

REMARKS

By President Brigham Young, Bowery, Oct. 5, 1856.

[REPORTED BY GEO. D. WATT.]

I wish the most strict attention of the entire congregation, for if there is walking and talking within and around this bowery, a great many will not be able to hear. And I request those who wish to talk and whisper, to remove so far that they will not disturb the congregation to-day, nor during the conference, as the assembly, undoubtedly, will be very large.

If we could possibly build a bowery, or a tabernacle, that would bring the people so near to us that we would not have to speak so loud, we should certainly do it; but this we cannot do, for by the time that we could build a tabernacle for seating fifteen thousand persons nearer the speaker than are the outskirts of this congregation, the people would have so increased that we should be just as far from our object as now.

I shall require the people to be perfectly still, while they are here and we are trying to speak to them. Let there be no talking, whispering, nor shuffling of feet. It would be beneficial for mothers, who have small children here that will cry, to leave the bowery, if they cannot keep their children still. I make this suggestion, in consequence of what has passed.

I will say, in regard to the sisters who bring children here to make a noise, they have never yet sufficiently thought, nor sufficiently considered their own place in this world, nor the place of others, to know that there is any other person living on the earth but themselves; and they think, when they hear people talk, that it is a noise through a dark veil. I cannot say much for the education, based on good feeling, that such persons have. Were I to describe it in a plain way, I should say that they are people of no breeding, that they were never bred but came up; that is about as good a character as I can afford to give to any mother that will keep a squalling child in a meeting. I have never said to the congregation, look and see who they are, for you may distinguish by your ears, without looking, the mothers that have had good teaching and been brought up in civilized society.

So it is with some men; and to the disgrace of some of our police I will state that in conference times, and when we have unusually large assemblies, they will converse right in the congregation and just on the outside, disturbing the meeting. I would that we had a police that understood good breeding. If the police want to know how to manage to keep order, notwithstanding I have frequently told them, I will now tell them again. Instead of shouting 'silence', go and touch the unruly person.

Were I a policeman I would follow a practice of my father's; it used to be a word and a blow, with him, but the blow came first. I should act upon that plan, when persons are holding caucus meetings in or about our congregations; and if they would not desist, I would rap them hard enough for them to take the hint without my speaking.

I make these remarks because I wish the brethren who will speak to you to-day, the Elders who have lately returned, to be heard. Those who speak in large assemblies understand that they often have to raise their voices, as though they were giving commands to a large army, but we expect our Elders will speak as they have been in the habit of doing. If they can raise their voices above the crying of children and the talking and whispering of the people, so that all can hear, it will be well; but this we cannot expect.

To-morrow our semi-annual conference commences, and I notice that many have come in from a distance. We shall have large congregations during the conference, and we wish perfect order maintained.

I will now give this people the subject and the text for the Elders who may speak to-day and during the conference, it is this, on the 5th day of October, 1856, many of our brethren and sisters are on the plains with hand-carts, and probably many are now 700 miles from this place, and they must be brought here, we must send assistance to them. The text will be, 'to get them here.' I want the brethren who may speak to understand that their text is the people on the plains, and the subject matter for this community is to send for them and bring them in before the winter sets in.

That is my religion; that is the dictation of the Holy Ghost that I possess, it is to save the people. We must bring them in from the plains, and when we get them here we will try to keep the same spirit that we have had, and teach them the way of life and salvation; tell them how they can be saved, and how they can save their friends. This is the salvation I am now seeking for, to save our brethren that would be apt to perish, or suffer extremely, if we do not send them assistance.

I shall call upon the Bishops this day, I shall not wait until to-morrow, nor until next day, for 60 good mule teams and 12 or 15 wagons. I do not want to send oxen, I want good horses and mules. They are in this Territory, and we must have them; also 12 tons of flour and 40 good teamsters, besides those that drive the teams. This is dividing my text into heads; first 40 good young men who know how to drive teams, to take charge of the teams that are now managed by men, women and children, who know nothing about driving them; second, 60 or 65 good spans of mules, or horses, with harness, whipple-trees, neck-yokes, stretchers, lead chains, &c., and thirdly, 24 thousand pounds of flour, which we have on hand.

