THE DUTIES OF TEACHERS.

Discourse delivered at the General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Saturday Morning, October 6, 1900, by

ELDER MARRINER W. MERRILL.

Proper Care of Children - Consequences of Neglect - Visits of Presiding Officers - Temple Work,

apod many people to come to conferto hear the singing alone. But a gat many things are treated upon in general conference which supply any wants and answer many inquiries mong the Saints. We are here for natual improvement and for instrucons which will apply to us when we t home. There is no doubt in my are a shout the Church were fully up their duties we would have condiloas superior to what they are now. There is a laxity on the part of many of the Latter-day Saints. I believe, however, the Saints are improving. Still here is room for more improvement in the affairs of our lives. We have an anization in this Church which the Lord has given us. It was not instituted by man, but by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. This organization has een multiplied somewhat in the last years, and no doubt will be multia more in the future as we advance become better acquainted with the el. There are a great many of coung people born and reared in mountuins who need our care and tion as well as that of their par-

have thought sometimes that many hers and mothers do not give that ention to their children which they be to have. They turn them over he organizations of the Church; in irst place, to the Primary, and then er associations as they grow old-id they neglect them at home. I and they neglect them at home. I heard young men say that their ars never asked them to pray in the ly, and I have heard girls say the This shows a lack of attention a part of parents. I am quite conhe part of parents. I am quite con-at that many of the organizations in Church are neglected. Take for in-ce, the Teacher's quorum. Every I in the Church is supposed to have t men to labor as Teachers the people. I believe that this organization in the ward is instances, materially neglected. ties of Teachers were carried to Lord designed they should would see a marked improveit in the midst of the people. These there are not confined to spiritual They can talk and advise about al things also. In many in-however, Teachers' visits are d over while in others they are put f the Teacher is expected to visit month, he puts it off till the last fore the Bishop requires him to and then he hurrles around and time that ought to be I know whereof I speak in reo this matter, because in the ah M. Grant. When the Teachers of where he ishored all did it was called a reformation. of quite a reformation in all the hat that time. I remember distinctly in the ward where I Brother Grant on one occasion all the Teachers to the stand. We nother bowery, and had a board it sixteen feet long, put on some the ward, and we had to stand ere in a row. He wanted us all each one in his turn, comng on the right and going to the Someone asked Brother Grant

Thave heard it remarked that it paid | could judge if they prayed in the households of the Saints. I was quite a boy at the time, and when it came to my turn I hesitated a moment or so. Brother Grant happened to be kneeling right behind me, and he turned around, grabbed me by the leg with his hand and said, "Now, you pray." Well, it nearly scared all the pray out of me. But it was an object lesson and one that was very profitable to me. How many of the Teachers who go into your homes, gather the family together and pray with the family or ask some of the family to pray? I question whether this is very strictly attended to. Now, it is the Teacher's duty to talk about all matters of interest to the Saints, connected with the kingdom of God. It is their business to inquire of the fam-lly if they pay their tithes and offerings. that the poor may be sustained and the hands of the Bishop upheld. In going into the congregations of the Saints it is very seldem that I hear an Elder pray for the Bishop, or for his counselors, or for the Teachers. Teachers need not discuss the condition of the weather, for this is not part of their duty. They should go into the houses of the Saints enjoying the Spirit of the Lord, that have a refreshing from they may have a retreshing from the Lord with that family. They go there to bless the family and to do them good, and in order to do this successfully they must concentrate their minds on the object of their labor in the midst of the people. By these means the Saints are instructed in their homes. When we find invalids in the households of Saints who are unable to attend the tithes and offerings and in attending their meetings. If the teachers did

gatherings of the people we can com-fort and bless them. If this were carfort and bless them. If this were carried out as the Lord has designed the people would become more and more united, and they would be deter-mined to do their duty in paying their their duty in every ward, people would feel that they ought to go to meeting. I have heard people say, "We have not seen a Teacher in our house for a year," or for six months, as the case may be. This is not as the Lord designed it and there is some responsibility resting upon the presidents of Stakes and their counselors in regard to this matter. The Lord gave a revelation to President Taylor in his time on this subject. It loes not matter how Isolated the Saints may live, they are in somebody's ward, and they should be sought after if it takes two or three days to find them. I can remember when Brother Preston was president of the Cache Stake and I was one of his counselors, it took us just one month to get around the Stake and visit the Saints, and then we could not get to all the wards. The Stake at hat time ran from Logan to the Monana line. Stakes now are smaller, and they are within the reach of every President. The wards are within the reach of every Bishop, and the teachers can find the people, if they are so inclined. Bishops and Presidents of Stakes should be aroused to the importance of this matter, because when the people are neglected, the Church is neglected, the poor are neglected, the tithes and offerings are neglected. Hence we can-not afford, as officers in the Church, to neglect our duty. If we do the Lord will hold us to account for it.

