IMPORTANCE OF HOME DUTIES.

Discourse delivered at the Salt Lake Stake Conference, in the Salt Lake Assembly Hall, Saturday Afternoon, March

ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH.

Greater Room for Missionary Labor - Care and Discipline of Children an Important Duty - Home Affairs Too Often Slighted - Shielding Influence of the Home Circle - Obligation of the Saints to Look Well to their Children.

meeting with you in conference. This is the first conference since our Stake was divided, and I am glad to see as many present as are here this afternoon; nor have I any reason to complain to you of the non-attendance of our absent brothren and sisters, for I realize that the character of the busi-ness of a great many of the Saints is such that it is extremely difficult for

them to be present upon Saturday.

The changes that have been made in our Stake will undoubtedly give greater opportunity for missionary work in this section of the Lord's vineyard, and I presume that the spirit and feeling of e people will be improved through the efforts that will continue to be made by our presiding authorities looking to our awakening and keeping us in touch with the influence and power of the Spirit of the Lord. The duties that rest upon us are very great. The constant efforts that are necessary to fulfil the responsibilities of the Saints require a faith that knows no slackening. If we are not possessed of that active and determined faith, we shall find ourselves failing to fulfil the duties and responsibilities that are ours. The preaching of the Gospel in the world, the maintenance of our families, and the performing of the variety of duties that attach to every member of the Church ho is willing to work, afford but limited opportunity for idleness, and keep en very largely away from their famllies. It is extremely rare that the opportunity is given to an active Bishopric, or an active Teacher or active members of the various quorums and organizations of the Church to visvery much with their own households and to be in that communion with their children which they would like. Upon mothers, therefore, rests the greater responsibility in this sphere; ind considering the cares and duties that are theirs, I sometimes question whether the heads of families are do-ing right in this direction. I question myself as to whether I am doing my full part in looking after the interests ing of my children; whether in the midst of the multiplied responsities that lead us nearly every evening to a meeting of some kind, we are not permitting our family interests to go uncared for. I am led to think that, on account of the many duties that deupon us we are drifting away from that companionship with our own which we should prudently and thoughtfully maintain. In conversation with some brethren in another section of the Church recently, I was surprised to discover that many men rarely ever spent an evening at home, and seldom have the chance to sit down with their wives and enjoy those plessings of communion and converse which should be maintained in the most sacred manner possible between

I am pleased to have the privilege of | come a matter likely to involve serious

HOME CARES AND DISCIPLINE.

I believe, of course, that we should attend as strictly as possible to the dutles imposed upon us, first among which is securing the necessary means to provide for the households that our heavenly Father has given us. Paul declared, "If any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own, rouse, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." This responsibility is upon us, and each one of us should discharge it to the best of his ability. In the multiplicity of the cares that come upon us in being ordained to the various offices and callings of the holy priesthood, together with the reale requisite to provide for the needs of our families, many of us, I am fearful, are drifting into a species of life, so far as our own are concerned, that is not altogether what it should be. It may be that we lack the skill or the ability to so arrange our affairs and our duties as to render to the household God has given us their proportion in the time and season thereof; and our too frequent absence from their compan-ionship permits some of them perchance to get frem under our influence. The result is, they frequently have to pass through the fire of trial and sorrow before they can be made to realize the direction in which they are going. When we consider the limited time that many watchcare and guidance of our children, we must acknowledge that our heavenly Father has certainly been extremely good to His people, in that hundreds and thousands of their boys and girls have not entirely drifted from the faith and gone to the bad. I trust that as we shall obtain more experience and become better conversant with the work our Father has set us to do, our ministrations in the priesthood shall be so systematically arranged, together with the work necessary to provide for the temporal wants of our households, that more time and thought will be given to the interest and watchcare of the ones made dependent upon us by our Father.

HOME COMPANIONSHIP.

To my mind, this question of the care of our households is an extremely important one. Our sisters, who have portant one. stood the greater portion of the time in the immediate lead of the household, have displayed wonderful tact and ability in holding around them their sons and daughters; but in many instances, could there have been that full and complete companionship that should prevail in the home, and the husband and father discharged his part of the labor connected with the guidance of the dependent ones as fully as he might have done possibly, it would have eased the mother's burden, and resulted perchance in a stronger influence being ex-

