

direction. When we become accustomed to the operations of that Spirit, the very moment we start out in the wrong direction and undertake to do something that is not pleasing in the sight of the Lord, we will feel rebuked by the withdrawal of that Spirit, and when it is withdrawn we feel unhappy and uncomfortable, and we doubt and hesitate. The Latter-day Saints are not led blindly. We are led by the Spirit of the Lord, and we are entitled to know, plainly and distinctly, that every step we take is proper and right; for the Spirit of the Lord will bear testimony concerning this to every faculty of the soul. The withdrawal of that Spirit is a certain indication that we are starting out in the wrong direction—that we have said or done something that is not right; for the Spirit of God is never grieved with anything that is right and proper. It rather increases and warms the heart and the marrow in our bones when we do that which is right. But when we take the opposite course and it withdraws itself from us, there follows a chilly sensation. So that we are placed in a condition where we may positively know whether our course of life is right in the sight of God and such as we can be proud of. This is theunction that is bestowed upon us in answer to our faith in God, our repentance, our baptism and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We are also entitled to know, and we do know, that the Gospel is true. We know that the angel came to the Prophet Joseph and conferred upon him the Aaronic Priesthood. We know that Peter, James and John, the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, did come and lay their hands upon the Prophet Joseph and Oliver Cowdery and conferred upon them the Apostleship, with all the keys and powers of that Priesthood. This we know as we know that we live, and we know that others may know it as we do; and we know too that the light of heaven, the revelation of God, the Holy Ghost, the truth, attend upon the souls of men everywhere, if they will but allow their souls to be open so as to receive the light from heaven. It is given to every man born of woman to have power to believe and do right as well as to do wrong. The Lord has not sent us here and so determined our conditions that we cannot do right. We can do right. That power is within us, and God expects us to exercise it to do His will and to accomplish His purposes. And in addition to that natural power that we enjoy through being the legitimate sons and daughters of God, He has bestowed upon us the gift of the Holy Ghost. He has given to us the Holy Ghost to be our companion, to inspire our hearts, that we shall not be left in doubt, or to wander without some power to guide us safely to eternal life.

These are the privileges and blessings that have come to the Latter-day Saints, and there is no people in the earth that have the independence of spirit that Latter-day Saints have. They must have that independence to be Latter-day Saints, coupled with the help of the Lord. He comes to our aid and gives us strength to comply with His requirements by conferring the Holy Ghost upon us—that same Spirit by which holy men of old wrote and spoke, and their writings were scripture and the truth. And that is the Spirit that will

promote in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints the loyalty that I am speaking of.

Yesterday I listened to reports in Davis Stake. I think they were a little the best reports that I have ever heard in a Stake of Zion. In fact, they were so encouraging that I almost trembled for fear they would not remain as good as they seemed to be at the present time. But I did rejoice exceedingly in listening to the very flattering and promising reports from every corner of Davis Stake. It seemed to me as though the Presidency of that Stake had taken in hand every Bishopric, the High Council, and the presidents of quorums, and every department of the Stake, and had given them careful and personal attention; that they had labored with them and brought them to a spirit of improvement and advancement such as they had not reached before. I felt that I must urge them to continue and to keep the ground that they had gained. When we have gained a little ground by doing well for a while, we should be secure thereon and not lose the advantage thus gained; for every successful step we take helps us to another. We expect to gain by degrees, step by step, until we come into the presence of our Heavenly Father. It takes persistence, determination and constancy for us to succeed in our efforts as Latter-day Saints, and it is important that we should possess these qualities. We should not only be firm enough to stand out against the whole world, but we should have that devotion that will enable us to stand firm to our convictions and to our determination to do the will of God. Our repentance should be genuine, and genuine repentance is eternal repentance. It is not repentance for a man to be a good man for thirty years only. What is repentance? It is to be good always. From the time that a man is convinced of his sins and sees the importance of reformation, his repentance to be genuine must be from that time henceforth and forever. That reformation is not genuine that needs to be reformed every little while; for when a man who has been forgiven returns to his wickedness the former sin comes upon him again, and he becomes like the sow that is washed returning to her wallowing in the mire, or like the dog to his vomit. To have exaltation and eternal life it is important that we should not only commence being Saints, but we should end being Saints. There is no power on earth that can deprive us of this glory only that which is within us. A man's salvation does not depend upon his neighbor or his kindred. The Lord has given to every individual soul power, if he will but exercise it and do the will of the Lord, to earn eternal life; and he has power also to go to destruction if he wants to do so. If a man has power to do wrong, he has power to do good. But we are of the earth earthy, and we are inclined to lean toward the things of the earth. We are rather inclined to take the downhill road. It is difficult to travel uphill. But it is the uphill grade that we undertook to travel when we embraced the Gospel, rising higher, doing better, advancing upward toward our Heavenly Father. The downhill road leads to destruction and to death. But the spirit of loyalty to the Kingdom and the King, and to the principles of salvation that have been revealed, will bring us out successfully at the end. For that reason I would

impress upon the minds of the Latter-day Saints the necessity of cultivating that spirit of loyalty to all that there is around us in our everyday walk of life and to every requirement of the Gospel, that we may make our calling and election sure and be exalted in the presence of our Father. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

### ASIATIC DIPLOMATS.

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THE PRESENT war has increased the importance of our mission to Corea. That country from now on will be the wedge between

Japan, China and Russia, and our minister there will be an important character. There is a large American colony now in Seoul. The Americans are doing most of the mission work of the country, and there are a number of American officials connected with the government. The climate is a good one, and the place is by no means so black as it has been painted. You remember what Gen. Haldeman, the late American minister to Siam, said about it. He was asked whether he wished a re-appointment to Siam, or whether he would not prefer to go to Corea. He replied:

"If I were told that I must go to Siam or to Hades, I would, I suppose, answer that I would go to Siam; but if the command was that I must go to Hades or Corea, I certainly would not choose Corea."

### AN ASIATIC SOFT SNAP.

Gen. Haldeman had evidently not been to Corea. The minister there has a much better position than our minister at Bangkok. He has better quarters, and Corea is one of the countries in which Uncle Sam owns his own house. The king, I think, donated the land, and the home of the American minister is a commodious, one-story building, covering considerable ground, and decidedly comfortable, though I was told that it was slightly unhealthy, and that the secretary of the legation who had last lived in it had nearly died of fever in consequence. This is nothing, however, for a consul or a diplomat, as to which witness the number of consuls who die every administration at Vera Cruz from yellow fever, and the others who are taken off by miasma in other countries of the world. A few repairs would make the legation building in Seoul all right, and our minister has something like five acres inside the brick walls which surround his home. He has a one-story building which forms his office. The king has given him a guard of soldiers, and he has five times as many servants as he ever had in America. When he goes about the city he is "toted" along in a sedan chair by four men, and his officials stand at the gate and are ready to open it whenever he comes into his yard. The place pays \$7,500 a year, and this on a silver basis is equal to \$15,000. There is a reading room, which is kept by missionaries and other foreigners, within a stone's throw