I believe that a president of a Stake

should have a meeting with his counselors at least every week. They should sit down together, sing and pray together, and see what the Lord will suggest to be done in that Stake of Zion. I think Apostle Lyman has advented this large. I do not know how

CONSTIPATED

ing in the same line, every Bish-op in the Church should meet with his counselors and talk over maters pertaining to the ward. Just as sure as you do this, you will always find something to talk about that will be of interest and benefit to the ward. If we do not come up to the expecta-tions of the Presidency of the Church, it is because we fail to some extent. We may not fail as individuals, but we fail collectively. We may not fall as individuals, but we fail collectively. If we all did our duty the Church would be improved and the tithes and offerings would be increased. I understand they have increased; but they have not increased enough yet, because the Saints throughout the Church do not all pay their tithing. We call upon all, whether in the Church or not, to pay their tithing. Some who are to pay their tithing. Some who are not in the Church will do it if you call upon them and ask them. Represent to them that they are living upon the land of Zlon and that this is the principle upon which the land is to be sanctified and its bring forth of its transition. and to bring forth of its strength, and vould find that people who are not in the Church would pay their tithing, and it would be the means of bringing them into the Church, because the Spirit of the Lord would work upon them and He would manifest Himself would see the propriety of joining the Church.

These are questions that have my atention from time to time, and I think they are of importance to the Church You will read it in the Doctrine and evenants that the Lord at some time other was going to raise up a man of other was going to raise up a man like unto Moses to lead the people out of bondage. Well, that man may be President Snow, for aught I know. The Lord seems to be working upon his mind to try and lead His people out of bondage. President Snow is working at it all the time. He wants to get the Church and the people out of bondage. Therefore, I say, the man like unto Moses may be President Snow, for aught I know. I do not know who it is. If it is not President Snow, it will be some man a great deal like him, whom the Lord will raise up in a

I was much delighted with the remarks of Brother Clawson and Brother Lund in regard to Temple work. I can bear testimony that they are true. Lord manifets Himself unto His Saints in the Temples. These manifestations are private. They are not talked abroad, but many of the Latter-day Saints who have entered into these sacred places have had manifestations from God in approval of the work they were doing for their kindred dead. Let us not neglect this important thing, in connection with the other duties that

pertain to our calling. I pray that the Lord may bless the Saints and fill all our hearts with love toward one another; that we may put away our bickerings and our fault-finding, and turn unto the Lord with full purpose of heart, that He may en-dow us richly with His Spirit; that our mission on the earth may be filled up in usefulness, so that when we get through it may be said of us, Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. God bless

TWO FAITHFUL CANINES

A. L. Holter of Helena, Mont., who is largely interested in the cattle and sheep industry in that State, says very little loss from cold or exposure has resulted though last October a cold spell killed several sheep herders in the Great Falls district, one of whom was taking care of Mr. Holter's flocks, relates the Cincinnati Enquirer. At that time two feet of snow covered the range in places, and the thermometer indicated 40 degrees below zero. The herwhile caring for the sheep, and it was three days before his fate was known to his companions. Two shepherd dogs were with him when he died, and one of them stayed with his body, while the other attended to the sheep, just as though the herder had been with him. The dog drove them out on the range in the morning and back again at night, in the merning and back again at high, guarding them from wolves and preventing them from straying off. Neither dog had anything to eat during the three days' vigil, so far as could be ascertained, but the 2,500 sheep fared as well, apparently, as though directed by human agency. someone asked Brother Grant every why he did that, and vocated this idea. I do not know how replied that he wanted to ahether those young men in the spirit of prayer, so that he in every Stake of Zion. Then, follow- by human agency.

OLDEST CITY IN THE WORLD.

quantum municum municum municum municum municum quantum quantu

Interesting Facts About Damascus Which Flourished in the Days of Abraham and is Now One of the Largest Cities in Turkey.

Special Correspondence,

Beirut, Syria, Nov. 26 .- As I mentioned before, Damascus is the oldest city in the world. It is mentioned by Abrahom, whose steward was a certain Ellezer of Damascus; it was conquered by David; it formed part of the dominions of Solomon, but rebelled and had independent kings of its own shortly after; it had many wars with the kingdoms of Judah and Israel; it was taken to them by dream and by vision, until by Assyrians in 732 B. C.; it became subject to Alexander the Great 333 B. C.; in 63 B. C., it came under Roman rule; in 610 A. D. it was conquered by the Persians from the Byzantines; but afterwards regained by the latter, but in 635 A. D., it was taken by the Mohammedans and has been under Mohammedan rule since that time, al-though it has passed through many wars between the different dynastics; and it was at one time the capital of

the Saracen empire. It is still the third largest city in Turkey with a population of about 200.-000, does a very large business, and has the finest bazars and baths I have seen

in Turkey.
This city is 2260 feet above the sea level, a small sprinkling of snow is not unknown in winter, and spring does not commence until March.

