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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1896. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

DISCOURSE

Delivered at the Utah State Conference, Provo, Sunday, April 19th, 1896, by

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

(Reported by James Jarvis.)

It is a very pleasing sight to behold the numerous cars which continue to and those rolling upon this road this afternoon. I am pleased to see so many assembled at this conference meeting, and I trust that all may enjoy the portion of the good spirit which is essential, that we may be profited by our coming together. I would gladly, if permitted, to devote the remainder of the morning and hours to others who have long been and the brethren feeling that I should not a few words, I do not desire to detain them any more. We have had some excellent meetings before, and I understand that you had excellent meetings here yesterday. I was pleased to hear that the people of the State of Utah turned out to their Saturday conference meetings as I understand they did yesterday. It is a good sign.

Reference was made this morning, in one of the sermons, to the subject of Church discipline. We, as a people, handled it very lightly. I desire to say a few words upon that subject, and I presume I shall touch it very lightly, too. There is something I desire to express upon the results of the Latter-day Saints in relation to Church discipline, and that is that there is nothing in the discipline of the Church which is inflicted by them that is unlikely to make or winners. There is no one who is cut off from or excluded from the Church, or is made to feel that he is unfavorably situated in the Church, or having had his membership in the Church, or having had his membership taken from him, but what we do not endeavor to bring him back, if we can, and we do not endeavor to take the place in his own church within. We will not ask his friend to a letter of standing, I will move to where I please, and shall thinking that where I please I am welcome to decide," that meaning he because manifestations are certainly could not be regarded as a member in good standing in the Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints. Furthermore, it is not doubt to such a thing as that, whether he is only a fair member in the Church or a member in the Church at all. We have a President, the Bishop in the ward in which we move and where we come to worship, if he does not dwell, we are to look upon his actions and his conduct as being in accordance with the laws of the Church, that he may be willing a letter of standing in the Church from the Bishop of the ward where he resides. I think it is wrong for people to come to the people of the world and to stand up to vote. If the men should refuse to do that, for meeting in the Church houses, the Bishop of the ward would be justified in excluding such men from his. He would not be justified in taking the rights and privileges of those among the ward to which he belongs, in order to make them subject to strangers. He would come here, perhaps, with his son, or his daughter, or his wife, or his friend, or his neighbor, or his brother, or his sister, or his father, or his mother, or his cousin, or his uncle, or his aunt, or his nephew, or his niece, or his father-in-law, or his mother-in-law, or his son-in-law, or his daughter-in-law, or his brother-in-law, or his sister-in-law, or his father, or his mother, or his son, or his daughter, or his wife, or his husband, or his friend, or his neighbor, or his brother, or his sister