

public opinion, the Church would not have been established and we could not have been in the condition we are now. If public opinion had restrained me, Fulton would never have launched his ship on the Hudson river; Stephenson would never have sought to drive his engine over the road, in the face of the ridicule of the English people; Morse as he pleaded with Congress for an appropriation with which to construct a telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore, would have been restrained and would have faltered in the great mission that God had given him to do. But these men were inspired by the spirit which He dispenses among His children, and in the face of ridicule, in the face of the public, they performed the duty that God assigned them, and the world is made better and purer and higher by their nobility of soul.

If Latter-day Saints are inspired as they should be, there is nothing that will cause them to tremble or to fear the power of man. I have seen weak women, who seemed almost incapable of moving, and yet with the Spirit of God in their souls they have faced the world, their friends and their kindred, have faced what seemed death to them, because they were determined to serve God and keep His commandments. We want in this day men and women of courage who whenever they know what is right will do it, even though they know their lives will be required for the establishment of that which they know to be right. If the people of the Latter-day Saints are possessed of any other spirit than this, they have not got the spirit of the Gospel in their souls. We want to be a race of men and women who have views of our own, who have characters established, who have unflinching faith and unchangeable integrity; men and women, as we already have the reputation of being, who can face a frowning world without any fear of the consequences of the conflict which may ensue. And this does not imply that we should be slaves, in any sense of the word, to the Priesthood of God; for obedience to the Priesthood makes us independent; it gives us intelligence, wisdom, strength both with men and with God.

While I have spoken of the changed conditions that exist today from what they were in the early rise of the Church, do not misunderstand me, my brethren and sisters. I do not mean that we should return to old conditions, except as those conditions will result in our exaltation and blessing. Because the railroad did not cross the plains when the emigrants came to this country, I would not say to the Latter-day Saints, "You should go in ox teams and with handcars from here to Omaha or Council Bluffs." No; be progressive men and women. Seize the truth that God is dispensing among his His children so liberally in this day. Open your minds and your hearts to intelligence; for every item of intelligence and knowledge that mankind has received is the gift of God. He is true Himself, and everything that He gives to us is true, and is intelligence and wisdom. Go on in the path of progress, of wisdom, of learning. Be second to no people upon the face of the earth in the acquirement of the arts and graces of mankind. But above all things, I implore you, as I do myself, to keep burning within our hearts faith in God that

will give us eternal wisdom and eternal riches, and the love of the Gospel that will make us as one great family in the service of God. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

### BY THE PEOPLE.

Believing that it will be of interest to the public to investigate and if necessary criticize the actions of our lawmakers, and perhaps to make suggestions concerning the making of laws, I make bold to ask you to please publish this article in your valuable paper.

First, I may ask: To where are we drifting? Is it into socialism, or are we drifting into anarchism? From observations made by myself and others, it appears to us as if nearly all the laws that are now being passed not only by our own Legislature in Utah, but in the various states of the Union, is class legislation, giving to a small portion of our citizens special rights and privileges over that of the other. I understood, that according to the Constitution of our country all the power granted to the legislative bodies is received directly from the people, and that the people are the ones to be governed by the laws made by our legislators. If so, then the people have a right to have a direct voice in the making of the laws that they must be governed by. Hence they have a right to request or demand that the legislature pass such laws as the masses of the people desire. If they do not do as their constituents request them to do, there should be some way of removing them, or, what is still better, let no bill of importance be enacted and become a law until it has been referred back to the people for their sanction and approval.

I refer to the referendum. This would be a government of the people, for the people and by the people, and in fact this would be a true republican form of government. It may seem at first sight impracticable, but in reality it is not so. Switzerland has this system of law making and it is recognized as the best and most just republican form of government upon the earth. It was advocated by the illustrious and immortal Abraham Lincoln, who said: "You can trust all the people a great deal more than you can trust some of them."

Antipathy between rich and poor, between the classes and masses, was never more intense or irreconcilable than at this moment. Special privileges and unequal opportunities are blotting out fraternal feelings, and in many circles the "brotherhood of man" idea is but a meaningless jest. The passion for gold is the delirium of the age, and its corrupting and polluting touch is visible everywhere. It is making scoundrels of gentlemen. Our churches, universities, perhaps courts and councils, legislatures, etc., furnish evidence of its contaminating and debasing influences. Where will this stop? Apparently it will go on from bad to worse, unless the mass of the people arise in their might and through the polls voice their sentiments, and make a radical reform in our system of law-making and government. Direct legislation is practically the one thing that must be adopted, before any important reform is likely to be made. It is, I

think, the acme of human legislation. For when the people rule absolutely, then tyranny of government will disappear. "Distrust the man or men who distrust the people, is an old saying, but a good one. All reformers can unite on this platform: Democrats, Populists, socialists, prohibitionists, single-taxers, silverites, labor-unionists, farmers'-alliances men; everybody who believe in a government of, for and by the people.

Perhaps I have written too lengthy an article, but I am in earnest, and desire not only the good and freedom of all in our State, but also the freedom of all men. Respectfully,

JUSTICE.

### EMERY STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Emery Stake convened February 9th and 10th, 1896, in the new meeting house at Huntington, which through the tireless labors of the good people of Huntington had been partially finished for the occasion. As usual the local priesthood was well represented, and to the great pleasure of all the Saints, Elders Brigham Young and John W. Taylor were in attendance. After the usual opening exercises at 10 a.m. Elder B. Young made a few opening remarks explaining that in order to gain the most possible good from this conference all should offer up a silent prayer for what they wish to receive. He gave the keynote to most of the instructions given throughout the conference: "Latter-day Saints who are living their religion are never taken unaware." Three Bishops then reported their respective wards; had had much sickness during the last quarter; ward organizations complete, meetings well attended and an increase in the payment of tithes. Elder J. W. Taylor explained that the object of our meeting in conference was to increase the power of the Holy Ghost in our hearts. Referred to the text of the former speakers and roved from the Scriptures that Noah, Joseph in Egypt, Daniel and all the prophets were warned, through the power of the Holy Ghost of the great events that should come upon the world long before they happened. This gift comes direct from God.

2 p. m.—Elder B. Young said we are here to gain individual strength; speaking of education he said he would rather his children were taught the Gospel than all the learning of the world without it; showed the futility of letting children grow up to manhood thinking they would then choose the kind of life they would lead; character is almost established at the age of twenty; teachers teach what they are, hence the necessity of having strictly moral teachers; all young men should learn a trade.

10 a. m., Monday—Price, Orangeville and Castle Dale ward reports were given, showing the saints to be in a fairly prosperous condition. Elder J. W. Taylor then spoke on the fulfillment of prophecies made in our day; contrasted the treatment of the Latter-day Saints today by the world, with that given them before the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple. Zion is beginning to prevail. Elder B. Young testified that the hearts of the people in the world were being soft-