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REMARKS

Made at the Salt Lake Stake Conference,
Salt Lake City, Saturday,
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PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

Brethren and sisters, with the exercise of your faith this afternoon, I would like to say a few words. I have been delighted with the instructions and prophecies of Brother Penrose, which he has just addressed to you. They are all good. His predictions in regard to the results that will come to you in conforming to the instructions he has given you, are true; for the Spirit of the Lord sanctioned and approved them. I do not expect that the Latter-day Saints will remember and put into practice all that he has taught this afternoon. We are somewhat like a little child who has commenced to learn the alphabet. The teacher points to the letter a, and tells the child what it is, and asks him to be sure and remember it. The child looks at it and, at the request of the teacher, tries to pronounce it. Perhaps he is successful. The teacher then turns to the letter b, and asks the child to pronounce that letter. He endeavors to do so, and perhaps he is successful in this. The teacher asks the child to please remember that as well as the letter a, which the child promises to do and thinks it can do quite easily. Then the teacher turns again to the letter a, and asks what it is. Well, the child, in thinking about b, has forgotten a. But the teacher does not become discouraged at all, because he has had experience in these matters. He pronounces the letter again for the child, after which he turns to the letter b, and finds that the child has forgotten that, and the teacher has to pronounce the letter b again. The lesson concluded, the child is dismissed. After a time it is called up again, and the teacher has to go through the same process, as he finds that the child has forgotten what was taught previously. Now, this is a good deal the way with the Latter-day Saints. The very things that Brother Penrose has taught here today you have heard perhaps hundreds of times, and yet it seems to be necessary that these things should be taught us over and over again. Again, it is something like I find in reading the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. Every time I read a revelation in that book I get some new idea, although I may have read that same revelation many and many a time. I presume this is your experience, too; if it is not, it is very different to mine.

Brethren and sisters, the thing you should have in your mind, and which

you should make a motto in your life, is this: Serve God faithfully, and be cheerful. I dislike very much, and I believe people generally do, to see a person with a woe-begone countenance, and to see him mourning as though his circumstances were of the most unpleasant character. There is no pleasure in association with such persons. In the family it is always a good thing for the parent to be cheerful in the presence of his wife and children. And out of that cheerfulness may arise many good gifts. The Lord has not given us the Gospel that we may go around mourning all the days of our lives. He has not introduced this religion for this purpose at all. We came into the world for certain purposes, and those purposes are not of a nature that require much mourning or complaint. Where a person is always complaining and feeling to find fault, the Spirit of the Lord is not very abundant in his heart. If a person wants to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord, let him, when something of a very disagreeable nature comes along, think how worse the circumstance might be, or think of something worse that he has experienced in the past. Always cultivate a spirit of gratitude. It is actually the duty of every Latter-day Saint to cultivate a spirit of gratitude. Gratitude for what? Why, for what has been explained here by Brother Penrose—for the wonderful things that God has done to make us happy, both in this life and in the life to come. The prospects that God has opened up to our view are wonderful and grand; the imagination cannot conceive of them. Come into the Temples and we will show you. Many of you, I presume, have been there, and have heard the marvelous things that God has prepared for those that love Him and continue faithful to the end. There are some individuals that are called out by the Presidency of the Church, through the presidents of Stakes, to receive the greatest and most far-reaching promises ever conferred upon man since the world began. We cannot make any comparison in our feelings with these wonderful prospects that God has opened up to our view in the promises that He has made through His servants unto us.

In the first hymn that was sung this afternoon, there is something said about "All is well! all is well!" That is a grand expression, a beautiful sentiment. We ought to consider it. I would not say that this could be applied to every Latter-day Saint at the present time; but all should be well with us. God has made everything well for the Latter-day Saints. There is nothing the Latter-day Saints can imagine that would afford them happiness that God has not unfolded to us. He has prepared every-

thing for the Latter-day Saints that they could possibly wish or imagine in order to effect their complete happiness throughout the vast eternities. For example, just think of the promises that are made to you in the beautiful and glorious ceremony that is used in the marriage covenant in the Temple. When two Latter-day Saints are united together in marriage, promises are made to them concerning their offspring that reach from eternity to eternity. They are promised that they shall have the power and the right to govern and control and administer salvation and exaltation and glory to their offspring worlds without end. And what offspring they do not have here, undoubtedly there will be opportunities to have them hereafter. What else could man wish? A man and a woman in the other life, having celestial bodies, free from sickness and disease, glorified and beautified beyond description, standing in the midst of their posterity, governing and controlling them, administering life, exaltation and glory, worlds without end! Supposing a person should have the opportunity of reigning over an immense empire on this earth for a hundred years, free from interruption and disturbance, and all should be peace and harmony throughout his dominion for that length of time. A great many men, no doubt, would jump at such an opportunity, and would sacrifice anything they had for it. I do not know how many there are in this Church who would sacrifice their prospects for such a glorious (in the eyes of the world) position. Supposing, further, that the people of this vast empire were given the power to live even a thousand years, and this person should have the privilege of sitting upon the throne and governing and controlling, for a thousand years, a people that would live in harmony with the principles of truth and peace and happiness, and no division or turmoil should exist in that empire till the thousand years had passed away—supposing all this, what is that to the prospects that God has unfolded to the Latter-day Saints—an endless reign over our offspring, from all eternity to all eternity. Now, this is actually what the Lord has promised. It is not anything that man has devised to entertain the imaginations of people; but it is the word of God. Therefore we can determine as to what course we should take and what sacrifices we would make before we would lose these glorious prospects. We also can marvel and wonder that God should have revealed these things to us. Many of us have received the spirit of these promises; to that extent that we undoubtedly feel that we would sacrifice anything and everything rather than lose these beautiful prospects.