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REMARKS

Made in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday afternoon, September 18th, 1898.

PRESIDENT LORENZO SNOW.

Brethren and sisters, I was delighted in listening to the first hymn sung by the choir today in these services. To me the words are full of significance and promise. They are verily true and were indited by the spirit of truth. The writer's name is Kelly. It does not matter whether he was one of our people or not. The spirit of truth is the same wherever it is manifested. I will read two verses, so that those who did not distinguish the words in the singing, may understand what they are:

Every human tie may perish.

Friend to friend unfaithful prove,
Mothers cease their own to cherish,
Heaven and earth at last remove;

But no changes
Can attend Jehovah's love.

In the furnace God may prove thee,
Thence to bring thee forth more bright,

But can never cease to love thee—
Thou art precious in his sight;

God is with thee;
Thou shalt triumph in his might.

This is very encouraging to the Latter-day Saints. It gives the assurance that the love of God can never change towards them. They may be afflicted and pass through numerous trials of a severe character, but these will prove blessings in disguise and bring them out brighter and better than they were before. The people of God are precious in His sight; His love for them will always endure, and in His might and strength and affection, they will triumph and be brought off more than conquerors. They are His children, made in His image and destined through obedience to His laws to become like unto Him. The Apostle John in his First Epistle, III: 2, says: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is; and every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as He is pure." This is a glorious promise. When He appears we are to be like Him in every respect. We shall see him just as he is. He is a pure being, and we must become pure also, in order to be made like unto Him. Jesus when on earth said to His disciples: "Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." This is what we should all strive after. There is no necessity for Latter-day Saints to worry over the things of this world. They will all pass away. Our hearts should be set on things above; to strive after that perfection which was in Christ Jesus, who was perfectly obedient in all things unto the Father, and so obtained His great exaltation and became a pattern unto His

brethren. Why should we fret and worry over these temporal things when our destiny is so grand and glorious? If we will cleave unto the Lord, keep His commandments, pattern after His perfections and reach out unto the eternal realities of His heavenly kingdom, all will be well with us and we shall triumph and obtain the victory in the end.

It is a matter of great rejoicing and satisfaction to me to behold the unity and brotherly love and perfect oneness of feeling existing with the Twelve and which was manifested a few days ago when they met in council and the First Presidency of the Church was reorganized. Every one of the Apostles expressed himself on that occasion, and they were perfectly agreed; the Spirit of the Lord rested upon them and prompted them in that which was done. It was not expected when they met on that occasion that this result would be accomplished. But the conditions and circumstances surrounding the Church rendered it necessary that something should be done in order that its affairs might be properly conducted, and when it was proposed that the First Presidency should at once be appointed, every one who was present was inspired by the same spirit and it was unanimously decided that this was the right thing to do. We all felt that this was the will of the Lord. There was no dissenting voice. When sustained by my brethren, the Apostles, as President of the Church, I selected as my counselors Presidents George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith and they were unanimously accepted and sustained by the Twelve.

I can assure you, my brethren and sisters, that it made me feel very humble. I realize the responsibility that rests upon me and my brethren of the First Presidency, but I know that the blessings of the Lord have attended me in the past in the discharge of duties placed upon my shoulders, and I feel assured that the Saints will support us in this position with their faith and their prayers and that the spirit of our calling will rest upon us and make us adequate to every task. I know that the same spirit which I feel also actuates President Geo. Q. Cannon and President Jos. F. Smith, and that if you will be as faithful and united as the First Presidency and Twelve are faithful and united, and will follow us as we follow Christ, all will be well with you. We are determined to perform our duty and to serve the Lord and labor for the benefit of His people and the accomplishment of His work. We are your servants in the Lord and desire your welfare and the welfare of all mankind.

The Lord has not chosen the great and learned of the world to perform His work on the earth. It is not those who have been trained and educated in the colleges and seminaries of learning, but humble men devoted to his cause whom He has chosen to take charge of the affairs of His Church, men who are willing to be led and guided by the Holy Spirit, and who will

of necessity give the glory unto Him, knowing that of themselves they can do nothing. I can assure you, brethren and sisters, that I had no ambition to assume the responsibility which now rests upon me. If I could have escaped it honorably I should never have been found in my present position. I have never asked for it, nor have I ever asked the assistance of any of my brethren that I might attain to this position, but the Lord revealed to me and to my brethren that this was His will, and I have no disposition to shirk any responsibility nor to decline to occupy any position that the Lord requires me to fill. I have tried to serve Him, to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh and to bring myself with every power and faculty of my nature into complete subservience to His will, so that I might eventually reach the highest glory which it is possible for man to attain.

That exalted position was made manifest to me at a very early day. I had a direct revelation of this. It was most perfect and complete. If there ever was a thing revealed to man perfectly, clearly, so that there could be no doubt or dubiety, this was revealed to me, and it came in these words: "As man now is, God once was; as God now is, man may be." This may appear to some minds as something very strange and remarkable, but it is in perfect harmony with the teachings of Jesus Christ and with His promises. He said: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am sat down with my Father in His throne." (Rev. 3: 21.) The Apostle Paul also taught in this wise: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2: 5-8.) This is the high destiny of the sons of God, they who overcome, who are obedient to His commandments, who purify themselves even as he is pure. They are to become like Him; they will see Him as He is; they will behold His face and reign with Him in His glory, becoming like unto Him in every particular.

Well, now, brethren and sisters, God has set up His Church and Kingdom on the earth for the benefit and blessing of the human family, to guide them in the way of truth, to prepare them for exaltation in His presence and for His glorious coming and kingdom on the earth. His purposes will be accomplished in spite of all the opposition which may be brought against them by wicked men and the powers of darkness. Everything that stands in the way of this work will be removed. Nothing will be able to withstand His power, but everything that He has decreed will be fully and perfectly ac-