

that will deceive them? We see oftentimes our dealers who claim good standing amongst us offering these things in the most attractive and alluring manner possible. Their advertising devices are in many instances calculated to lead on those who have never yet contracted the habit and to confirm those who have adopted it; and even the newspapers of our day, local and general, fill their advertising columns with recommendations, telling you where you may find the best brands of tobacco, what houses sell the best liquors for family and table use, and where you can get drunk for the least money.

I only speak of this because of the effect produced among the children. I have a great deal to do with these children, and if I could take you into my confidence and tell you of the fathers and mothers of the young Latter-day Saints that have come to me, in the capacity of students, concerning the heart burnings that I have witnessed and the tears that I have seen fall from those who have told me that if only their fathers and mothers had warned them against these weaknesses they would not have come to me bound in chains from which it required more than human effort to escape. I do not believe I say too much—if I do there are those here who can temper what I say and correct my words—when I declare that these sins will be upon the heads of the parents if they will persist, by means direct or indirect, in leading their children on to sin in this manner and to adopt these enervating, soul-destroying habits with which they stand scarcely a chance in the fierce competition that is growing every year fiercer and stronger in this world of ours. We have heard oftentimes much misrepresentation of the so-called principles of evolution; but there is this principle of evolution which I believe is declared as much by the words of God, through revelation as by the words of nature—the *fittest will as a rule survive*. When disaster and pestilence stalk through your town, although there may be some who are permitted by the Lord to fall because of wise purpose of His and not because of any weakness of their own or any sins of their parents, depend upon it if He does not stretch forth His arm of miracle, the weak and the sick and those whose bodies are predisposed to disease are the ones that will fail. During the terrible cholera scourge in Tiflis a few years ago an English observer who was sent there to take notes of that fearful pestilence and to report home, sent across the wires these terrible words: In the town of Tiflis alone thousands had gone to their graves during the last week, and amongst them every intemperate man had fallen, not one remains. I want to repeat a statement referred to a minute ago that this stimulant of the appetite, this desire for narcotizing effects, once established in the system is like a monster that has been let loose that will require all the skill and the physical strength of manhood, assisted by the power of God, to subdue. When once let loose you know not what it will do, and the boy that begins with a cigarette will perhaps end in the opium joint, ruined in body, in mind and in soul by that for which there is no excuse in the first using. The testimony of college presidents and other officers of our great institutions of

learning throughout the country is unanimous in declaring that as a rule they scarcely can find a man using tobacco standing near the head of his class. Our great philosopher Franklin, in answer to a question as to what was his opinion concerning tobacco, said he had never used it much and he could not speak from an extended experience, but he did not believe it could be good because he had never found an honest man who had used it and would recommend a true friend of his to adopt the habit.

My brethren and sisters, let the children learn of this in their homes and in that school of the family that never can be dispensed with, though you were to establish your public schools on every block; put them right at your doors, multiply them till they be numbered by the hundred where now you can count but the tens, they can not take the place of that family school without which your children can never be properly trained. In that family school see that you do not annul the efforts that are being made in the public schools by the teachers of your children to instruct them in these things that tend to their physical and their intellectual as well as to their moral development. When I hear people denouncing these things and at the same time directly or indirectly countenancing them, I am reminded of the liquor dealer who was converted through the efforts of some temperance advocates that came into his town. Next day an advertisement appeared in the paper announcing that he had learned of the error in his ways and had determined to desert the business and to reform, and then he gave a list of all the choice wines and liquors that he had on hand and announced that to clear out his stock he would sell them at half price for a week, "come one, come all."

I believe that these physical weaknesses and these intellectual weaknesses are very closely associated. Although none can doubt that sometimes God for His wise purposes has placed one of His master minds in a misshapen and weakened body; though He has permitted some of His choicest spirits, for reasons that man with all his philosophy cannot fathom, to be clothed in a body far from perfect; yet I do not believe there is a single instance on earth of a body originally strong that has become weakened by a violation of the laws of health in which there resides a normal and a healthful mind. These physical weaknesses that we bring upon ourselves are steps towards insanity, and a great many of the inmates of our insane asylums are those who have been led on from one depraving habit to another, because of this unmanageable stimulant taste and appetite that has been planted within them while perhaps they were children.

I do not know whether the Latter-day Saint fathers and mothers know how extensive is this practice amongst their children. I made it a rule a few years ago to go out at night upon the streets and wander about, and whenever I saw a little knot of boys or young men gathering I watched them from a distance and then mingled with them and talked with them, and I came to the conclusion that at that time in the town in which I lived, nearly three-fourths of the boys under sixteen years of age were addicted to the use of tobacco. And do you know what that carries with it? The

love for unholy associations. The tobacco users among the boys are in many instances the profane boys, the boys who have no love for home nor for anything that is good. If I find a boy whose delight it is to use tobacco or who has become addicted to any other of these destructive habits I do not need to ask much about his home life, much about his moral nature. I believe with the great Ruskin that if you can find out what a person's tastes are you know what his religion is and you will know just about what his spiritual status is.

But these physiological and these intellectual objections are to a very great extent but stepping-stones to the great objection that can be urged from a moral standpoint. I am not prepared to say that every man who smokes is a criminal, but I am prepared to say that every boy who smokes is more likely to become a criminal than he would be if he did not smoke. We only need to look at a smoker when in the company of others to see in the first place how every feeling of regard for his fellows is stamped out by that terrible habit. Selfishness is cultivated, and with selfishness come a host of weaknesses and a horde of minor and major sins. The unselfish man cannot sin as can the one who puts himself before all others. These children's bodies are like a vessel upon the potter's wheel, of plastic clay, taking every impression and mark of his finger, the shape of his nail, the imprint of a pattern that is laid upon it. He can shape it and change it as he will. But if it has been put in the fire and hardened and stamped, every mark and imperfection will be there, and it will require a miracle to alter it, to cause the flaws to disappear. The day is speedily coming when these children will be beyond your power to control. These vessels will have been hardened and will have taken the form that they will hold through life, stamped with honor or stamped with shame.

I look upon it as a very significant thing, though I care not to refer to special advertisements or particular companies, that the people who are advertising the sale of cigarettes have taken this very time and occasion, when people are gathered here from other places by the thousands, to advertise their wares. Not content with that, they have turned one of the greatest inventions of modern times the powerful electric search light into a recommendation for the use of that which the Lord has declared to be an abomination and a curse among a people. I want simply to ask you to beware of these things. Work with those to whom you are entrusting your children. I believe there should be a closer association between the teachers and the parents. I have often felt to cry shame to the parent who allows the teacher to wholly take the place of a parent. Work with your teachers, assist them by your counsel, by your example and precepts at home, by your admonitions to your children. See to it that while they are young and plastic they are properly shaped, that they may become vessels fit to be used in the service of our God. This is to me an all important subject. I trust it will appeal to every one, for remember that we are answerable to the Lord for these spirits that have come to us, and when we stand before the bar of God to answer for the deeds that we have done and to receive the reward or