

of her office, and share in the blessings pertaining thereto.

He then confirmed on Emma Smith her former ordination and blessed her to be a mother in Israel, a pattern of virtue and to possess all the qualifications necessary to enable her to preside with dignity and give such instruction, as may be requisite in her calling as an elect lady.

Elder Taylor vacated the chair and President Emma Smith and Counselors took the stand.

A lengthy discussion followed on the question "What shall this society be called?" Mrs. Cleveland and Whitney advocated the appropriateness of the name Relief Society. John Taylor and Joseph Smith, spoke in favor of the word Benevolent. Emma Smith and E. R. Snow argued in favor of Mrs. Cleveland's choice. The gentlemen withdrew their objection and a motion to adopt the name Relief Society was unanimously carried.

President Joseph Smith then said: "I now declare this Society organized, with president and counselors. All who shall hereafter be admitted must be free from censure and admitted by vote. President Joseph Smith laid down a five-dollar gold piece to commence the Relief Society fund, and said: "What I do hereafter for charity I shall do through this Society."

Sarah M. Cleveland gave	\$0.12 1/2
Sarah M. Kimball	1.00
Emma Smith	1.00
Elizabeth Ann Whitney	0.50
Willard Richards	1.00
John Taylor	2.00

President Joseph Smith said: "I will give a city lot, on which the Society can build. Will make the deed to the treasurer."

At the third meeting of the society, March 30th, President Joseph Smith said the members of the society must act in concert, or nothing can be accomplished. To move according to the ancient Priesthood this must be a select society, separate from the evils of the world.

#### SIXTH MEETING, APRIL 28TH.

President Joseph Smith said he was present to speak upon the Priesthood. As his instructions were intended only for members of the society, he wished those not members to withdraw, after which he called attention to the 12th chapter of Corinthians: "Now concerning spiritual gifts, etc." Said the passage which reads "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost" should be translated "No man can know," etc. Continued the reading of the chapter, and gave instructions respecting the different offices and the necessity of every individual acting in the place allotted to him or her, and filling the offices to which they were appointed. Spoke of the disposition of some to consider the lower offices in the Church dishonorable and to look with jealous eyes on the position of others. Said it was the nonsense of the human heart to aspire to positions not appointed of God; that it was better for individuals to magnify their respective callings and wait patiently till God shall say "Come up higher." Said it was talked by members of the society that some were not doing right in laying hands on the sick. If they had common sympathy they would rejoice that the sick could be healed. The

time has not been before when these things could be in their proper order. The Church is not now organized in its proper order, and cannot be until the temple is completed. He referred to the commission given to the ancient Apostles: "Go ye into all the world," etc." No matter who believes, these signs, such as healing the sick, casting out devils, should follow all that believe, whether male or female.

If the sisters have faith to heal the sick, let them do so, and let the good work roll on. It is no sin for anybody to administer to the sick that has faith, or if the sick have faith to be healed by the administration.

Reprieved those that were disposed to find fault, spoke at some length on the difficulties he had had to surmount ever since the organization of the Church, on account of aspiring men; said the same aspiring disposition will be in this society and must be guarded against.

As he had the opportunity he would instruct the society how to act according to the will of God. He did not know that he should have many opportunities of teaching them; they were going to be left to themselves; they would not long have him to instruct them; the Church would not have his instruction long, and the world would not be troubled with him great while; according to his prayer, God had appointed him elsewhere. The congregation was melted to tears.

He exhorted the sisters to sustain with their confidence, their faith and their prayers those whom God had appointed to lead. Said the keys are about to be given to you that you may be able to detect anything false as readily as the Elders. If members of the society become corrupt, you must deal with them; the sympathies of the hearts of the Church have induced them to bear with those that were corrupt, in consequence of which all become contaminated. You must put down iniquity and by your good example provoke the Elders to good works.

If you do right, there is no danger of going too fast; resist evil and there is no danger; neither God, men, angels nor devils can condemn those that resist everything that is evil. As well might the devil seek to dethrone Jehovah as that soul that resists everything that is evil. You are now placed in a situation where you can act according to those sympathies which God has planted in your bosoms. If you live in accord with your privileges angels cannot be restrained from being your associates. Women, if they are pure and innocent, can come into the presence of God. If we would come into the presence of God we must be pure. The devil has great power; his ways are deceptive. Do not be contentious, but let the weight of innocence be felt, which is more mighty than a millstone hung about the neck; meekness, love, purity, these are the things which should magnify us.

Iniquity must be purged out, then the veil will be rent and the blessings of heaven will flow down.

After this instruction you will be more responsible. It is an honor to save yourself; all are responsible for themselves. Then read the thirteenth chapter of Corinthians, "Though I speak with the tongue of men," etc.

Said do not be limited in your views with regard to your neighbors' virtues; do not think yourselves more righteous than others. You must enlarge your souls toward others if you would do like Jesus, and carry your fellow creatures to Abraham's bosom. He had manifested long-suffering and we must do the same. Said "Though one have the spirit of prophecy," etc., though one should become mighty and do great things, overturn mountains and then should turn to eat and drink with the drunken, all former deeds would not save them, but they would go to destruction. As you increase in innocence, virtue and goodness, let your hearts expand, let them be enlarged towards others; you must be long-suffering and bear with the faults and errors of mankind. How precious the souls of men! The Society is to get instruction through the order which God has established, through the medium of those appointed to lead, and I now turn the key to you in the name of God, and this Society shall rejoice, and knowledge and intelligence shall flow down from this time; this is the beginning of better days for you.

When you go home never give a cross word, but let kindness, charity and love crown your works. Do not envy sinner; exercise mercy towards them. \* \* \*

Let your administrations be confined mostly to those around you. As far as knowledge is concerned, it may extend to all the world. But your administrations should be confined to the circle of your acquaintance, and more especially to the members of the Society. Those ordained to lead the Society are authorized to appoint officers as the circumstances shall require.

If any have a matter to reveal let it be in your own tongue. Do not indulge too much in the gift of tongues, or the devil will take advantage.

You may speak in tongues for your comfort. But I lay this down as a rule, that if anything is taught by the gift of tongues, it is not to be received for doctrine.

President Smith then gave instructions respecting women administering to the sick by the laying on of hands, said it was according to revelation; he never was placed in similar circumstances, and never had given the same instruction. At the ninth Relief Society meeting, May 26th, the Prophet read the 14th chapter of Ezekiel, and said the Lord had declared by that Prophet that the people should stand for themselves and depend on no man or men in the state of corruption in the Jewish church, that righteous persons could only deliver their own souls. Applied it to the present condition of the Church of Latter-day Saints. If the people depart from the Lord they must fall; they were depending on the Prophet; hence there was darkness in their midst.

He had two things to recommend to the society. Be guarded in your speech; no organized body can exist without giving heed to this caution. All organized bodies have their peculiar evils, weaknesses and difficulties; the object is to make these not so good, equal with the good, and ever hold the keys of power, which will influence to virtue and goodness.