

prayers of the Latter-day Saints that are here assembled, of the sisters especially.

This is about as large a congregation of sisters as I have seen lately, and it is good to be here. It is very interesting to listen to the aged mothers in Israel who have spoken this afternoon—Aunt Zina and Bathsheba and Sister Horn—all of whom were acquainted personally with the Prophet Joseph Smith. Those that knew him are becoming very scarce among us now; yet I hear today quite a number, and I presume there are others within the sound of my voice, who knew the Prophet Joseph Smith, were acquainted with him, and received instructions under his own teaching and voice. I was pleased to hear the testimony of Aunt Bathsheba who told us that she was present at the first organization of the Relief Society in Nauvoo. It will be fifty years on the 17th of next March since that took place. A great amount of good has been done by that organization since that time.

As President Richards has been telling us this afternoon, thousands of dollars had been contributed by this Stake, and other Stakes, for the building of the Temples, and perhaps thousands of dollars have been contributed by them in assisting to build our ward meeting houses. Then thousands of dollars probably have been raised and paid towards the clothing of the poor and those that were destitute, although I am happy to say that the Lord has blessed Zion to such an extent that the children of Zion need but little assistance; but the stranger who is coming within our gates, I see, frequently calls for alms; and the Latter-day Saints are in a position to extend to them some help—to feed the hungry, and they do not turn away the hungered from their doors. The Lord has blessed us to this extent; and there are very few of the children of Zion, if any, who lack bread, and few of the people of God but what are in a position to take care of themselves, except the very aged and those that are gathered to this land when God has given to His people from the poor districts of the old world. Many of them have come here destitute and need assistance. And the Saints have been blest with means to assist them. The Relief Societies have gone to their support; and I believe more could be done in this direction by these societies if everywhere in the Church the same union and lively interest were manifested that are exhibited by the societies of this Stake of Zion.

I am very much pleased with the reports that we hear of the societies of this Stake. They are lively and united, and there is no conflict between them and the Presidency of the Stake and the Bishops of the various wards. All are united on friendly terms; and this is as it should be; because there should be no conflict between any of the organizations instituted for the benefit of the young, the aged and the poor, and for the benefit of all; nor between those quorums and organizations and authorities of the Priesthood established in the Church.

The Priesthood stand at the head. They preside over all things. It is the duty of those that bear the Priesthood to look after all the organizations of the Church; not only the organization of

the Priesthood, but also all the organizations instituted for the benefit of the people at large—our Relief Societies, Mutual Improvement Associations, Primaries, and our co-operative associations, and all our organizations that have been devised for the building up of the people of God and the prosperity of truth and righteousness in the land. All of these should receive the supervisory and fatherly care and attention and the deep and abiding interest of the authorities of the Church, whether in the ward or in the general authorities of the Church, because the Priesthood are interested in the welfare of the people of God and the building up and establishment of Zion on the earth. And all these organizations that have been framed, established and ordained of God should look to these presiding authorities and operate in harmony with them; honoring them in their places. And so each honoring the other; the lesser honoring the great, and the greater the less; and thus through all the ramifications of the Church. Thus we pull all together a strong pull, a long pull for the establishment of the Church. I am pleased it is so in this Stake of Zion, and I hope it is so everywhere else in Zion; although I am not prepared to state what is the condition of affairs away from here.

Another item I wish to call attention to that was mentioned by Sister Bathsheba. She was present when the Prophet gave the endowments, and she testified here that there were witnesses to the fact that Joseph Smith did establish these ordinances in the Church; that is to say, that God established them through the Prophet Joseph Smith, and not as many say, through President Young.

God raised up the Prophet Joseph Smith to do the work that he did, and as I said this morning I will repeat again, the Lord Almighty, through Joseph Smith the Prophet, laid the foundation of this work, and upon that foundation President Brigham Young, Presidents John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff have been building, and will continue to build; and those that come after President Woodruff will continue to build upon that foundation. For the Lord showed unto Joseph Smith the plan of the Gospel, the plan of redemption of the human family, the plan of the restoration of the righteousness of God upon the face of the earth, and His purposes from the foundation of the world, and that they should be accomplished in the fullness of times. And President Joseph Smith had good help. The Lord raised up good men to assist him; and although he was harassed by traitors, yet President Brigham Young, John Taylor and others were firm and faithful and stood by the Prophet through thick and thin; and they were helps to the Prophet; they strengthened his hand, and they participated with him in the work of God. And President Young had the good help of those tried and faithful men who remained with him. Heber was true to President Young, as had President Young been to Joseph Smith; and so were others. Brothers Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards, Lorenzo and Erasmus Snow and many others were as true to the Prophet Brigham Young as they had been to the

Prophet Joseph Smith. So his hands were strengthened and upheld by the influence and voice of good men, and the power and wisdom and intelligence of God, to do the work for which the Lord had raised them up. The Lord will raise up men all the time to do His work, and we need not fear that the time will ever come when the Lord will lack men to do His work and accomplish His purposes. God has put forth His hand for the last time to accomplish His work, and do you think He will see it fall or leave it to another people? I do not think He will so long as there are faithful men upon the earth.

There will be some left many years to come, no doubt, that lived in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I remember him myself very well, though I was but a very little boy at that time. The last occasion I remember of him was when he was brought home from Carthage a corpse. I remember him still as I saw him on that day. But just previous to that I remember him with others coming back across the Mississippi river in a boat. I remember them landing near our home; they came into my father's house—the Prophet took me upon his knee and caressed me as a little child. Thus, with the remarks he made at the time I remember well, and shall not forget while memory lasts. The time will come, perhaps, when we will see but very few men or women in this Church who were old enough to understand things in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Then it will be something to say "I saw the Prophet in my youth, in my childhood." It does me good to see one that has seen the Prophet of God, Joseph Smith, the man that the Lord honored with His own presence and the presence of His own Son; the man who knelt before the Father and the Son, whom he beheld in their glory, when the Father pointed to the Son and said, "This is my beloved Son, hear Him."

Is it not something to live in a day when such a man as this lived among men; and is it not something to say that I saw him and heard his voice, or sat upon his knee? I think it is. And yet the great thing is not what we have seen nor what we have heard, nor those with whom we have associated, but the great thing is—He that doeth the will of the Father; he that doeth the things that God has commanded him to do; he shall receive the blessings of God. Many of you never saw the Prophet, never heard his voice, yet you have obeyed the Gospel, and been faithful to the Gospel ever since. This is the great desideratum, and let me say to you, those that have heard the Gospel and obeyed it without seeing, blessed indeed are you. Blessed are those who have seen and believed, but, in one sense, more blessed is he that believes though he hath not seen, and yet has been faithful. How can a man who has seen and heard fail to be faithful? How is it possible for these sisters who are here (one of them a wife of the Prophet Joseph, who was sealed to him in his lifetime)—who were familiar with the Prophet as such and as a man of God, ever deny the faith or turn away from it? What would you think of one who has thus been privileged falling from the Gospel, denying the faith or faltering in the work of God? What would you