have to be put forth to fulfil the duties resting upon us, and I realize it is difficult to change these things; but I do believe that the presiding authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, with their great body of Priesthood, must in the future look more carefully after the spiritual well-being of their families than many of them may have been able to do in the past. The Gospel has to be preached, the organizations of the Church have to be kept up, the visitations among the people and their instruction in the prin-ciples of the Gospel should be maintained by the organizations set apart by our heavenly Father for the performance of this sacred duly; but I cannot believe that it was His design, in the creation of these quorums and organizations, and in imposing upon us obligation of securing the necessities of life, that we should gradually drift away from the performance of the sacred duties in the home circle and the thoughtful and prudent watchcare necessary to the good and wellbeing of our sons and daughters. If the min-istration of the Teachers in the differ-ent wards were carried out as perfectly as it was designed they should be, they whose duties required them to be much from home would have cause to feel that their families were not left altogether without spiritual instruction and guidance. In reflecting upon this matter I have thought that our time is not so well divided as should be. I have heard men say that weeks and months go by and they never sit down of an evening with their families. One duty requires them to-night, another duty tomorrow night; and so on week in and week out. When chance the wife and the children have retired to rest; and when they arise in the morning, all is hurry and bustle for the children to go to school, or for him to his day's labor. Thus step to go to his day's labor. Thus step by step, by reason of the cares and responsibilities resting upon us, we are cut off from being in complete unison and touch with our own households, Our children expect us but little of the time; they hear from us but seldom, and that probably in the way of rebuke for some neglected duty or for not re-sponding to the wishes of their mother; and there is danger of our boys and girls growing altogether out of our companionship, and forming associa-tions of a character that we cannot apove. The home should be the most easant place in the world for them; but sometimes, owing to father being away, and mother not able to give that attention to it that she should like, we find the home not the enjoyable and

SHIELDING INFLUENCE OF THE HOME CIRCLE. I do not know that I can offer any suggestion that would better the efforts that have been made or reach the necessities of my brethren and sisters in connection with this matter; but it seems to me that I am finding it my bounden duty to sit down in my own home circle occasionally, and strive to be in closer communion with my fam-ily, so that the spirit of love and unison may be with us, and that we may main-tain a good understanding with each other. I ask you, brethren and sisters, to reflect upon this. You fathers of families, weigh the circumstances sur-rounding you, and see to it that the spirit of love, kindness and devotion shall be maintained in the home circle so perfect and complete that none shall drift away from that influence. This spirit should be characteristic of the homes of the Latter-day Saints in every place and in every condition, that the faith which God has given us may not die out from the minds of our children, and that their associations and companionships may not be formed along lines that are not in keeping with

companionable place that it should be. The boys go off, the girls scatter; and

sometimes they go in directions that

forebode to them unhappiness and

much will we feel rewarded for our efforts and ministry in life? The effort to guard and guide our own children should be constantly made, and we should seek to impress upon them the Spirit of the Gospel. If as husbands and wives we have that Spirit in our associations, and we are in full unison in our labors, maintaining the spirit of love and kindness in our households as well as outside, it will afford us pleasure and satisfaction; but if our own shall drift away from us, and our sons and daughters are not found in the fold, not devoted to the cause of truth, and not seeking to better the conditions of themselves and their neighbors, we will receive but little satisfaction when our ministrations and labors are done. family treasures are not to be in companionship in the future state, the results of the tolls of life will present but little satisfaction; but if I can enjoy their companionship and the society of the wood who labor for the further-ance of the purposes of God, and listen to their voices in song and praise to God, life and its mission will indeed

have been a satisfaction. NEGLECT NOT OUR OWN. Therefore, my brothers and my sisters. I trust that each one, recognizing the nature of his responsibilities, may so devote his time that his own home will receive its just and proper propertion of watchcare and blessing, and that our labors may not necessitate our censuring too freely the ones with whom we ourselves mingle. I find that, to be away from home for a week or for a month, and then come back and begin to find fault because the boys or the girls have not quite discharged the duties desired of them, makes life rather unpleasant to me and I presume others have had similar experience in this connection. I want to live in the hearts of my children. I would live in their respect, in their love, in their devotion. I believe that all men and women conversant with the Gospel, as well as those in the world who rightly balanced, have joy and satis-faction in the devotion and love of their children, and in the efforts made in their behalf to develop their intelligence and to prepare them for the performance of the responsibilities and duties of life. Reflect, my brethren and sis-ters, upon this question. Are we de-voting to the temporal interests too much time and looking too little after the spiritual well-being of our children? Are we devoting too much time to the wellbeing of our brethren and sisters. and too little to our own household? Or are we devoting too much time and attention to our own households, and neglecting our duty to our brethren and their families? I ask you to weigh this yourselves; look into your homes; weigh the of the lives of your of the lives of your objects and the effect possibilities is produced upon them by your absence and neglect, as well as the results

that come from being too much possibly in their association These are matters that each one of us can reflect upon, and, reflecting upon them, can so apply, I trust, the intelli-gence and knowledge the Good Master has given us that in each field we may be enabled to render to the responsibllities of this temporal life that labor and industry which shall bring the comforts and blessings of life; and in the spiritual affairs and the fulfillment of our duties as presiding authorities or as aids in government in connection with the work of God, we shall give to His people the benefit of our judgment and skill and the wisdom and light which He has bestowed upon us: and having fulfilled our duties in this respect, that we shall be able to guard in sacredness the home circle, so that we and ours may fulfil our part in such a way that our Father in heaven will approve all our acts. I pray that His Spirit may guide us, that wisdom may dictate us, and that judgment and skill may be given us commensurate

