

dent Young, and the effect their labors have had in teaching this people.

Now we are brought face to face with this question, shall we take these counsels to heart, shall we listen to the voice of God through his servants which we have heard now these 42 years in these valleys, and follow the direction which they have given concerning the people of Zion, or shall we make a new departure? Shall we throw aside all that we have heretofore been taught as the correct course and policy to be adopted in building up the kingdom of God, shall we throw it aside, cast it behind us and adopt some new principles, some new policy and practice concerning the Zion of our God in the earth? This is a question that is forcing itself upon us. I have seen things already which I never believed I would see; I have witnessed conduct I never believed I would witness. I had hoped better things. I have observed a disposition to disregard the counsels of the servants of God, to turn aside from the path that God has marked out, to spurn that authority which He has said shall reign. I have seen a disposition to bend and bow to the wishes of the world, to take to heart and to partly believe as true the accusations and the misrepresentations and the charges that have been made by the enemies of the Kingdom of God against the Kingdom of God and its policy, and against the men whom God has chosen. And today in our midst there is a great amount of falsehood in circulation concerning the truth, concerning the work of God, and concerning the servants of God; and a disposition to believe evil and to misconstrue conduct and counsel and various things of this character.

If this spirit should prevail among the Latter-day Saints it will certainly prove disastrous to those who receive it and afford it a lodgment in their hearts.

I do not think that those who are present today are the ones who are susceptible to this influence—at least very few, if any. Many of those that are absent I am afraid are the ones who ought to be talked to and reasoned with upon this point. The men and women who attend meetings regularly, and who think it important to come here to receive instructions are not the ones, as a rule, who require censuring or reproof; as a general thing they are found in the path of duty and are walking in the ways of the Lord.

One of the speakers at our meeting last evening called your attention to and spoke upon the subject of union. Whenever the Latter-day Saints become divided; whenever you see one Latter-day Saint arrayed against another, you may know that one or both are in the wrong. When they become divided in their interest, when they seek their own aggrandizement, careless about the rights of their fellowmen; whenever you see this spirit prevail, then it betokens trouble among ourselves and we shall lose power. Let me ask you what is it that gives us strength? Are we numerous? Why,

we are but a small handful of people; our opponents outnumber us by millions. Are we wealthy? Our wealth is not to be mentioned in comparison with the wealth that is opposed to us. Are we learned? We do not compare in worldly learning with those who are arrayed against us. In what then does our strength consist? It consists in the union of the people, and their faithfulness in keeping the commandments of God; it consists in our obedience to the counsels of God's servants. Whenever this people shall fellowship a spirit to disregard the counsels of the Priesthood, seeking to accomplish ends by methods that are popular in the world, then they become like other people, and their strength leaves them. Samson, after he disregarded certain commandments to him personally by shaving his head and divulging the secret of his wonderful strength, easily fell a prey to the Philistines. This will be the case with us if we take the course advocated by many so-called Latter-day Saints, and which they think it right to take. I will tell you, and risk my reputation as a prophet upon it, although I don't often talk about being a prophet; I say, I am willing to risk my reputation as a prophet upon this, that the man who takes this course, the family or the community that takes it will become as weak as water, and eventually become part of the world for departing from the way that God, through his servants, has pointed out. Our strength consists not of being part of Babylon, but the very opposite of that. Our strength consists in God; and the fact that this is so has made us a peculiar people. Divest ourselves of this peculiarity and we then become like the rest of the world, no better, no stronger than they are; and we will be overcome by them, for their forces are stronger and greater than ours. Can you not see this? To me, it is as clear as the light that shines. If we are strong at all, we are strong because we are Latter-day Saints. That is the cause of our strength—the strength which God has given unto us through His Gospel. Whenever we depart from that policy we become weak like other men. It is time we understood this; it is time we looked at in its true light. We are going arm in arm with the world, are we? We are going to be like them? Whoever has that spirit will apostatize as sure as God lives, unless he repents. I do not mean by this to say there is any antagonism between us and the world. We have no warfare to wage, none whatever. All we have to do is to be true to our principles. If our enemies conspire against us, let us be true to our God, true to Zion, true to the methods that God has revealed unto us for the building up of His Kingdom, and take the course that will be right and pleasing in the sight of God. I do not mean by this that I wish to put myself in opposition to the laws, or to that which is now the counsel concerning matters. I

want to define my position so you will understand it, that no advantage be taken of it.

God has established His Zion, and He is building it up in the way He has revealed and that He communicates to His servants from time to time.

And let me say to you, my brethren and sisters, any spirit that leads to division among the Latter-day Saints, you may know is not the Spirit of God; you may know it is from beneath; and if it be evil it will bring destruction upon those who indulge in it. We must see eye to eye; we must progress in this direction. It is true our progress in some things is not what it ought to be. We do not progress, for instance, in the proper management of financial matters, and in union as foreshadowed in the revelations of the Lord concerning temporal matters to the extent and with the rapidity that many of us hoped we would see. But nevertheless it is our duty to keep on doing the best we can, striving to come to the unity of the faith in regard to these affairs. The time must come in Zion when a new order of things will be established in regard to temporal matters. We all look forward to it; we all pray for it; we all labor for it—that is, all who have the love of Zion at heart; and we deprecate and deplore everything that would retard us in this direction. The spirit of selfishness appears to be prevalent, the spirit of self-aggrandizement, and we deplore its manifestation. We would like to see the Latter-day Saints receive the counsels of heaven in this respect,—to love their neighbors as themselves. This is the counsel of God, and the burden of the preaching of the Elders of this Church should be to endeavor to get the Latter-day Saints to see the importance of this principle—to be unselfish. God will bless the man who loves his neighbor, who seeks to promote his neighbor's interest. I do not care what his station may be; he may be humble and obscure; whoever he may be, if he seeks to promote his neighbor's interests he will find that God will bless him, and He will do everything for the man that will be good for him. We must cultivate this spirit; we must seek for it, and struggle for it. The spirit of selfishness is in the earth; every man for himself. And this spirit comes into our borders, and we partake of it to a greater or less extent. Nevertheless, the time will come when this will be changed. God will bring it about. He will bring us through circumstances that will make us know the evil of it, and make us see the necessity of cultivating the principle of unselfishness in our midst. Selfishness is our weak point today. The fact that we are organizing after the fashion of the world, and that every man if for himself to a great extent, is our weak point; and to guard against it we should be careful not to permit that spirit to enter into our hearts.

Some of the brethren in the course of their remarks have referred to the subject of tithing. Now, it might