

cry of the widow and the fatherless and the distressed will not be heard in the land. The heavens will not be pierced with the cries of suffering humanity, and neither man nor beast will be destitute of that which is good for him. This is the plan which God has devised. It may require what many trained as we have been under the old and existing conditions may look upon as sacrifices to bring it about; but it will come; for God has devised it, and it is the only plan by which we can ever get into the celestial kingdom and become joint heirs with Jesus Christ. He has set us the example of deserting all things in the heavens, leaving His power and high estate to come down here and suffer for his brethren and sisters. We must look to Him and follow him.

The lesson that I would like to impress upon our hearts—for in speaking to you I speak to myself—is, let us teach our children these principles; let us teach them that they are in the earth, not to labor for their own gratification, and to accumulate wealth for themselves, but to benefit humanity, to be a blessing to their race, to fill the earth as far as they can with gladness by their presence, that we may raise an unselfish race of men, men that will have higher aspirations and aims than the mere gratification of their personal wants, passions and appetites. Teach the children self-denial. It is a thing that is much needed among us. Brethren and sisters, I want to say to you that as sure as God lives this Order will be brought about; and it will be with us as it was with the children of Israel who came out of Egypt—if we do not do it we will be removed, and a generation will be raised up that will do it; for God is going to carry out His purposes, and no power can prevent it. Remember the condition of the children of Israel and what befel them. Their carcasses fell by the roadside in the wilderness, because they would not come up to the standard that God had revealed. They not only perished, but the Melchisedek Priesthood was taken from their midst, and everyone over twenty years of age that came out of Egypt, except two, of all the hosts of Israel, laid down his life in the wilderness. We do not want to be in this condition. We want to live, and our children to live, and to be the heirs of all the ages. We want to lay the foundation of this great work in this manner; for it is the great reform that cries aloud to be carried out among mankind at the present time.

Our circumstances at present do not admit of our entering upon these things. There are many changes that will have to occur in order to make that which I have said unto you practical. Laws perhaps will have to be changed, because they might interfere with this now; and it might not be wisdom for us under the present circumstances. I do not speak of this because I think it ought to be carried out immediately. I do not want you to go away from this Conference with the idea that I, as one of the First Presidency, am giving counsel to you to carry out the United Order. What I have desired to do is to draw your attention to the fact that God has revealed a plan, and that you need not go after every will-o'-the-wisp, every false guide, every deceptive light that may appear, and think, "Oh! if I join this, we shall have the millennium right off." I speak on this to warn you; to

put you on your guard; to show you that the Lord's plan is broad enough to cover the whole subject and to furnish all the relief that could ever be desired by human beings. I trust that we will be a stable people. We have the credit in the world for being united; and I would say to you, do not act unwisely and foolishly. When you hear any new doctrines, political as well as religious, do not be deluded by them and run after them; but maintain your steadfastness. You have divided on party lines. Do not split up into fragments because you have done this. Do not think you are manifesting your independence by cutting loose from everything; but be a stable and a conservative people, and act up to your convictions. Maintain the influence that God has given you, and by your wise course cause it to increase in the land, so that men from all parts of our nation will look towards this community and say, "There in the Rocky mountains the Mormon people live; they are a reliable people; they mind their own business, pay their debts, are punctual in their engagements, are an honest people, are not all the time running after office, but are content to maintain good government." Let us get a character of this kind. We have it to some extent, and let us maintain it. I want to say that whenever you see men aspiring for office and planning to get office, do not encourage them. Let the office seek the man, and let us not be plotting and resorting to all sorts of dodges to secure success to our party, in order that some of us may get into office. Such arts are despicable. They are the arts of the low politician. We want to stand on a higher plane, and look at these things as men who have been enlightened by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and try to maintain our credit; for I say to you, that the people in Washington or in Kane County in the south, or in Cache or Rich County in the north, or anywhere else in the territory, cannot be guilty of folly without its reflecting on the entire people of God. We are a part of a great whole in that respect; and the Saints in Idaho or Arizona can do foolish things and entail a great deal of trouble upon the Church in this country because of their want of wisdom. Therefore, be wise. Why do I say this? If you get into trouble, to whom do you come? You know how it has been in our troubles that commenced nine years ago. We looked all around and where could we see friends? To whom could we appeal? Why, the eyes of this people turned to the men who were their leaders, who had planted these settlements in these mountains, and who had made everything successful that they had put their hands to. The people appealed to them to know what they should do. So it will be always when there is trouble. Therefore, it is the duty of leading men to counsel the people in wisdom—not to take away the people's agency—to avoid snares and to pursue a course that will avert trouble, so that we will not have burdens to bear. I do not say this because of any desire to interfere in the least with political matters, but to give you a little counsel on these points.

I pray God to bless you and to fill you with His Holy Spirit, and to help you to remember the excellent instructions you have heard during this Conference, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ON THE WEARY MARCH.

On the 3rd of September, 1846, Lieutenant A. J. Smith, who had been accepted by our officers to act as colonel pro tem in place of Colonel Allen, deceased, began to show his sympathy for the sick by ordering them out of the wagons. He swore if they did not walk he would tie them to the wagons and drag them unless they attended sick call and took medicine. This the sick did not like to do and had refused because the doctor was known to be a bitter enemy to the Mormons, and had been heard to say he did not care a d—n whether he killed or cured; but the lieutenant was told in a way not to be misunderstood that before the men would take the poison stuff they would leave their bones to bleach on the prairies. Lieutenant Smith was not a Mormon. He belonged, however, to the regular army and the honor to lead the Battalion was conferred on him simply because he was a West Pointer. The right of command belonged to Captain Hunt, of Company A.

The weather for some time back had been extremely dry and warm, drying up the creeks and streams so that water was scarce and very poor. Many of the men were taken sick with chills and fever and almost famished for want of water to quench their raging thirst.

One night the camp was aroused by the cry: "See that star, how it moves!" I heard Captain Davis, of company C, exclaim, "See! see! I declare it does move!" At this I got up and went out of the tent to see the wonder. I looked but saw nothing of the kind described, while a number declared that a star in the east did move up and down and sideways, and in all directions. That very evening one of our brethren died; it was believed his death was caused by taking Doctor Sanderson's medicine. This was at the crossing of the Arkansas river.

The country was alive with all kinds of wild animals. The grass was eaten off so close that I thought a sheep could not get a living, and yet the buffalo we killed were in good order. Some days we could see at one sight 500 to 1,000 buffaloes feeding in big and little herds in all directions; and the day we left the Arkansas two came running near our lines when a volley of musketry was discharged at them breaking the leg of one. The other made good his escape without a hole in his robe for aught I know. That day and the day following the men suffered with thirst, gave out by the way side, and had to be hauled to camp in wagons.

On the Cimmaron we had to dig for water and when obtained it was so brackish that man and beast scarcely could drink it. For ten days we did not see timber and our fuel for camp use was "buffalo chips." We passed one place where we counted the skulls bones of 81 mules said to have perished a year before during an equinoctial storm. Our guide said there were 160 mules perished and most of the men with them.

On arriving in Santa Fe Colonel Cooke, by order of General Kearney, took command of the Mormon Battalion. A detachment under Captain Brown of Company C, with all the sick and infirm, was sent from Santa Fe to