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

(Continued from page nineteen.)

However, the truth is being heard by many of the people in this city, and some of them are accepting it.

I sometimes think, "Can it be possible

that I am walking upon ground that the Latter-day Saints first owned? A col-ony of "Mormons" from Sait Lake City, Utah, were the first white people who made their homes in the San Bernardino valley, with the exception of a few white men, who had intermatried with The Latter-day Saints numbered about four hundred families, divided into se tions as they crossed the desert. Capt. Jefferson Hunt was the leader of this colony, having crossed the desert previous to this time. We are rooming with Capt. Jefferson Hun's daughter, Mrs. Harriet Mayfield, who is now 65 years old, and she is very kind to us and to any of the Saints when they call on her. This colony of Latter-day Saints came through southern Utah, and crossed the desert by the most direct route between here and Utah. They arrived here in June, 1851, and camped at Sycamore Grove, in the Cajou Pass. At this time San Bernardino valley was a Spanish ranch or grant owned by the Leegos, covering nine square miles. The "Mor-mons" bought this valley from the Leegos, and from the Sycamore Grove in the Cajou Pass. From there they spread out over the valley and brough under cultivation the rich lands that had been only the home of sheep and They laid out the city of San Bernardino as it is today, with wide, beautiful streets. Large fields of grain were sown by the usual joint-lab tem "as new colonies of Latter-day Saints always do." The council house was erected on the corner of Third and Grafton streets, in which the Saints congregated in those days presided over by the Apostles Amasa M. Lyman and Charles (* Plek The building was de Charles C. Rich. The building was de-moilished in July, 1867, preparatory to the erection of a large brick building. This was one of the old landmarks of the town, having been one of the first buildings erected on the townsite. In 1853 San Bernardino county was created by an act of the legislature, and the town of San Bernardino, which was laid off the some year, was made the county seat. Under "Mormon" industry and thrift it grew rapidly. Gradually gentiles from adjoining counties began to creep into the beautiful valley, and their different tastes and customs be-gan to engender hard feelings. Two parties were created, and their animosity was perpetuated long after the ex-odus of the main body of the Saints to Salt Lake in 1857-58. Impartial people boldly admit that the "Mormon" element was the peaceable and law-abid-ing party, and as long as they remained

good government was maintained.

If any of the Latter-day Saints have friends or relatives in San Bernardino or vicinity, and would like us to call on them we will be pleased to do so if they The work of the Lord is progressing.

The "News" is always welcome.
Your Brother in the Gospel,
W. W. ERCAUBRACK.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

Alberta Stake. Cardston, Alberta, Canada

February 27, 1900. The regular quarterly conference of the Alberta Stake of Zion was held ac-cording to appointment in the Cardston

meeting house, Sunday and Monday, February 25th and 26th, 1900. Elder Charles O. Card presided. Present on the stand were the presidency and leading Elders of the Stake, and Elder Milton D. Hammond of Utah. Sunday, 25th, 11 a. m .- After the open-

The latter reported the organization of named the Kimbali ward; John A.

In the afternoon, after the opening exercises, and administration of the sacrament, the home missionaries, who had been laboring in the Stake the past six months, were honorably released

from their labors, and others appointed for the ensuing six months. Elder C. O. Card then addressed the conference, impressing upon the Saints the necessity of learning the ways of the Lord, and putting the same in prac-tice; of renewing our diligence in filling the requirements made upon us from time to time; in making up the different reports required, especially the tithing, statistical, and charity reports in the

proper time and manner, Elders Milton D. Hammond Thomas Duce followed, speaking of the necessity of properly cultivating the soil, preparing the seeds, and also beautifying our homes, by planting trees making our surroundings of a pleasant nature.

Monday, 26th-In the forenoon Elder James Ferrell reported the progress of the organization of the religion classes of the Stake, giving the history of the origin of those classes, the character of the instructions to be given, and the manner of imparting the same, in order to successfully carry on the work.