I will repeat the division; 40 extra teamsters is number one; 60 spans of mules or horses is part of number two; 12 tons of flour, and wagons to take it, is number three; and fourthly, I

will allow the brethren to tell something about their missions, by way of exhortation to wind up with.

I will tell you all that your faith, religion, and profession of religion, will never save one soul of you in the celestial kingdom of our God, unless you carry out just such principles as I am now teaching you. Go and bring in those people now on the plains, and attend strictly to those things which we call temporal, or temporal duties, otherwise your faith will be in vain; the preaching you have heard will be in vain to you, and you will sink to hell, unless you attend to the things we tell you. Any man or woman can reason this out in their own minds, without trouble. The gospel has been already preached to those brethren and sisters now on the plains; they have believed and obeyed it, and are willing to do anything for salvation; they are doing all they can do, and the Lord has done all that is required of him to do, and has given us power to bring them in from the plains and teach them the further things of the kingdom of God, and prepare them to enter into the celestial kingdom of their Father. First and foremost is to secure our own salvation and do right pertaining to ourselves, and then extend the hand of right to save others.

I have given you my text and the subject, and shall give way to the brethren, and request close attention and that there be no noise; for I realize that men who go forth to preach are in the habit of speaking to small congregations, in small halls, where all can hear without much elevation of the voice. This cannot be done here, for we have to shout, and exercise our lungs to the utmost, to make so many people hear.

I am satisfied that the prayer by br. Spencer was not heard by one third of the congregation this morning; a little moving of the feet, a little whispering, the noise occasioned by mothers' trying to keep their children still, a little noise of this kind and a little of that, all tend to break the sound of the speaker's voice, and the people cannot catch his words, and of course are not edified. May the Lord bless us all: Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder Daniel Spencer, Bowery, Sunday morning, Oct. 6, 1856.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

Beloved Saints: I am very happy to come into your presence this morning; it is what I have been anticipating for some time, but I realize far more than I anticipated, and under such circumstances I am truly happy to see so many of you.

I am surprised, and greatly so, to see the improvement that has been made during my absence, and I feel grateful for the degree of faith that is felt and enjoyed by the citizens of this place.

As President Young has laid out the text, I will not make any preliminaries, but very cheerfully respond to the subject matter. It is our brethren and sisters that are yet on the plains, that have been brought from the old countries, under much anxiety, by President Richards, and as you will understand it is a new project to have our good brethren to come out by hand carts.

Many thought it impossible, but the faith that the people had in the words of President Young caused them to come forward, and we now feel convinced that it is the best way of emigrating the Saints to this city.

The Saints received the word from President Richards with glad hearts, as you will perceive by the numbers that have started.

Many of the people that started with plenty of means to come through with teams divided their means to help those that had none, and enrolled themselves as pullers of carts, and such circumstances are common this season; they devoted all to assist the poor, and they have felt cheerful.

In getting up this 'hand-cart' system much exertion and labor have been required, and I may also say that great fatigue and perplexity have been experienced in searching out those that were the most suitable, and to lead their minds aright that they might acknowledge the Prophet of God, and acknowledge God in carrying out an institution that he had established, and they have all felt to contribute, to aid and assist to carry those things into effect, and all the brethren that have been associated with me in carrying out the scheme have labored faithfully in everything which they have been set to do.

Well, now, we feel for those brethren and sisters that are still upon the plains, for we have been with them in the old countries and seen their faith and diligence, and now we feel to plead with you to assist them. There are those of you that came into the valley with teams years ago, and that have had the opportunity of accumulating property. Many of you are not preachers, but you have got the power to help them, you have the opportunity of showing your zeal and love for the truth and for the kingdom which God has established for the benefit of the children of men.

The emigration is late, quite late, but it is useless for me to undertake to explain why it is so. They are late, but the faith of those that have been associated with them is that the God of heaven will control the elements, providing that you, my brethren and sisters, render them that assistance which he has given you ability to do.

