

We should prevent our children coming to the use and knowledge of vicious habits, and warn them against them as far as we can. As I said before, they must have enjoyment. We require to have places of recreation. We have the Springs, Saltair, and various other places all around us. We can go there if we will and enjoy healthy and sacred recreation; and we can go there, and let our boys and girls go there, and find mischief and ruin; for Satan visits those places as well as others. Parents should look out for their children. We should cultivate family government, and children should be taught in that love and affection that they will delight to be governed, and will realize that their parents do better for them than they would for themselves. All proper restraints should be thrown around the young people. In this fast age, when lightning and steam and everything that can be thought of is aroused to animation, and when the eye is never satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing, we all need to put on Gospel restraints, and not seek to gratify the eye and the ear only, but seek to gratify the spirit of the Lord, that every time we go out and come in we shall go out and come in strengthened of the Lord, blessed by His providence and able to rejoice in His goodness and mercies. I want the young men and the young women to feel the importance of those principles that are taught to them in their Mutual Improvement Associations and in the holy Gospel; to avoid these vicious habits that confine and bind the soul in bondage, and acquire the liberty to stand above all these things.

Do you ever realize, young men, that you do not know which of you are going to be called to stand before kings and queens some of these times, and the lords and nobles of the earth? They are going to beckon you into their society before long, and when you go there you ought to be the right sort of men, that will know how to stand up in their midst and honor the principles of the Gospel. Did it ever occur to you concerning Daniel and his brethren who were carried away captives into Babylon; how that the king wished to show three or four of these Jewish young men some special favor and he gave orders that they should be fed from the king's table; they should have so much wine at each meal, and so much meats; they should have all the varieties that made himself and his aristocrats look so full and well favored. When these Jewish young men were brought in and the order was given to supply them with all this, what did they say to it? They said to the prince of the eunuchs:

Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat; and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

So the prince indulged them, and they went on with their usual temperate mode of living, without the wine and the other things which were offered, and at the end of the ten days "their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat." Directly the king had a wonderful dream that disturbed him. He awoke and could not tell what the matter was; but

it occurred to him that he had a dream, and he could not remember what the dream was. Well, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Daniel, and he was told to tell the king what had been troubling him—the dream and the interpretation thereof.

Now, it occurs to me that these young men of Israel are going to be called into the King's presence, and be situated where they must stand straight and strong in the Spirit of the Lord our God, living by every word that proceeds from His mouth; to eat and drink those things which the Spirit of the Lord dictates and nothing else, so that He may have a man that He can speak to and make him as He did Daniel, a prophet, seer and revelator, right there in the land of Babylon before that great king. We are going to want some such men. I wonder if there are some of these men standing before me this afternoon, who will be called and invited into the presence of the king and his ministers. And how will you do? Will you become like them? Or, will you hearken to the word of God, and perhaps save the king and the kingdom by the knowledge and revelation of the things you will have to declare unto them? There is a world of importance in these things.

You know how it was with Joseph. He saved all that part of the habitable globe, just because he was God's child and had His favor with him. When he was brought out of prison he could tell the king not only concerning the seven fat kine, but also the seven lean kine, and how to save the nations of the earth and to bring them all into captivity to Egypt; and he did it. Are we raising up young men of that spirit and that stamp, that are going to be filled with the revelations of the Lord Jesus in these trying times? When prosperity overshadows them, will it overcome them? Will it drown their senses and take away their ability for usefulness? The young men should be looking for the time to come when their fathers and mothers may depart, and when responsibility will come upon them. Who is there that is disciplining himself for such service? That is the question for everyone of you young men and you young ladies to be thinking about; for the young ladies would like to be wives of such men.

The fathers, who are grey of hair, bald of head and bowed of form, are looking forward expecting not a great while hence to meet their change. There is a certain class of work for them to do. You want to be looking over your generations carefully and see if they are walking in the ways of the Lord. You want to know if they have got the offices of the Priesthood among them; if they are endeavoring to honor these callings in the Priesthood, and are working righteousness. And if you have any wayward children, that have gone out of the way, do not let them go clear off to destruction and you not see after them. Fasten one end of the rope of your faith to them, so that as far as they may go you will have hold of one end of it. See that you bestow upon the righteous and obedient of your race every blessing that you can before you depart from them; and if there are any that have gone astray, set the brother or relative to try and win them back; and if they are bowed down with shame, and say they cannot look their brethren

and sisters in the face because of their wickedness, tell them to come up to the scratch like men, confess and depart from their sins and their brethren will turn their hearts of love to them and will strengthen and encourage them to obey the precepts of the Gospel and turn to the Lord. For they have got to do it some time. If they do not do it in this life, they will have to do it in the next; and the sooner they get at it the less time they will lose in the business.

The Lord our God is a God that forgives sin. When Israel went far astray He pleaded with them to turn unto Him. "Why will ye die?" What the Lord wants is repentance; that is, to turn away from unrighteousness. Not to say you are sorry because you got caught at it. The thing is for you to catch yourself at it. It is more important to you than to anybody else that you should do this, and repent, and work out your salvation. Let the wayward have the encouraging hand to depart from their evil ways. The Lord is very forgiving, and He will be. He has said, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." If any of you have children that are astray and you do not know what to do with them, get them if you can to repentance, to humility, and to learn that God is their God, and that He wants to be their friend, and you want them to sense it, so that they will draw near unto Him and obtain His blessings renewed upon them. That is what the Lord wants. He does not wish that any should perish, but that all should turn unto Him and live. Look at it in the days of the Apostles. When Peter was teaching the people of his day he got right at repentance. What did he say to those who had crucified the Savior. He said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

This work, as I have said, is wonderful in the eyes of the world, and wonderful in our eyes, above everything else that we know of; and it is going on to greatness, to strength, and to dominion. Men who are in the race for dominion, for authority and for power are men that must walk carefully before the Lord. There is not a man of us standing among the Apostleship but who has been or will be at some time brought to a tight place, where one single act would throw him head and heels out of the Church. So with all the men of God. The Lord disciplined the Prophet Joseph in that way till a flaming angel came before him and commanded him to do certain things or his life would be taken. So has He dealt with the other Elders of the Church that have come along up into places of responsibility. President Young was dealt with, and Brother Heber, and the leading men of Israel right along up have been brought to places where they have had to choose that day which way they would go.

Now, who is the man that will gird himself with the full armor of the Lord, who walks day by day carefully, and eats his bread with singleness of heart, and who is careful to pay his tithing of everything he possesses? The tithing is not yours, it is the Lord's; and if you keep it, you are robbing the Lord that much. It is everyone's privilege to pay tithing. I heard the Prophet Brigham once say that the poor brother that was unfortunate and could not raise his living,