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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

For this blessing and privilege which we enjoy this morning I feel particularly grateful to our Father in heaven, and I trust that the Spirit of God will rest upon the speakers this day as it rested upon those yesterday. We have come here for a blessing, and God is willing we should have it. But the power is within us to enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit or reject it; for the agency that God has given us is complete, and we can serve the Lord or the adversary, as we please. We may give way to a feeling of ambition, and promote desires in our hearts that lead unto death, or we may promote the presence of the Spirit of God, that leads unto eternal life. I think it is right to encourage ambition in the heart if it leads in this direction. But for us who have been highly favored of the Lord to covet the things of this world is a sin. Of all people that have ever lived upon the earth we should be entirely and thoroughly in the service of our Maker; for God has favored us as He has no other people. We have occasion to rejoice today in the liberty that we enjoy, the right and privilege to serve our God, to promote the interest and building up of the Church of Christ, attending to the ordinances of the house of God, laboring for the living and the dead in those sacred places which are unknown to the world, but known to God and those to whom they have been revealed through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If this people are humble and united, they have naught to fear in the future, they need not tremble in the present, and it is our privilege to be filled with hope for the future. I know it is felt by some of the brethren that great things will be accomplished if we can step right in and be numbered with the States of the Union. People rejoiced exceedingly when a Territorial government was given to them. I presume we would rejoice if we could have a State government. But there is one direction in which I see light for this people, and that is in uniting together with that bond that cannot be broken—uniting together in the bond of the everlasting covenant which God has given us. Do I desire that we should become a State? Yes. But I desire more and see greater light

in the union of this people. If the Latter-day Saints are united and see eye to eye, God will give them all that is necessary for them to have to accomplish His work. More than this I, for one, have never aspired to. He is abundantly able, but He will not bring this people to the point where they are entirely free from the power of the adversary until they are a united people before Him. That is the labor devolving upon this organization which has been portrayed to you by Brother Lyman. Union in the midst of the Latter-day Saints, love and affection, confidence in God, confidence in each other, are what we should be striving for. And I say that the man or the woman that has no confidence in the order established by our Father has no confidence in Him that established it. Whatever our feelings may be, they must be subdued; whatever our desires may be, they must be controlled, and our labors must be one, or this work will not prosper in our hands as individuals. So far as the body of the people are concerned and the work of God in the earth we need not trouble ourselves about that. Trouble ourselves with our own condition, with our own lives, with the desires that we are cultivating day by day in our hearts, and see to it that they reach unto Him who sits above and controls all things. Enemies will rise up against this people. Men will go out from us and become our enemies. Strong men, orators, warriors, statesmen will be arrayed against us; but if union is in the midst of this people, the light and power of God will be with them, and all the shafts of the adversary will fall harmless to the ground. I have no fear for the Church. I am not troubled about Statehood. What does Statehood mean? It frees us from the petty tyranny of a few, who, however do us no harm—they advertise us. Through the machinations of our enemies, the cause of God has been presented in the highest courts of this nation. Could we have done it ourselves? God might have ordered it in another way; but He ordered it in this way. The great and the mighty, the high and the low shall have the Gospel preached unto them. In what manner shall it come to these people? How shall it be introduced into the court of St. James and laid before Queen Victoria? Or to the German court and the Emperor? or to the emperor of any great nation? In God's way, His own appointed way, will these great ones hear the Gospel, and God will order it if we are united, and we need not fret ourselves about it. State government I want, if God will it; if He does not, let it rest. When the counsel comes to me from the authority that He has placed

upon the earth, I say let my heart be attuned to that counsel, whatever my desires may be, and let me subject myself to the Spirit of God; and if it does not suit me, let me be man enough and have the testimony of the Spirit in me to receive that counsel and obey it. But I want one thing—I want to unite with my brethren. I see disunion among us. My feelings rise up, and I am found sometimes wishing that my brother would do as I would like him to do. Sometimes I want to put my hand to steady the ark. God help me to refrain from it. I want to cut a man off if he is too long, and pull him out if he is too short. These are things that come to me that I need to control. I know it is written that the meek shall inherit the earth. Let us become meek and lowly. It is not with a strong hand, speaking from a temporal point of view, that we will gain the victory. How will it be done? The individuals that inherit this earth are the victors, and Christ has said the meek shall inherit the earth. Do our enemies injure us? Well, it looks to me like they did sometimes injure us very much. But what have they accomplished? Have we seen a wrinkle in any department that has shown a shrinkage in the Church of Christ upon the earth? I have not, neither has any man who breathes the breath of life. But I have seen the Church growing stronger each day. When we were in poverty we grew, we expanded, we spread abroad. Now we are comfortably situated, and we continue to grow. Our enemies have taken us like a sponge and squeezed us until there seemed to be no moisture left in the people; but when they let go of us we were larger than ever.

God is managing the interests of this Church, and if this people will do their part for their own salvation, God will bear them off victors. Brethren and sisters, we have all we can do to mind our own business, serving God in every act of our lives. When the brethren tell us to do a thing, do it with our might. How should I know that they are correct? By the revelations that God gives to me I know that they are correct, and I see light, greatness, glory in the union of the Latter-day Saints. I care not what their complexion may be in politics; I care not whether it is the blacksmith or the dandy little fellow that measures out the ribbon to the more delicate lady, union, equality before God is what we want, with a determination in the heart to serve the Lord and keep His commandments. I am not looking upon a people who are unknown to the Father, unknown to the angels. I am looking upon a people who have been cared for—upon the descendants of that boy on whom Jacob