The text that we have heard is that we should raise sixty mule teams, and there is no doubt about doing it, if we only make it a matter of to-day; they are the lads that will come forward now; it is not that portion of the community that wait until to-morrow; the Lord does not honor such persons, he wants

his people to turn out on the suggestion of the moment, and if you will do this, you will see your brethren come in rejoicing, and the severity of the elements will be kept back according to the promises made to them by the servants of God.

You must recollect this is a great work which they are performing, and they have done this to honor our Prophet and to carry out his designs. Here are many of you who have spent 10 or 15 years in the church and you have the means to assist them, and this is the duty now required at your hands.

They were told when they came into Iowa that they could not go through; the people there tried to persuade them that it was impossible to carry out such an experiment, but they believed our words.

Many of them are old members of 12 or 15 years standing in the church. They landed in Iowa without tents or anything to shelter them from the storm, and the most severe storm came upon them the first night and wet everything they possessed, and many thought they were going to be ruined, for all their clothing was thoroughly saturated, and quite a number of them were afflicted with the rheumatics and other diseases, but we told them it would not be so, we told them they should be blest, and that the disease should not continue upon them, but that they should be healed.

The next day many of them said they were much better, and the second day they said they were quite well, and as I passed them on the plains they said they were entirely free from disease. God had honored the words of his Prophet, and he had honored our words through their obedience.

This is the class of people that are coming up to Zion by hand-carts; they will honor God and those whom he sends amongst them, and these are the people you are called upon to assist. Don't you believe that it will please God for you to do this? Yes, brethren and sisters, be assured that it will please the Almighty for you to comply with this call and to aid and assist those that have rendered obedience to his servants, they will be blest and you will be blest who may assist them. I feel happy in talking about them and have from the commencement, and though many have raised objections to the scheme, still I have always felt blest in advocating and defending it, and so has every one who has taken this course, and you, my brethren and sisters, will be blest provided that you respond to this call; you shall be blest, I feel that God is waiting to bless you, for this is his work, and he will bless all who defend and help to carry it out.

I make short speeches, as I formerly did, and there are many other brethren who have just arrived in your midst and you want to hear them speak, and I do likewise; therefore I will not dwell longer upon this subject, but simply admonish you to do all you can to help in those poor brethren and sisters who are out upon the plains.

We are permitted to make some remarks upon our missions, and I feel glad for this privilege, for the Lord God has blest me during my absence from the home of the Saints, and I rejoice that I have been permitted to go out into the world and help in the work of God, and I feel happy and come home rejoicing to find that I have been able to contribute to the comforts and happiness of mankind.

I have been among the English Saints; I have traveled in Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and some little in France, Denmark and Sweden. I have visited almost all the conferences in England and have formed acquaintance with the brethren in all the European missions.

I have a knowledge of the Saints and I am happy to say they are in good condition, and enjoy a good deal of the faith that you do here, and the faithfulness of the elders has done them great credit, and it was remarked of one place by Elders Pratt and Benson, on their arrival there, that it was a second Zion.

And where br. Wheelock has been laboring a great work has been accomplished, and great credit is due to him for his indefatigable exertions to build up and comfort the Saints. He has labored a great deal in Birmingham and that vicinity, and a great work has there been accomplished.

I have the same to say of all the brethren that I have been associated with, especially the brs. Richards, they are choice men, and I feel that I have been associated with great and wise men. The success that has attended their labors has been in consequence of their rendering obedience to the instructions they receive from here.

It has been our method and practise to attend to the instructions sent to us from this place, and many of the brethren and sisters who are coming in are our fruits; you see them coming in by thousands, and it is in consequence of their having received the instructions sent from here, and they glory and rejoice in that instruction because it works out their deliverance. We have been prepared to carry out all the instructions sent us without asking any questions.

Great honor is due to the English as well as the American elders that have been laboring with us; men that have had no opportunity of developing their talents previously, have come up like giants and borne testimony of what they know, and their testimony has had a powerful effect upon the minds of those who have heard them in different parts of the earth, not only those that have rendered obedience to the gospel, but also upon others, and they have acted like men of God, and I here say that it makes me happy to labor with such men, and I feel blest in their society, and we shall all be blest in such society, for their only desire has been to build up the kingdom of God and they have done so, and they have now come back, the greater portion of them; I believe there

are two or three yet remaining behind that went out four years ago and of the mission that went out with br. Franklin, and there are some here of that number that have done themselves great honor while engaged in the European mission.

