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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

It has fallen to my lot to address the conference this morning, and while standing before you I earnestly desire the benefit of the faith and prayers of the Latter-day Saints who are here assembled. I rejoice exceedingly in the many blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we enjoy. I rejoice from time to time in mingling among the people in the different Stakes of Zion, and in having the fellowship and the faith and prayers and good feeling of those with whom I associate. I rejoice in the integrity, the faith and the diligence of those who preside in the various Stakes of Zion. I realize that we are all beset with faults and failings and imperfections; but I am convinced that almost without exception those who have the charge of the Saints in the different wards and stakes of Zion are men of God, and their integrity is beyond question, and that if need be they would be ready and willing to lay down their lives for the onward advancement of the kingdom of God. I believe that the Elders of Israel in all the different wards and stakes of Zion earnestly desire to know the mind and will of our Heavenly Father, and are ready and willing to do anything that is within their power to carry it out in their lives. It is this integrity and this desire that I find among the people in mingling with them that gives me joy and satisfaction, and that encourages me in the labors that devolve upon me as a servant of the Lord. I believe that the Latter-day Saints as a people are as united today, that they have as much faith and confidence in the work of God and as much respect for the Priesthood of God in all its various organizations as they have ever had. I do not think that there was ever a time in the history of the Church that the Latter-day Saints were making a more earnest effort to discharge the duties devolving upon them than they are doing at the present time. I believe that there is an increase of faith among the people, and it is being manifested by the increase of good works. I find that there is a disposition on the part of many of the

Presidents of Stakes of Zion to perform all of the duties that devolve upon them and to encourage their people to do the same. I am pleased to find that the disposition that existed in some of the Stakes a short time ago to try and see if it were not possible to use up all the tithings locally, or to get enough of the tithing so that they did not need to call on the Saints for fast day donations—I am pleased, I say, that that disposition is dying out, and that we are becoming really patriotic citizens of the work of God.

The disposition of every Latter-day Saint should be to see the work of God advance, and to do all in his or her power for its advancement, and never to think of doing anything that would retard that work. We should love the work of God above all things else, and we should endeavor to the full extent of the ability that God has given us to accomplish His purposes here on the earth. It is necessary in order to accomplish the purposes of our Heavenly Father that the Presidency of the Church should have means placed in their hands, and every member of the Church of God that loves the work and desires its advancement, should endeavor to be faithful to the extent of his ability in discharging every financial obligation that rests upon him or her. It should be the pride of every Bishop and of every Bishop's counselor, and of the President of every Stake and his counselors that they earnestly and conscientiously pay their tithing; and then it should be their pride that that tithing finds its way into the hands of the President of the Church, and is not consumed in the stake. We are capable of accomplishing this if we will only think so and labor to that end. I realize and appreciate the fact that the Lord could pour out upon us an abundance of the wealth of this world, that He could make us all rich, because the mountains are full of wealth, and He could open up avenues to us that we could all become wealthy; but in doing this we would have no opportunity of showing our faith by our works; we would have no opportunity of developing our manhood and of fitting and preparing ourselves by actual labor to go back and dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father. In the conference of the sisters yesterday afternoon, one remarked that she had sometimes been tried in her feelings because she had not been blessed as much with this world's goods as some others had. Well, I have often remarked to the people that it is ridiculous for us, possessed of the Spirit of the Lord, to estimate by this world's goods the blessings of our Heavenly Father. If we could estimate those blessings by dollars and cents, then has

one Chinaman, by the name of Li Hung Chang, been more abundantly blessed, at least, I think, four times over, than all the Latter-day Saints in these mountains, because I believe one hundred million dollars would about buy us out, and that one Chinaman is reported to be possessed of over four hundred millions of dollars—a dollar for every Chinaman. As I understand the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they were that it would profit no man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul. It is by the faithful discharge of the duties and the obligations that rest upon us in the Church of God that we are developed. It is by the exercise of our mental faculties that we improve upon them; it is by the exercise of our physical organizations that we strengthen those organizations; it is by the cultivation and the exercise of our spirits that we grow in spirituality, that we grow in the testimony of the Gospel, that we grow in ability and strength to accomplish the purposes of our Heavenly Father here upon the earth.

If we examine the plan of life and salvation, if we examine the commandments that are given to us as members of the Church of God, we will find that each and every one of those commandments has been given for the express purpose that we may be benefitted, that we may be educated, that we may be qualified and prepared to go back and dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father. These duties and obligations are calculated to make us Godlike in our dispositions. They are calculated to make Gods of us, and to fit and qualify us that we may become, as it is promised that we can become, joint heirs with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and dwell with Him in the presence of God the Eternal Father throughout all the countless ages of eternity. The object of our being placed upon this earth is that we may work out an exaltation, that we may prepare ourselves to go back and dwell with our Heavenly Father; and our Father, knowing the faults and failings of men, has given us certain commandments to obey, and if we will examine those requirements and the things that devolve upon us we will find that they are all for our individual benefit and advancement. The school of life in which we are placed and the lessons that are given to us by our Father will make of us exactly what He desires, so that we may be prepared to dwell with Him. Our children oftentimes feel to complain because of the duties that we require of them. They would sooner play marbles, or run after a hoop, or jump the rope, or do something else, than perform the labors that we as parents place before them. But in after years they discover