With all that had been said by the Prophet Joseph to his brethren and the Saints of God in early days, there was not one soul, save it might be the Prophet himself, that was prepared for the sacrifice of his life. No one ever thought that he would be slain. No one ever thought that his brother Hyrum would be slain. They were not prepared for it. Neither were they prepared for many of the revelations that the Lord gave. Although we are a people of revelation, founded upon the rock of revelation, yet there is hardly a revelation given by the Lord to the Latter-day Saints but takes them unprepared. They had not thought it would be just that way, but that something else would have been revealed. And these revelations and requirements of the Lord have always been, in a measure, trials to the people; not to all of them, but to a great many. Many people have turned away from the truth because things did not come exactly to suit them. Now, the in-

structions that the Latter-day Saints have had from the beginning have been to the effect that they should live their religion, keep the commandments of the Lord, and so live that they might have the testimony of the Holy Spirit abiding in their hearts. If these instructions had been followed very closely and carefully by all the Latter-day Saints, I believe that they would have been fairly prepared, at least, to receive any order, any revelation and any changes that were necessary for the accomplishment of the Lord's purposes in the earth. But we are a little careless and neglectful of the duties that devolve upon us, and we do not order our lives as carefully as we ought to do. We are not as particular in regard to the worship of the Lord; we are not as particular in partaking of the sacrament; we have not learned to love the sacrament and to comprehend it as we ought to do, so that all Israel are gathered together on the Sabbath day to partake of the sacrament. We have not yet learned to comprehend the importance of prayer so thoroughly and perfectly but what we forget and neglect our prayers. They are neglected in the father's house, and in the son's house, and in the daughter's house. We are careless also in regard to our tithing. Although the Lord blesses us abundantly, and provides us with fruitful seasons as He did last year, yet the Latter-day Saints become careless in regard to their tithing. And I suppose there is always an excuse in the heart of every brother and of every family where there is a falling off in regard to tithing, in regard to prayer, in regard to attending meeting and the conferences and to the worship of the Lord. I wonder what excuse we can make as Latter-day Saints for the neglect of our tithing. The reports of this year from many of the Stakes of Zion would indicate that the people are becoming poorer; that our increase and our interest have not been so much during the last year as in years before. Yet the fact is, we are increasing in number: we are extending our farms; we are increasing our merchandizing; we are engaging in more business enterprises; and if we feed as well, and clothe as well, and lay by a little every year, as we ought to be doing, our tithing fairly and honestly paid, should have been a little better. If you and I do not pay more, there ought to be others coming up, for there is a little generation of young men coming to maturity who should have become tithepayers independent of their fathers; and the tithings of the people should increase, unless there is a famine or some great reason why there should be a falling off. I desire to emphasize this before all Israel, that our tithings ought to increase year by year, and also our disposition to attend the worship of the Lord, to attend to our prayers, to observe faithfully the Word of Wisdom, and to increase in good works year by year. We ought to be better men. We ought to be more careful, more circumspect, more faithful and devoted to the Lord than we have been in the past. This is as necessary as it is that the child should grow from childhood to youth, and to manhood and old age. We ought to grow and improve in our

morals, in our faith, in our integrity and in our humility day by day. There ought never to be a necessity for the remarks that were made yesterday by President Cannon and President Smith. There ought not to be any feeling among the Latter-day Saints to question the authority of God's priesthood—the authority of the Teacher, or the Priest, or the Bishop, or the President of Stake, or the Apostle, or the First Presidency. From the First Presidency and the Apostles through all the other quorums there ought to be that proper regard for authority and seniority in the midst of the people and amongst the Priesthood that would be pleasing to the Lord. The Priesthood that we bear ought to be respected. Men may be weak, and have their failings; but we ought to honor the Priesthood that they bear and the authority that they exercise. I love to honor and respect a man that God honors. If the Lord can trust the Priesthood with His servants, I feel that I can afford to honor them. I care not what the degree of Priesthood is that a man bears; in fact, I can honor the man that has made covenant with God to keep His commandments and is humble before the Lord. I can love and respect such persons for the humility that they have before God; for they have the friendship and favor of the Lord, and I feel that I can honor and treat them kindly. And when it comes to my brethren who preside over me and who who are associated with me in the quorum to which I belong, and my brethren the High Priests and the Seventies and the chief Elders, why it does seem to me that their words, their counsels and their exhortations should be so sacred that we could all honor and respect them. I know that in the quorum of the Apostles and with the Presidency there is a feeling of respect, of honor and of obedience to those who preside over us. We defer to our seniors, and we honor and respect them in their presidency. If there is any lack of respect for the Presidency of the Church, in the Church or in any of the quorums of the Holy Priesthood, I should be very sorry to witness it. I have always felt that President Woodruff was to me the same as President Taylor was—the vicegerent of God. I have felt that President Woodruff and President Taylor were the same to me and to the Church as President Brigham Young, and they as the Prophet of God; for these men have walked right into the same authority and the same power, the same blessing, endowment and responsibility, as leaders of Israel as was held by the Prophet Joseph Smith. And in the absence of President Woodruff, I have always felt—I trust I may ever so feel—that President Cannon, or whoever may stand in the place that President Cannon does today, is to me the same as President Woodruff, as the President of the Church and as the President of the Conference; and in the absence of the President and his first Counselor, I look upon the second Counselor as the man who stands as the mouthpiece of God to the people. For these are three Presidents, as I understand it. I understand that in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith he was the President of the