During my absence my mind has occasionally been here, but I have not had it drawn back too much so as to neglect my business. I have had my mind on the business of that mission, and I have trusted my family in the hands of the Lord and those that were in this land, for I believed the Lord would preserve them and on my return I found it so.

Brethren and sisters, my blessing is with you, and I say may God bless you all: Amen.

DISCOURSE

By Elder Franklin D. Richards, Bowery, Sunday Morning, Oct. 5, 1856.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

My brethren and sisters in the Lord, I rejoice exceedingly in being permitted to go to the nations of the earth to engage in the discharge of duties laid upon me and get back in safety to your midst. To see how you have increased in numbers, and how you have extended abroad, truly indicates that the work of the Lord is onward here and it is onward too in the old countries, where the gospel has been preached with success.

I cannot take the time now to rehearse the varied circumstances and incidents of my mission, for the main thing before us now is to help in the brethren who are on the plains. The subject of immigration by hand-carts is one that will do to talk about; I have learned that by experience in the little I have had to do with them; it will also do to pray about, and it does a great deal better to lay hold of and work at it; and we find it to work admirably.

We have not had much preaching to do to the people in the old countries, to get them started out with hand-carts. There were fifteen or twenty thousand waiting for the next year to roll around, that they may be brought out by the arrangements of the P. E. F. company. Those who had any objections to this mode of traveling we wanted to wait, and see if the experiment would work well.

The subject is popular in those countries, and the hardest part of my talking was to find the means to bring out the many that were urgently teasing me to let them come. When the first hand-cart company came in it was a soul stirring time; banners were flying, bands of music played, and the citizens turned out almost en masse to greet them. But they will yet come with hand-carts by thousands, and when they get here they will be most likely to enjoy 'Mormonism'.

This time we have not been preaching them easy and smooth things, for we had heard of the hard times you have had in the valleys, and we have invited them to come and share with you; and we have given them to understand that in coming here they came to work out their salvation.

The Saints that are now upon the plains, about one thousand with hand-carts, feel that it is late in the season, and they expect to get cold fingers and toes. But they have this faith and confidence towards God that he will overrule the storms that may come in the season thereof and turn them away, that their path may be freed from suffering more than they can bear.

They have confidence to believe that this will be an open fall; and I tell you brethren and sisters, that every time we get to talking about the hand-carts in England, and on the way, we could not talk long without prophesying about them. On ship-board, at the points of outfit, and on the plains, every time we spoke we felt to prophecy good concerning them. We started off the rear company from Florence about the first of September, and the gentiles came around with their sympathy, and their nonsense, trying to decoy away the sisters, telling them that it was too late in the season, that the journey would be too much for their constitutions, and if they would wait until next year, themselves would be going to California, and would take them along more comfortably.

When we had a meeting at Florence, we called upon the saints to express their faith to the people, and requested to know of them, even if they knew that they should be swallowed up in storms, whether they would stop or turn back. They voted, with loud acclamations, that they would go on. Such confidence and joyful performance of so arduous labors to accomplish their gathering will bring the choice blessings of God upon them.

I would like to say a word to the sisters here, for they have a tremendous influence sometimes. Let me say to some of those that came out in the earlier years of our settlement in these valleys, you thought the journey quite long enough, and that if it had been a week, a fortnight or a month longer, you did not know how you could have endured it. Many of you came in wagons, bringing the comforts of life with you in abundance.

Sisters think of those fatiguing times, and stir up your good men in behalf of those who are footing it, and pulling hand-carts 13,000 miles, instead of riding 1000 as you did. The aged, the infirm and bowed down, and those who have been lame from their birth, are coming along upon their crutches; and they think it is a good job if they can walk the most of the way through the day, and avoid riding all they can.

Indeed persons of nearly all ages and conditions are coming. There are also delicate ladies, those who have been brought up tenderly from their youth, and used to going to school and teaching school, playing music, &c.; but when they received the gospel they had to