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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I have been very much interested in the remarks which have been made this morning and this afternoon, and have been greatly pleased to hear such good reports concerning the Stake, and the wards which have been represented. It is very gratifying to hear of the condition of the Saints and of their disposition to perform their duties as members of the Church. We have had instruction given to us concerning seeking the Spirit of the Lord and having it to be with us. It is a cause of constant surprise to those who pay attention to the subject, that the Latter-day Saints are so united. It has been one of the great objections urged against us at times, and has caused people to fear us. They have looked upon the union of the people and their willingness to be governed as almost a menace to the rest of the world, and have thought there was something very wrong in the influence that has been exercised and in the people being willing to be governed by the counsel of the leading men, because this is so contrary to the usual practice in the world. It is very uncommon to find a large body of people so united and so willing to listen to the counsels and advice of their leading men; and, as I have said, it is looked upon by many as something dangerous, and many evils are supposed to result from such a combination. They forget, or, at least, if they do not forget, they do not understand that if the people had evil designs and if the leading men were actuated by improper motives, that union would be impossible. The union of the Latter-day Saints is only possible through doing right. We would not be united if we had wrong objects in view or were prompted by wrong motives. But the world do not believe that. I repeat, however, that the only cause of the union of this people is the disposition to do right and to keep the commandments of God; and if the leading men of this Church had wrong objects in view and sought to accomplish them, their influence with the people would cease. So that really the union of the Latter-day Saints is not a menace; it is not to be feared; we can do no harm to mankind by this union. We are not bound together by improper ties, nor combined for any evil purpose. A people scattered as widely as the Latter-day Saints are, and occupying such an extent of country, could not be held together by evil bonds. It would be an

impossibility for a few men, living, say, in Salt Lake City, to control two or three hundred thousand people and keep them united by the means that men ordinarily use for that purpose. Therefore, as I say, if men understood the nature of the tie that binds the Latter-day Saints together, they would see that the union of the people is only possible under one condition, and that is, upon the principle of righteousness. No man can have influence among this people to any extent who is a wicked man, or who has wicked ends in view. Of course, we are all fallible; we are human beings, subject to all the frailties of humanity; but there must be a disposition among the leading men to keep the commandments of God and to teach righteous principles, or they could not succeed in holding this people together.

It is of the utmost importance that we should be united. If we are not united, we are not the Lord's. The Lord has commanded us to be united, and He has placed the means of union within our reach. Every unit of which this whole body is composed has access to the means of union; and when every unit avails itself of the opportunities which God has placed within reach, then we form a compact whole, and we assimilate like so many drops of water and become one. It is the power of God that does this, not the power of man. Man cannot do it. We see man's incapability to do this exhibited in all organizations of which he is the author. There is no power of human origin that can bind men to men for any length of time. There are occasions, when some great exigency or peril arises, when people will cling together. When nations are attacked, and when all their liberties and perhaps their lives are at stake, they will then move forward animated by one common impulse, and they will cling together with wonderful tenacity. There are numerous instances of this kind in history. We have seen it in our own day. But apart from these great crises in the history of individuals and nations, there is no power among men that will unite and hold men together. They will differ in a little while; they will separate. We see this in the religious world. As soon as men attempted to reform religion; as soon as they dissented from the mother church, and began to establish reformed religions, they began to differ, and they went on differing and separating until now the whole of Christendom is filled with churches, among which there is no union, notwithstanding they call themselves the churches of Christ. They have not the secret of union with them.

Now, the difference between this Church and other churches is this: when men receive this Gospel, wherever they

may be, however widely separated they may be, as soon as they are confirmed members of the Church they receive a spirit that fills them with that union, and when they are brought together from the ends of the earth, they feel alike and are drawn together. True, they have their failings and their weaknesses; but they possess a spirit of union that no human being is able to impart unto his fellows. It comes from God. It is the power that reigns in heaven. It is the power that makes heaven the glorious place that it is described to be by all who have any conception of it, in contradistinction to to hell, the place of misery and torment.

God has restored this secret through the power that He has bestowed. It is possible through that power to effect these grand results. It is outside of man's power. It requires the power of God. And this power of God has been manifested among the Latter-day Saints, which is an evidence that it is God's work. If we were not united, we would not be the people of God. It is the true sign by which the people of God may be found. I do not care what we may claim, or what our pretensions may be, we are not the people of God when we are not united. Union is one of the fruits of the Spirit. The Savior, in that memorable prayer of His, prayed to the Father that His disciples might be one, as He and the Father were one. Imagine the oneness that prevails between God the Father and God the Son. They are one and indivisible, so far as union is concerned. We cannot conceive of the least difference existing between the Father and the Son. Is it possible for men to attain to that union? If it is not, then Jesus prayed in vain, and His prayer was a waste of words; but Jesus did not waste words in that way, and He prayed that they might be one as He and the Father were one. From this we can imagine how close we ought to be together, and how necessary it is that we should be united. We can perceive, too, that it is not a sin, nor a menace to any human being or community, or nation, for us to be one, because if we are one as the Father and the Son are one, we could not be guilty of wrong-doing and remain one—we would inevitably divide and separate.

When a household is united—the husband and wife and the children all one—then that family has a foretaste of heaven. Those who live in that condition approach near to the throne of God. Enlarge that circle and extend that union from one family to another, until it embraces the whole community, and so far as they are concerned it may be said that the kingdom of God is come, and God is there, because God is love, and love begets this union. So far as we do not live in this condition, so far