

to be in a prosperous condition. Condensed statistics were also given from reports of the Primary Association, Young Ladies' Improvement Society, Relief Society and the Sunday School general organization.

The Central Committee of Education, as follows, was presented to the Conference: Wilford Woodruff, President, Salt Lake City; Lorenzo Snow, Brigham City; George Q. Cannon, Salt Lake City; Karl G. Maeser, Provo; Willard Young, Salt Lake City; George W. Thatcher, Logan; Amos Howe, Salt Lake City; Anton H. Lund, Ephraim; James Sharp, Salt Lake City.

The vote to sustain the educational committee was unanimous.

#### PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

said: It is very gratifying to me, and I have no doubt it is to all present, to hear the voice of Brother Lyman again in our midst, and to listen to the testimony which he bears. I know it is a great gratification to us, and that it is an equal gratification to the rest of you, to see him once more among us. The instructions which he has given unto us are true, and have been inspired by the Spirit of God.

We have had during this conference many excellent testimonies and instructions which if we can remember and apply in our lives, carry out practically by making these instructions a part of the rules for the conduct of our lives, will be of incalculable benefit to us.

Remarks have been made concerning the effect of persecution upon us, and how that persecution has a tendency to solidify the Saints. This undoubtedly is the case where they are faithful. A great many have made inquiries concerning the probable length of time that we shall have these things to contend with, and have asked, "Have you any idea when this will cease and when we shall be relieved from these afflictions?" Now, I think myself that they are having a very salutary effect upon us. Personally I feel that I have been benefited by that through which I have passed—that it has been of some little service to me in bringing me experience. I have no doubt it has had the same effect upon most of this people, if not all. It is very remarkable the manner in which the Lord controls the conduct of Satan for the good of His people. Satan intends or has intended persecution to destroy the work of God. But instead of that it becomes a means of developing His work. It has the effect of purifying the people; it has the effect of giving them a knowledge concerning the work in which they are engaged. It tests them and develops their character, and gives them opportunities of exhibiting unto the Lord and to their fellow men the kind of characters they are; and it gives them that which is very important in its place—a knowledge concerning themselves. It is most important, indeed, that we should know ourselves, that we should become familiar with the peculiarities of our own natures, that we may see our weaknesses, and so be able

by the help of the Lord to correct them. I therefore feel gratified that the Lord has permitted these things. I do not know what would become of us if we had nothing but prosperity. Suppose Satan did not persecute us—that there was no opposition to us—would we be tested? Would we be the people that we are today if we had no afflictions, no persecutions, no ordeals to endure, no temptations to resist. Certainly not. Prosperity would not develop us. We could not know ourselves, neither could we be known if there were nothing but prosperity for us. But as it is the wrath of man is made to praise God; that which Satan designs as the means of destroying the work of God in the wisdom of our Eternal Father is controlled so as to accomplish His purposes, to test His children, and give them that experience without which they cannot be perfected. Hence we should be able to recognize the hand of God in these afflictions, just as we were told this morning by Bishop Whitney to recognize the hand of God even in the most adverse circumstances that we may be called upon to pass through.

There is one subject that I have felt I should like to allude to before this conference adjourns. It is the disposition which is manifested in many quarters to scatter out. We hear of young men going east, west, north and south, scattering, in fact, all over. We hear that a good many of our young men are leaving this valley, leaving this county, and taking steps to secure for themselves tracts of land in adjoining States and Territories, in places remote from their own homes.

I have felt to ask if this is a wise proceeding under our circumstances? We have been called to gather, not to scatter; we have been called by the Lord to build up Zion—to beautify the waste places of the earth, not to spread out all over creation and become so thin and so weak that there is no strength or power with us. This latter would be bad policy. "But," says one, "if I do not now do this I cannot secure land. The land will all be taken up." Well, suppose it is. If we have land here—and such is the case—we can live here. I notice that people who are not of our faith come into this valley and see numberless opportunities which we do not care anything about, or do not think it worth while to pay any attention to. They take places and beautify and adorn them, and they become a means of wealth in their hands.

There is an abundance of land in the valley for hundreds and thousands of families if we would make use of the facilities which we now have. But somebody wants "the earth and the fulness thereof," and as was remarked to me yesterday, "they want a hog pasture in addition."

This is not wise. We should concentrate ourselves and combine our efforts, and not look to the ends of the earth and see how much is going to waste that we are missing. I am sometimes reminded of an expres-

sion attributed to Brother Parley Pratt. When he came to this valley in the early days he was traveling in Parley's Park—named after him—then a splendid region for grass; and he said to his companion, "What thousands of dollars I am losing." His friend inquired "How?" for he was surprised, knowing as he did that Brother Pratt was not possessed of very much then; we were all poor in those days. "Why," said he, "here are all these acres of grass going to waste, and if I only had a lot of cattle to eat it, what a lot of money I would make."

Well he had not the money because he had not the cattle. Of course he said what I have repeated jocosely; but there are a great many people who seem to have that idea in earnest, and because there are large tracts of land of which they hear in remote valleys they are anxious to strike out and take possession for fear that somebody else will get them. This is not wise. Let us be governed by wisdom in our movements. This is the way to build up Zion. It is not by scattering abroad or attempting to grow faster than our strength. You know how it has been. We have extended our settlements to remote distances in the past, and those settlements have had to be abandoned afterwards through a variety of circumstances. It would therefore be unwise for us to repeat this. It is unnecessary. We can grow fast enough right along here in these valleys which are already occupied, by making use of the facilities within our reach.

I have admired President Woodruff in this respect. He has set the people an example. He came in here with the pioneers and settled on a little farm of twenty acres. That is the extent of his farming land, and he has lived upon it from the time when the pioneers came in—or, rather, from the time he came in afterwards with his family. He has been content with it, and has made a pretty good living there by his industry. Others can do just as well.

When in Utah County I was conversing with one of the brethren there who has a comparatively small area of land, and yet he makes an excellent livelihood by raising small fruits. I asked him, "Is there a market for these?" "A market," he answered, "why, I can sell all I can raise, and if I had ever so many more I could sell fruits of this character. They want them in the East. I send fruits to Denver and other places, and people are constantly asking me for more than I can raise." I do not know how that is; but this was his testimony to me.

There are many ways in which we can make a living without traveling all over the Territory to get hold of large tracts of land. I felt as though I wanted to make these remarks before the conference closed, and of course you must all judge for yourselves as to their correctness. But this is the view I take of the building up of Zion. I do not believe it is a good policy for us at the present time—for our young