The beauties of Damascus are much extolled by the Arabs; and to them, coming from the dreary, sandy wastes of Arabia or the Syrian desert, the sight of this city laying on the desert's edge, with its verdure, the immense orchards the fruits and vegetables of so many kinds, the streams of water for irrigation all over the city, must be bery delightful. The lan-guage of their writers, however, in praise of this city is extreme. They say the city is an earthly reflection of Paradise, where a foretaste of the joys of heaven are attainable, and where many of the beauties of Eden can yet be seen. I quote from one of their writers: "Though old as history itself, hou art fresh as the breath of spring. blooming in their own resebuds, and fragrant as their own orange flower,

O. Damascus, pearl of the east."

And did not Naaman, the leper, thinking with a pardonable pride of the streams of this beautiful city, say to Elisha the prophet. 'Are not Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus better

than all the waters of Israel.' Not having seen any of the rivers of Israel. I am unable to judge, but the river Abana the present Barada, is cer-tainly a very delightful stream, and distributed as it is, as soon as it comes out of the mountains, reminds to some extent of our homes in Utah.

ATTRACTIONS OF DAMASCUS.

One of the attractions here is the Great Mosque, a large portion of which was burnt down a few years ago, and is now in course of re-erection. It is a most magnificent building and compare in size and splendor with many of the renowned edifices in Europe of America. The site is that of a former Christian church, and before very prominent place in the center of the mosque, is the tomb of John the Baptist, (whether it contains his body or only his head, I am unable to find out,) which is held in great veneration by the Mohammedans, as well as Chris-

according to Mohammedan tradition Jesus will judge the world. They also say, in the tower an ass is always kept bridled and saddled awaiting the day of our Savior's coming, and ready for His use and His use only.

Here we saw some places mentioned in New Testament history, "the street called straight," mentioned in Act 9: 11, still a busy street, but only comparatively straight, and not straight in the way an American engineer would plot out a city. We also saw the place where Paul is reputed to have been let down from the wall in a basket (Acts 9: 25); and went into the house of An-nanias (Acts 9: 10), which the Roman Catholics have converted into a chapel. Staying three days in Damascus and

seeing some that were favorably dis-posed to the Gospel, we started out to visit Baalbek. Going up the Anti Lebanan mountains, keeping in sight most of the time of the river Barada, and going as we travelled upward, from the region of the olive and fig to that of the apple; then down the Anti Le-banon into the beautiful elevated valley between the Lebanon and the between the Lebanon and the Anti Lebanon ranges, and now known as the Bekaa (cleft), it being the Cælesyria (hollow Syria)) of ancient authors, and from where we could see Mt. Hermon with snow on its summit. Through this valley the Litany river runs, the Litany breaking its way through the Lebanon chain, and emptying into the Mediterranean near

the town of Sur, the ancient Tyre.

Here in this valley cultivation is better, the grape vines are in regular rows, and are well pruned, the mulberry trees (used for feeding silkworms) are planted in long rows, and have clean cultivation, and in the villages here the way the work is done is a pleasant contrast to the disorderly condition of things we have seen around Turkish and Arab villages for the past two weeks. This is the country of the Drazes and Maronites, and in our ride through the Bekan we met quite a number of men who could speak Eng-lish, being mostly Maronite Christians, who had been to America, and made a little money either working in factories or by peddling, and had returned.

Traveling up this wide valley we reached Baalbek, where, surrounded by small stone or mud houses, are some of the most magnificent ruins in the world.

ORIGIN OF BAALBEK.

The origin of Baalbek, the Baal-god of Joshua, and the Heliopolis, the city of the sun of the Greeks, is lost in remote antiquity, but was once among the most magnificent of the seven cities. It is situated in the valley of the Litany here 3,800 feet above the sea. In the great ruins of the temples, some of the columns sixty feet in height are the great ruins of the temples, some of the columns sixty feet in height are still standing, while others lie scattered over the grounds. These columns stand on a basement about fifty feet above the surrounding plain. Some of the rocks used in the walls of this temple are perhaps the largest ever used for building purposes by man. We could not give the size of the rocks used in the building, of which three are of mammoth proportions, but we did measure one rock in the quarry about a mile away, this rock being ready for removal, but not removed. We found it 71 ft long, 14 ft high and 13 ft wide, and it is estimated to weigh 1,500 tons. These figures will make very little impression as to the immensity of these rocks, with most of us, unless we compare in our minds the size of these single rocks with houses of about the foregoing dimensions.

On Saturday, Nov. 24, leaving Baalbek for Beirut, first on good roads down the wide valley, then crossing the Leaving base of the sales. the wide valley, then crossing the La-banon mountains by a pass about 5,000 feet elevation, then going down to the sea, on a very good road but most of the way too steep for bicycle riding, we tramped along with our wheels. Cu

the slopes to the sea, the scenery is particularly beautiful even at this time of the year. The steep mountain sides have been terraced been an enormous labor, and planted with ines and mulberry or other trees, and n other places there are small groves cedars, the villages are numerous the houses for Turkey fairly built, and the scenery is not only grand and magnificent, but most pleasing to the eye, and the beautiful picture of the slopes of Lebanon above Beirut will long stay in my memory. But traveling most of the way on foot, being footsore and weary, it was after dark when we reached Beirut, one of the principal seaports, and one of the few growing cities of Turkey. THOS, P. PAGE.

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