

people. He will have a people in whom His Holy Spirit can take up its abode; their tabernacles must be pure; their thoughts must be pure; their words must be pure; all their actions must be holy or God will reject them. Hear it, ye Latter-day Saints! for I tell you it is true. Girls, shun vice and the society of the vicious. Do not hope that you can convert a wicked man. Go with those who are disposed to be pure and virtuous men. Choose them for your companions, and shun the society of the evil-doer. Both sexes should do this. Do not go with those who drink, or with those who gamble, or with those who swear. Go with those who want to serve God. These are things that our young people should observe.

There is another point that occurs to me that I will speak about, and that is a disposition on the part of many of the Latter-day Saints to scatter. They hear of some good valley afar off where they think they can do better than where they are living, and they draw off, some going in one direction and some in another. Now I want to bear testimony to you, in this conference, that this is not the spirit of this dispensation. The spirit of this dispensation is to gather together. Do not be afraid to get too close. Do not encourage the desire to go to places remote from the body of the Church; but fill up the land that God has given unto us. This valley of Salt Lake can sustain thousands of people more. There is plenty of land if proper steps were taken. Families need not scatter and break away from home influences and from the social associations that we have. The policy that characterised the building up of the first settlements in this country is the true policy—not to scatter out on farms, but to keep in communities where every member can have all the advantages of society, of education, and of amusements, and where the children can be kept under these influences. As I travel through the land and see houses scattered miles apart, I wonder how human beings can live in that condition and develop. It is not the way that God designs His children should live. It is not necessary for Latter-day Saints to live in that manner, only when a settlement is being formed. But we should be able to organize wards, and to have meetings, schools, and places of amusement for our young people. Not that I am opposed to the Saints going, under certain circumstances, to distant places; but let it be done under the direction of the servants of God, and let new settlements be formed under the proper influence. I feel to caution the Saints about this. Cling together. Live as close together as you can, and maintain that intercourse that has been so delightful in the past.

Another thing in connection with this. We have frequent appeals to us about benevolent societies. I need not mention any names. We are not opposed to any society that is formed for a good purpose. We want them to do all the good they can. We desire them to prosper in their labors for charitable and benevolent purposes. But I want to say to all the Latter-day Saints that God has founded Zion, and the poor of His people, the Prophet says, shall put their trust in it. Now, this Zion of ours is a grand charitable and benevolent institution. No institution or organization on the face of the earth possesses any good

thing that we do not have already. As Latter-day Saints we need not join temperance associations, nor benevolent associations. I say to you that these are not objects that we should seek after. We should cling to Zion and put our trust in God. If you will read the revelations of God, you will find a plan marked out plainly for the care of the poor that is broader than can be found anywhere on the earth, and it has come from God. But you say, "That has not come." Nor it never will come if the Latter-day Saints divide their strength and go elsewhere. Let us concentrate our strength in Zion. Let us unite our faith to bring this glorious plan into operation as soon as we can. For Zion is the place, and this is the organization, to effect the redemption of the poor among the children of men. It is a perfect plan, for it is revealed by the God of perfection. I would like my words concerning this to reach all the people of God, and I say to them, God has founded Zion, and it is for us to put our trust in it. There is nothing better. We have done more for the poor than any organization on the face the earth, and we expect to do more. We are organized for the purpose of saving the poor, to be kind to them, to feed and clothe them, and to teach them how to earn their own living. We do not want to become paupers, nor to be dependent upon other people. We do not want their funds to bury our dead. We want to bury our own dead, and to take care of the widow and the orphan, after the husband and father has gone. And here in Zion exists the power to do this, and the willingness to do it, to some extent, which willingness, I trust, will continue to grow until there shall be no suffering in our land. This is what we desire. We receive letters from one and another, saying they have joined such and such an organization, and asking whether they cannot do this. We say, "Yes, do as you please, you are your own agents." But we are already organized; it is no new thing for us to help the poor and the afflicted; it has been the work of our lives, and we expect to continue to do it until the perfect system is organized on the earth. And the organization of this system only depends upon the faith of the people. But if one draws off, and another draws off, when do you think the Zion of God will be built up? God will have to remove the people who do this, and choose someone else to do the work. Pray for the welfare of Zion. Pray for the prosperity of Zion. Use your exertions to make Zion powerful in the earth. For it is Zion that will save the world. Like Noah's ark to the antediluvians, Zion is the place of safety today.

My brethren and sisters, I pray God to bless you and to fill you with His Holy Spirit. I pray that the spirit of this conference and the instructions of it shall rest upon us all, and it shall be infused into the minds of our wives and children and all belonging to us. I pray for this with all the faith and energy that I have; for I do desire to see Zion prosper. I do desire to see this people progress. As I have often said, I do not think I could be perfectly happy unless this people were saved. For I love this people and I love this work. You love it too. I only give expression to your thoughts when I speak in this way. I do not suppose that there is a man in

this Church today, in my hearing, that would not gladly, if it were necessary, and with God to aid him, lay down his life rather than do anything to injure the work of God. I know the women feel that way also. They love God; they love the Lord Jesus; they love the institutions that He has established; they are thankful that they are Latter-day Saints; they are full of praise to God for having given to them these precious things. But there are times when our minds become obscure and we get away from the influence of the Spirit of God. Then we forget ourselves and give way to influences that are not of God. Let us therefore be on our guard, and not allow the adversary to get advantage over us. For we will conquer him. We will establish Zion, with the help of God. We will establish righteousness in the earth. The day will come when there will be none to molest or make afraid, and Satan will not have power over the hearts of the children of men. Until that day comes, let us labor with all the powers that God has given to us to accomplish this glorious end. I pray that we may all do so until we shall meet our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the realms of bliss. Amen.

*Written for this Paper*

#### A FRIEND OF UTAH'S DIXIE.

PAROWAN, Utah,  
November 18, 1894.

As southern Utah has conditions and peculiarities not generally known nearer our common parental center, where the NEWS sends forth its semi-weekly batches of information, I pen you a few lines by way of information—new to some—while only a reminder to others.

Iron county has been a great stock country, subsequently an extensive sheep range. Thousands of dollars have been derived from the sales of cattle, fat sheep and wool. Now, however, a change has taken place, and is gradually taking place, in that the grasses are gone, the roots are dead, and the animals that cannot live upon sage, rabbit brush or greasewood, stand a very poor chance indeed; only poor in summer but cruel for the winter. The necessary and inevitable change of converting the public lands into improved and private property seems but slowly to lay hold of the public mind, owing to the fallacious impression that nothing for man or beast can be raised without irrigation. Many sections of land have been "taken up" and title obtained from the government, but still lie unimproved and unfenced under this unfortunate lack of faith and resolution.

Bordering upon this county, and down an incline and canyon is the wonderful Dixie, or Washington county, with its unique combination of climate, rocks, sand, precipitous mountains, and isolated spots of unsurpassed fertility, improved and unimproved. Its St. George temple, semi-tropical vegetation, beautiful flowers, extensive orchards and vineyards, and withal the vast amount of labor that has been expended upon roads, buildings, rock fences and horticulture seem to almost bewilder the mind in contemplation of the change from one county to another. Yet its isolation from railroad communication causes it to be almost unappreciated by its neighbor counties and