

not Latter-day-Saints? Yes, but they do not see the kingdom of God any more than Nicodemus did when he came to Jesus by night. We stand upon a different platform from what they do, and we have to make many allowances for their conduct and actions towards us. They do not understand our designs, nor what we are after. Why are we gathered together? Because God has called us and we were willing to obey Him; because God sent a message to the nations of the earth, and we possessed a portion of the Spirit of God, and when the Elders of Israel came forth to teach us the words of life, as Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice and they know me, etc." The word of life was sown broadcast among thousands and millions of the human family arose and believed it at first, as much as you and I did, but the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the influences with which they were surrounded, choked the precious seed and it could not bring forth fruit. These influences more or less to the present time prey upon our minds and darken and benumb our feelings, and interpose between us and our Heavenly Father.

What is it that we are aiming at, and who are we seeking to injure in the world? Who have been injured by us? There is no man living, who can speak the truth and say, he has been injured by this people. He does not exist, and whenever they make statements of that kind you may brand them as liars. Who have we interfered with? What people have we deprived of their rights? Among whom have we sown the seeds of sedition or injury of any kind? Have we gone to the North or South and interfered with any of the Territories or States surrounding us? No man that tells the truth can say so, for we have never done it; we have no need to do it, it is not in our hearts to do it, we can not do it while we live our religion. The Lord is trying to teach us if He can, and we are trying to teach each other if we can, so that we may be elevated and exalted to the scale of intelligence, morality, virtue, honesty and truth; and with regard to anything and everything that tends to exalt and enoble the human mind. This is what we are after and what the Lord is desirous to make of us.

We emanated from Him; we are His children, and not only His children temporally and spiritually, but we are united to Him by covenant to serve Him; we have covenanted to serve Him in baptism; we have covenanted to serve Him in our endowments, to keep His commandments and walk according to the laws of life.

The Lord is desirous to root out error from among us, from me and from you and from all of us; to tear away error and superstition, and vice and vanity, and folly, and pride, and evil of every kind; to show us the beauty of holiness, the excellency of truth; to show us every principle that is calculated to build us up, and bless us with life and health, and our posterity after us, worlds without end.

And what does the gospel show us? It shows us who our Father is, it shows us our relationship to Him, and to our earthly father; it shows us our duty towards our children, our duty towards our wives, and wives their duty towards their husbands; it enters into all the ramifications of human existence.

As God is our Father, and the organizer of these bodies, and of this earth on which we live, He wants to teach us all principles that will be calculated to exalt us and exalt the earth on which we live. If any body has any fault to find with us in any part of the world it is that we seek to fear God and work the works of righteousness; and if we cannot be swayed from the principles of truth by any power under heaven our society is ignored.

How often has it been told us, "Gentlemen, if you would only lay aside your religion and become like us, and live as we do, then we will all be good neighbors together." How often have we had to listen to such stuff and nonsense, like them serve the devil, commit iniquity, go down to darkness and the shades of death, and live and die without God and without hope in the world as they would have us to do, and die and be damned. God forbid, we will not do it. (Amen) Our desire is to serve God, we know the ways of life, for God has taught them to us. We know in whom we have believed for God has revealed it to us. We know the gospel is true, because the gospel has made manifest itself to us, and we feel satisfied with regard to the course we are taking, and God being our helper we will pursue it to the end. God is our friend and we are the friends of God.

It was said this morning that we might all be Abrahams. Abraham was

the friend of God; we are the friends of God, and if we are not His friends He cannot find them on the earth; if we are not His friends He cannot find friends who dare do as we do—who dare cleave to the truth in the midst of shame, obloquy, persecution and reproach. But we still live, and the truth still lives, and the kingdom of God still exists, and when the kingdoms of the world crumble to pieces and "become like the chaff of the summer threshing-floor, and no place found for them," we shall still live, for we have within us the seeds of eternal life, and no man can take them from us.

We have begun to live for ever, and feel to rejoice and be glad under all circumstances, and to sing, "Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, and will reign until He hath put all enemies under His feet." We are striving to help God to do that which He desires to do; and what is that? It is to benefit mankind.