The Y. L. M. I. A. and also the Y. M. M. I. A. of the Stake were reported favorably by their representatives, showing a laudable diligence among the

members of those associations, in car-rying on the labors assigned them. In he afternoon the statistical report the Stake was read, showing a total of 2.388 souls, after which instructions were given to those newly arrived in the Stake to present their certhe Stake to present their cer-tificates of recommendation to those in authority where they located, that a correct report might be made from time

to time, as required.

The Relief societies, Primary associations, Seventies, and Elders of the Stake were each reported by their representatives, after which the Elders were more fully organized in different districts throughout the Stake. Ad-dresses were then given by several of the leading Elders upon the importance of training up the youth in the way they should go; the setting of good examples, and guarding the footsteps examples, and guarding the footsteps of those given into our care that they might avoid the evils surrounding them. The weather being unusually mild for the season, the attendance was large, and all were made comfortable in the spacious new meeting house recently erected.
SYLVESTER LOW,

Bear Lake Stake.

The quarterly conference was held at Bloomington on Feb. 24th and 25th. El-der John Henry Smith of the Council of Apostles, and Elder Seymour B. Young of the First Council of Seventies were our welcome visitors.
Saturday, 10 a. m.—The speakers

ere Elder Wm. Budge, Elder Andrus, . M. M. I. missionary; Elders James Poulson, Joshua Jarvis, Horace Nelson, Adam Wilcox, John Roberts, James Brown and Elder John Henry Smith. The spirit of testimony rested upon the speakers in a remarkable degree. In the afternoon the speakers were Elder Eschler, from Switzerland; El-der Harry Rich from the Eastern States; Elder Elijah S. Tremelling from

the Northern States, and Elder Walter Glenn from Boston, who all spoke with that spirit and energy which characterize the Gospel missionary. The reports of their labors and missionary ence were exceedingly interesting. Elder Seymour B. Young occupied the remaining time in an able and eloquent review of early Church history. Sunday, 11 a. m.—After the opening exercises, Elder James H. Hart of the Stake presidency addressed the congregation on the perfect organization

speakable and a desire to continue in the great and glorious work of building Zion. Elder Marvin Allred the truth of the Gospel as to the truth of the Gospel as a through the Prophet Joseph Sn Elder Wm. Budge announced consequence of the visiting behaving an appointment at Mortonisht, and also desiring to v family of Bishop E. N. Austinerty, who has been sorely afflic disease and death, the meetic

disease and death, the mesting be lengthened beyond the usual and the afternoon meeting be dispensed

Elder J. R. Shepherd read the Stake statistical report, after which sented the general authorities Church and Stake authorities whom were sustained by unanimon

Elders Seymour B. Young and John Henry Smith occupied the Their remarks were with intense interest Budge announced the death of abother of Bishop Austin's family, the to take place on the morrow. The kind words and loving of God's servants given du ference will not be forgotten, but will

ear fruit. The delightful music rendered by the choir was much appreciated by all sho attended our conference. THOMAS IRVINGO

Stake Clerk and Recorder. Kanab Stake. Kanab, Kane Co., Utah,

To the Editor:

The regular quarterly conference of Kanab Stake of Zian Kanab, Utah, commencing on morning, March 3, 1900, at 10 Elder Edwin D. org Thos. Chamberlain an ler were in attendance. Ele presiding. A majority Coucil were present, als ham H. Telford, M. I. ders who have recently missions in the world stand. The meetings were tended, the wards of th fairly well represented; on Sunday especially. meeting of the M. I. associate Sunday evening, our Social Hall filled to overflowing. throughout were spirited The singing of the choir was exec The Lord's Spirit was present in abundance. The conference will

the plain yet powerful instructions, and earnest exhortations there given. Respectfully,
HOWARD CHAMBERLAIN,
Assistant Stake Clerk,

abundance. The conference will low be remembered by those present fu

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder Enos A. Meby, of American Falls, Idaho, who was set apart on the 19th of March, 1897, to perform mission. month. His field of labor has been the Michigan conference, and he has performed a good mission there.

Elder Rone Thatcher, of Logan, Cache county, returned home on the lith of this month from a mission to east Kentucky and north Kentucky conferences, for which he was set apart on the 20th of Oct., 1897.

Elder Charles W. Huhl, of Salt Lake City, returned home on the 12th of this month from a mission, for which he was set apart on the 11th of March, 1898, His field of labor has been Wisconsin, and chiefly Milwaukee, where, he says, he has enjoyed his labors very much. There are now twenty Saints in Milwaukee, principally Germans. Brother Huhi had the privilege of baptizing the first six. The prospects for a good work in that city are good.





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