

you think of a savage, who had never lived in a house, coming among us and without watching the processes of building, without seeking the advice of his more favored fellows, would begin laying one stone upon another without fastening them together with mortar? Why, you would say he is a fool, because he is building a house that is apt to be blown down upon his head. Yet we are in that very same condition as Latter-day Saints. We are inexperienced in many things. We need instruction from God and from His servants, and yet without seeking that instruction we are building houses that the first wind will blow down about our ears. When you do not understand a subject, do not understand a labor that you have got to perform, is it not natural for you to go to those who have information and seek to gain it? This is common in worldly affairs. Should it be less common in spiritual things? If the day ever comes when all the people are prophets, and upon all the people there rests the Spirit of God in its fullness, it will be unnecessary perhaps for you to seek counsel as much as you ought to do now. But I do not believe the day will ever come, in time or in eternity, when we will be from under the supervision and the counsel of persons who are over us—of our Heavenly Father, and our earthly fathers, for that matter, if they live according to the laws of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Closely allied with this principle of seeking counsel is that of obedience; for if we seek counsel only to disregard it, better that we do not seek it, because we rest under great condemnation if we turn aside from the truth after it has been presented to us. The obedience which is required in the Church should be first taught in the home, at the fire-side—obedience of wives to husbands, in righteousness; obedience of children to parents, in righteousness. The inspiration which a father can give, if he lives right, to his wife and his children will prompt them to follow him from love of him rather than from fear of him. There should be a love in the home that will close the woman's mouth against slander, either of her kindred or of her friends; that will never allow her to say a word against the character or the reputation of him who is placed to be her head; that will never allow her to open her mouth in the presence of her children to revile or to speak harshly of their father or against a neighbor improperly. Obedience is discouraged rather than established in many homes through a lack of ordinary wisdom on the part of fathers and mothers. At meal-time they will assail the characters of their brethren and sisters in the presence of those little unrained, untaught minds, sowing seeds of distrust and hatred that all the altar fire of these children will not remove. First, they do this with their fellow Church members; then they do it with each other; and in after years when these seeds have been sown and watered, cultivated and grown to strength, the parents are surprised at the lack of obedience on the part of their sons and daughters, and at their wanderings, their falsehoods and the other evils that afflict the rising generation of this age. Go back to the source of this trouble; go back to the beginning of this evil, and eradicate it, you fathers and mothers. Let your mouths never utter a word of evil against your

fellow-men in the presence of those children for whose training you are responsible. If you cannot speak well of your kindred and your friends, rather keep your mouths closed than to sin yourself and also place sin upon your offspring. Obedience in the family should be cultivated, should be encouraged by every word and act. I am glad to say that there are some young men and women who are just as obedient to their fathers and mothers as the smallest child is. They do not participate in this feeling which is more poetical than just, that the place for the father and mother, the aged ones, is in the chimney corner, and not in the social gatherings of the youth.

You find among the Latter-day Saints a desire on the part of the young to congregate together, and to debar from their associations the aged—their fathers and their mothers. Why is it? Is it because they have evil in their hearts? I trust not. But the suspicion has ground. The happiest parties that I ever remember attending in my childhood are those where our aged brethren and sisters gathered with the young people and gave them leaves from their experience—leaves that inspired faith, narratives that encouraged hope and trust in God. I have heard, and that very recently, young people remark—young people, too, who are of the most faithful parents—that they will not attend such and such a gathering, because the old people are going to be there. Our aged brethren and sisters may not be as polished as some of these intelligent (according to their own ideas) young people who live now; but where did you get your polish? Where did you get your intellectual strength? Where did you get the graces and adornments of which you boast? You got them through the sacrifices of your fathers and mothers, through their efforts in your behalf, and their faithfulness before God, which has drawn down the blessings of heaven upon you as well as upon them. When you go before the Master you may be sure that you will have to give an account of the treatment you have rendered to your fathers and mothers. You will be under their supervision and direction and care, to a certain extent, in that world as you should be here. I admired the remark of one very nice young lady of this city, made only a few weeks ago in talking about her prospects of marriage and whom she intended to select from among her suitors. Says she, "I will not marry any man unless my parents consent to it." "What! not if you love him? not if your whole being seems to be wrapped up in him?" "No," says she, "I will not do it whatever my personal feelings may be; unless my parents consent I shall not marry him." She had acquired confidence in the judgment and in the righteousness of her parents. It spoke volumes for the training she had received in her home, and it bespeaks blessings for her in this life and in eternity.

You teach your children to be obedient and faithful to you, and you will find those children obedient to the Gospel and to the Priesthood of God. There will be no difficulty in controlling them, no trouble bringing them into the line of their duty. They will be ready under all circumstances, to answer the requirements that are made of them. Disobedience is one great cause of the

troubles which we have had in the Church in the past, and it will be the cause of greater trouble in the future unless it is overcome. In the days of Nauvoo, when men were called upon missions, they were not asked as to their circumstances; their names were called and they were expected to go to the nations of the earth to preach the Gospel without warning, and if they did not have money to pay their passage they walked, just as one brother did here a few months ago—started from our city on foot to fill a mission in Europe, with a courage that knew no danger, a faithfulness that could not be overcome. That is the kind of men who established this Church. That is the kind of women—women of faith, who, when their husbands left them without food to last them a single day and without clothing to keep them warm, would still tap their husbands upon the back and tell them to magnify their callings. That is the kind of men and women that laid the foundations of this work, deep and strong—so deep and so strong that they will never be uprooted until the consummation of all things. One Elder who hesitated in the days of Joseph to answer to a call to go upon a mission was told by the Prophet to go or be damned. That was the word to him. No hesitation was allowed. What! was that a threat to his person? No, it was a threat greater than to his person; it was a revelation of what would be the result of his disobedience. He accepted the mission, and performed a faithful one, too. There was no thought of disobedience at that time. Now people are asked as to their condition. It is well enough perhaps that it is so. I do not complain of it. The people are in different circumstances. But I still believe that there should be sufficient faith in the hearts of the people of God that if they are called upon missions and they cannot obtain means to pay their passages, they should answer that call and travel without purse and scrip, trusting in God to provide for their necessities. With such a spirit in the people as this we will find a courageous race growing up in these mountains. Speaking of that, I want to say that I sometimes feel humiliated at the spirit manifested by Elders of this Church, who are afraid to do what is right because of the fear of public opinion. Public opinion is a good thing, because it often restrains the vile and the corrupt from doing things which would injure the community. But every Latter-day Saint should feel like the old Commodore who was told of what the result would be in the public mind concerning the course which he had determined to take. He said, "The public be damned." If we know a thing is right, we should do it regardless of the consequences, trusting in God to bring good out of what sometimes appears to be evil. Do you think if public opinion had controlled the world we would have reached the plane we now occupy? No, we would not, not by any means. The Savior would not have come forth establishing a new order of things among the Jews; Luther would not have risen as he did in the dark ages to call a halt upon the iniquities of the great mother church; Joseph Smith would not have revealed to the world the Gospel that God gave to him. If these men had been governed and controlled by