How often have we heard President Young, President Kimball and others say to the people; "Why not go to work and plant orchards, it is a very little thing to talk about; why will you not make good fences, and make good gardens, and build good comfortable houses and try to make yourselves happy and comfortable." We now see the fruits of these things, and we begin to eat the fruits of our obedience to those instructions and to realize the benefit of them; our fields teem with plenty, our peach trees, and apple trees, and plum trees are laden down with fruit, and we possess the good things of this earth in abundance. Is there any harm in all this? We are taught also to love one another, there is nothing bad about that; husbands are taught to love their wives, and wives are taught to love their husbands, and children to obey their parents; these are good principles, and they have been taught to us all the day long. We have been taught to pay our tithing, that we might acknowledge to God that we are His people, and that if He gave us all we ask we might give one tenth back to Him, and by that act acknowledge His hand. Does the Lord care about these things? No. Yes. No. Yes. Yes. No. He does not care about them so far as they benefit Him, but He does so far as they develop perfection in the Saints of God, and show that they acknowledge His hand as the author and the giver of every blessing they enjoy; One of the prophets says, "The gold and the silver are His and the cattle upon a thousand hills." If you want gold you will have to go a little further away from here. People think it is strange that the "Mormons" do not develop the gold in these mountains, but those who understand the mind of God, understand that He has a protecting care over His people, and that we are in His hands, and that He will sustain us.

That we do not develop the gold in these mountains is not strange to the Saints of God. He has wisely planned for our sakes in a thousand ways. We can remember the time when we could not raise peaches to eat, and it was a doubt whether an apple tree would grow or not; now go and look at your orchards, there is not a better peach growing country in the world than this. How is this? God has blessed the elements for our sakes and also the earth; but let the Saints leave this place and it would return again to its wilderness condition; the wicked could not live here; they could not live here before we came and they could not if we went away; consequently, if any of them think that they could by any means or stratagem drive us away to possess themselves of our property it would not do them one particle of good if they got it, for God blessed it for our sakes. He blesses the land for our sakes.

It is hard sometimes to realize this. What does the Lord say to ancient Israel in one place? "Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord thy God shall keep with thee, the covenant and the mercy which He swore unto thy fathers; and He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee; He will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which He swore to thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people, there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle." "The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face; they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways." Then the curses are enumerated that should come upon them if they forsook the Lord their God, and observed not His statutes. While the children

of Israel obeyed the Lord their God, the land abounded in wine, corn and oil, and they vanquished their enemies. When they departed from God, and disobeyed His laws, those calamities which were promised them through disobedience fell upon them to the very letter even to this day. Their temple was destroyed and not one stone left upon another, as the Savior told, and the ground upon which it stood was plowed up by the Romans in search for gold which they expected to find there.

It is sometimes hard for us to realize that we are in the hands of God, and that He controls and manages and guides our affairs. This is the thing we wish to understand, and wish the people to understand that our confidence is in Him. People talk sometimes about what they are going to do with the "Mormons," and the rumor flies that we are going to be rooted out, destroyed and overthrown. We shall, when God says so and not before. The Lord knew in former times how to put a hook into the jaws of the enemies of Israel and He knows just as well where to place it to-day. The nation in which we live and all nations are in the hands of God, and so are we, and our enemies cannot help themselves nor avert the destiny that awaits them. He will accomplish His purposes towards them, and they cannot help it, and towards us and they cannot help it. Then we are all in the hands of God, like clay in the hands of the potter, to be moulded and trained and fashioned according to the designs of God and according to His will.

As it regards any of those outside influences we need not fear in relation to them, we need not fear anything they can say and do for they can do nothing but what God permits. He will let them wander about on Hams Fork, and live on mule flesh for a while, and they were a little independant about things and would not take a little salt when we sent it to them, did they harm us? did they destroy us? No. Why? because God would not let them, He controlled them, and He now controls and governs kings and rulers, and magistrates, and generals, and officers, and authorities, though they may not know it; but He says unto them as he said to the waves of Jordan "hitherto shalt thou go and no further and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."

We are in the hands of God, and we are trying to do the things God requires of us to do; and that is to establish His kingdom and His laws, His government. Where do we get the laws of God from? We get them by revelation through the medium He has appointed, and if we keep these laws the blessing of God will be with us, His Spirit will attend us, He will bless us in all our endeavors, and we shall bring to pass the great designs of the Almighty that have been spoken of by the Holy Prophets. It is for us to keep the commandments of God, whether they refer to temporal or to spiritual things; whether they relate to this world or to the world to come. We should seek to know God and cleave unto Him, carry out all His purposes and He will lead us in the paths of life.

