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REMARKS

Made at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City,
Sunday Afternoon, June
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PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

I realize the day is very warm, and that the congregation must suffer more or less from the excessive heat; but it is not as oppressively warm in this building, I think, as it is today at some of the pleasure resorts to which a number of our people perhaps have gone. I believe that those who have come to the Tabernacle will enjoy themselves as much if not more than those who have absented themselves from their duty on the Sabbath day. For me, I have enjoyed exceedingly the testimonies and the remarks which have been made by our young brethren who have just returned from their foreign missions. I am pleased to hear these Elders bear testimony to the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the brethren referred to the claim which is made by the opponents of the Church, that the young people of the Latter-day Saints are departing from the ways of their fathers, and are not following in their footsteps, to believe in the Gospel. Now, while there may be more or less ground for such remarks as this, I think I am safe in saying that it will be found, on examination, that fewer of the children of Latter-day Saints are departing from the ways of their fathers than of the children of the members of other religious denominations in the world. I believe that the children of the Latter-day Saints as a whole are following more closely in the footsteps of their fathers and in the faith of the Gospel than are the children of members of any other church. Those who are not growing up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord are the exceptions, and not the rule, in my opinion. Still I am sorry to say that in some cases the examples of the fathers are against their children, and that while the children are following the examples of their fathers they are not growing nearer unto the Lord. This is more the fault of the parents than of the children. That many of the Latter-day Saints are neglectful of their children, and do not set before them a proper example, is a pity; and I am afraid that there is far too much of this kind of neglect.

There is one request that I desire to make of these young men who have returned from their missions, and who have been brightened up in the testimony of the Spirit of the Lord and the knowledge of the Gospel, and that is this, that they will keep the armor of the Gospel upon them and the spirit of truth in their hearts, and will voluntarily constitute themselves missionaries to look after the youth of Zion who are wandering from the straight path. Wherever they find young men or young women who are in any degree

departing from the way of life and salvation, let them take up a labor with them, and if possible bring them to a realization of the consequences which will follow the course they are pursuing, that these young people, through their faith and efforts, may be brought to comprehend and obey the truth. If there is any considerable portion of our young people going astray, certainly there is a field at home for the labors of those who are endowed with the Holy Priesthood. Every man who holds the Priesthood ought to be a power in himself in exercising its authority by precept and example in the proclamation of the Gospel to the young people of our own land, and to all as far as possible who sit in darkness; for it is our duty to preach the Gospel for the salvation of mankind.

I was surprised to hear a young man say that during his whole life (and he was born in the Church, of goodly parents, and has been brought up among the people) no man had ever taken the trouble to come to him personally and point out to him the error of his ways; no one had ever come to him as a friend and as a brother, to reason with him and to point out to him that the course he was pursuing was displeasing in the sight of the Lord and would result in great injury to himself, if he continued in it. Let me say to the Elders of Israel, and especially to those young men who have been out into the world to preach the Gospel and have returned with honor, wherever you see a young man who is doing that which is not right, take up a labor with him. Go to him personally; and if you do not succeed the first time, go again, and keep up the labor with him until you can, if possible, make some impression upon him. Labor with these young people who are going astray until you can convince them that you love them and are seeking their welfare; for if you can convince them of this, then you will have a chance to do them some good.

We go out into the world and preach the Gospel, we endure the scorn and contumely of the world; but we do not get discouraged because of this. We still persist in our labors. If a man insults us, we do not cast him off. If a man shows his ignorance, we do not condemn him, but try all the more to enlighten him. Thus we keep on laboring until frequently many of those who have been bitter enemies to the truth are converted to the Gospel or become friends to the Elders and to the cause of Zion. Let us labor as persistently at home as we do abroad. Let the Bishops and ward teachers labor in this way. When the teachers go around to visit the houses of the Saints, let them enquire diligently after the young men and the young women; and if they find any of them remiss or doing anything which is not right, let the Teachers take up a labor with them, preach the Gospel to them, and try to influence them to do good. It is a labor of love and of salvation—a labor that is worthy of the laborer. Let

us be diligent in these things at home, and then there will be less ground for the publication of such reports as we have heard of here today in the newspapers abroad.

I spoke here last Sabbath, and dwelt a little upon violating the Sabbath day. I have heard various comments in relation to my remarks since then. I have heard it said that Brother Joseph F. Smith and the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are interested in Saltair, and yet Brother Joseph F. Smith is preaching to the people not to visit pleasure resorts for amusement on the Sabbath day, while at the same time they are advertising sacred concerts and amusements on the Sabbath at Saltair.

I say to this congregation that those who are managing Saltair have no more right to violate the Sabbath day than anybody else has; and I raise my protest here, as I would anywhere else, against the management of Saltair violating the Sabbath day, if they do so. I would condemn wrong doing in Saltair as much as I would in Garfield or in any other pleasure resort. I say to the people called Latter-day Saints, for I have a right to counsel them, keep away from Saltair and Garfield on the Sabbath day, and from every other place where people go in violation of the Sabbath. I do not want to mince the matter in the least. It is true that Presidents Woodruff, Cannon and Smith and members of the Council of the Apostles devised the building of Saltair. We did it for the purpose of having a place in which the Latter-day Saints might have some voice in its management. All the other places were in the hands of strangers. And whatever the reputation of Saltair may be, I want to tell you that I never contributed one word, nor act, in any shape or form, to make Saltair other than a place as pure and holy as I would have my own home. I never went there to drink and guzzle beer, or intoxicants of any kind. I never went there to violate the Sabbath day. I never went there to desecrate anything that is holy, or to take advantage of any circumstance for evil. Neither do I encourage anything of the kind in others.

If there should be any wrongdoing at Saltair I would condemn it there as fervently and as truly as I condemn it in any other place. We do not want anything wrong there. And there would be nothing done there that is not acceptable in the sight of God if we could help it.

"Well, then," says one, "why does the manager of Saltair advertise concerts on the Sabbath day?" I will give you what I think would be the reason probably for doing it. It is in the hands of a manager, and he controls it. I suppose the manager sees other pleasure resorts advertising amusements and attractions on the Sabbath day, and so, in order that he may compete with them, and catch his share of the pennies of that class of people who regard not the