I am glad that the Spirit of the Lord rests upon the President and people at this Conference. We are here to talk about these things, to preach and sing and pray and commune with one another and with the Lord, and to try to get full of the Spirit of light, that we may go from this Conference and communicate it to others.

May God help us to do His will and keep His commandments in the name of Jesus. Amen.

NEWS ITEMS.

It has been reckoned that since the breaking out of cholera in the south of France no fewer than 104,000 inhabitants have left Marseilles. At Toulon the authorities, owing to the sudden departure of the working men and laborers, have been obliged to apply to the police office and turn twenty criminals condemned to hard labor into grave-diggers.

BISHOP DAVIS of South Carolina, has addressed a letter to the clergy and laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in that State, in regard to the unity of the Southern and Northern Church. He declares that the separation was owing to the late political revolution, and could not be regarded as a schism; at the same time he thinks the Southern Church is an independent branch of the Catholic Church, and is, therefore, free to remain as she is, or return to her union with the North.

New wine of the present year was drunk at Aubonne, in Switzerland, on August 27th. Such an occurrence had not been known since 1822. From the

Rhine are heard the same favorable accounts of the vintage.

A GEORGIA journalsays that many of the leading Methodist clergymen of that State in consequence of their hostility to their Northern brethren, have made overtures to the Episcopalians for a union with them.

THE Bey of Tunis is indefatigable in his duties. He judges causes every Saturday and Monday. One Saturday recently he decided in three hours no less than one hundred and fifty cases, which at one time it would have taken years to settle.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., which had a population of 28,000 previous to the war, now numbers over 80,000.

THE total value of Fire Department property in the U. S. is estimated at \$5,000,000. The number of firemen and attaches 600,000. Number of organizations, 1,000.

THE "State Constables," recently created by the Massachusetts Legislature, are already making their authority felt in Boston. Having prohibited the opening of barber shops in the city on Sunday they have now commenced war upon the proprietors of eating saloons, and even upon apothecaries who have been notified that they must hereafter close their places on Sunday, under penalty of prosecution.

THE King of Denmark has just opened a new railway, which crosses the island of Fuen.

WORK upon the Chicago lake tunnel is to be carried on through the winter, and provisions, coal and stoves have been carried out in tuns to warm and comfort the laborers in the cool depths. About thirty-five men will winter in the crib.

EELS are very plentiful in Connecticut. The works of the Meriden Cutlery Company, at Hanover, were stopped last week by eels getting into the water-wheel. Seventy pounds were taken out. Two of them weighed respectively seven and five pounds each!

A LONDON correspondent writes: "Such an autumn as the present has never been known within living memory. Intense warmth, like that of a hot July, and a drought which has scarcely been broken for six weeks, have prevailed in most parts of the kingdom."

THE St. Johnsbury (Vt.) *Caledonian* says the potato crop in that locality is large and excellent. The only fault is that they grew so large that they have to be "biled," like Josh Billings' Shanghai rooster—"one end at a time."

VIRGINIA railroads, connecting with all points South, East, North and West, are now in excellent condition. The broken links in the chain of connection have all been re-united, and the traveler has railroad access to almost every part of the State without a change of cars.

THE population of Paris is rapidly overtaking that of London, and has increased more rapidly. It is now over 1,700,000, whereas London must still be under 3,000,000. Formerly the difference between the capitals, was much greater.

A REPORT recently presented to the London Academy of Medicine states that since "spiritualism" became in vogue cases of insanity have augmented twenty-five per cent.

THE railway from Cordova to Malaga, Spain, has been opened with great ceremony by the Minister of Public Works, the civil governors of the two provinces, and other officials, in presence of a large number of spectators.

IN the towns in Middlesex and New Haven counties (Ct.) the farmers are cultivating sorghum quite extensively, and a large number of mills have been erected this season. As a general thing one mill, costing about \$1,000, answers for the use of the producers of the place, they paying a tariff on the number of gallons made to the owner.

BELGIUM has been visited by a water-spout of extraordinary violence. It occurred in the neighborhood of Liege, and has spread ruin far and wide. The accompanying gale caught people up in the air and dashed them to the ground. It cut off the tops of some large trees, and felled many other trees to the ground. It stopped railway trains and overthrew houses. It was attended by thunder and floods of rain. Altogether it was one of the most disastrous storms that has ever visited the country.

A CHEESE and horse fair, which has been held for nearly seven hundred years near Winchester, England, will be discontinued after this year.