

brethren, that can lead them to the performance of their duties and teach them how to perform them. The Priest's duty is to teach the principles of the Gospel, to expound the scriptures, and to exhort the people to pray vocally and in secret. What a lesson that would be to the Latter-day Saints, if taught in such a manner as to bring it right home to every heart! When we talk in meeting, some people may think it is meant for them, while others may think it is not meant for them; but when Priests visit the houses of the Latter-day Saints and teach them to their faces the doctrines of the Gospel, expound the scriptures to them, and teach them to pray vocally and in secret, and not only teach them, but enquire as they go around whether their lessons are being profited by, every individual is left without excuse. Then the Teachers follow in the wake of the Priests, to see that the Latter-day Saints do their duty, to know that they are attending the house of worship, that they are not backbiting, tale-bearing or evil-speaking, and to see that there is no iniquity in the Church. Now, do you not think that there is employment for Teachers and Priests in these various lines? Certainly there is. Then the brethren of the Melchisedec Priesthood—the Elders, for instance—may be called to preside and to be local ministers, to preach and teach, publicly as well as privately, to instruct the younger brethren in the line of their duty, and to lead them by their example and presence to perform the duties that devolve upon them. The same with the High Priests; for there is a host of High Priests today in the Church, and the High Priest's quorums in the various Stakes embrace the presiding authorities of the Stake and of the Ward. The great majority of the experience of the Church is embraced in the High Priest's quorums. It is not beneath the dignity of a High Priest to labor in the calling of a Priest or Teacher, and men of age and experience carry influence with them. Their experience and wisdom should be greatly prized by the Latter-day Saints. We should appreciate the aged men and women among us, who have borne the burdens in the heat of the day, who have stood persecutions and trials, and have endured while the Church was passing through fiery trials. We may think we have had serious trials since we have been in these valleys; but the trials that the Latter-day Saints have had here have hardly produced a ripple over the surface of the people. In early times, however, they used to disturb the whole people, from their center of gathering throughout the land. We have not had such serious times as they had. We have not been mobbed, our homes have not been taken from us, and we have not been seriously disturbed in these later days. But we are measurably established, and are so thoroughly proven and trained in the Gospel of Christ that nearly every man in every place understands his duty and the responsibilities that rest upon him, and he is willing to be counseled, to be corrected and reproofed; but in early times men were not used to reproof; they could not endure it, and sometimes would rebel when the hand of reproof was necessary to be put upon them. Today, however, we know that reproof is for our profit, for our learning, and for our salvation. We want to be corrected. We would not be wrong for anything. The Latter-day Saints are so

thoroughly established in the testimony of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that there is nothing that moves them or agitates them. You do not find any section or department that can be agitated or exercised in regard to doctrine and principle, because they have been taught so long and are so thoroughly informed and established.

Who are disturbed among the Latter-day Saints? Only those who neglect their duties—those who neglect their prayers, those who do not listen to the counsels of the Holy Spirit. They are the ones that weaken in the faith and part hands with us. But the training and schooling that the Church has had for the last sixty years are now showing their effects among the people, so much so that it is a rare thing to find in the wards, even in the remote ones, any one rebellious and stubborn. Men may differ in their views as to what is the best policy, etc.; but it is a rare thing to find a rebellious spirit. In early days, though, rebellion used to be manifested right in the chief quorums of the Church—among the Seventies, among the Twelve Apostles and the Presidency of the Church. It was quite a common thing. During all the lifetime of the Prophet Joseph men who were associated with him in council were turning against him, warring upon him, questioning his authority, and holding that he was a fallen prophet. You never hear of such a thing as President Woodruff being a fallen prophet. The Church is large and numerous, but in all the borders of Zion and throughout the world where the Latter-day Saints dwell do you ever hear a whisper that Wilford Woodruff is a fallen prophet? No. But in those early times, before the timber was seasoned, the Prophet had fallen, they said; they warred against him and did everything they could to destroy him, until finally his life was taken. It is not so today, however. Of course, we have our trials and our difficulties; but one after another they pass away and there is no one seriously injured; and today brethren can be found in great plenty to perform the missionary labor that is necessary. Of course, we study more today possibly the conditions and circumstances of men than was done in former times. It was no excuse in the days of the Prophet Joseph that a man did not have any money, or that he could not leave his family comfortable, or they were sick, or anything of that kind. They never waited a moment for sickness even; they would start upon missions, taken on beds of sickness, if it were necessary. But today we wait till people are convalescent; till they are measurably independent financially and they can take care of their families, so that they will not be a burden upon the Church. It may not be necessary for brethren to take the chances that they did in early times, for aught I know; at least, they are not required to do so. The Church is so settled today that it is not easily disturbed. You never find reformers coming in among the Church that can disturb the Saints. The coming of any religious denomination in our midst makes no impression. No true Latter-day Saints was ever moved one fraction by Methodists, or Presbyterians, or Catholics, or any denomination. When a man is a Latter-day Saint you cannot move him; for he knows exactly the position he holds; he knows the truth of the Gospel, and he knows God, and His

Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. When a man knows that, can he be moved by other ideas and doctrines of men? No. And that is the condition of the Latter-day Saints today. There is not wisdom nor preachers enough in the world to convert one Latter-day Saint.

But all-important for us it is, my brethren and sisters, that we should be Latter-day Saints; that we should do the will of God, as parents and as children, as members and as officers of the Church. We ought to remember our prayers. There ought not to be a house in all Israel where prayer is not wont to be offered up every night and morning. There ought not to be one Latter-day Saint in all the world but offers up prayer morning, evening and noon. We ought to pray frequently, and ask the Lord to improve our circumstances and conditions for us, and to strengthen us in our labors in His kingdom. We want to be saved. That is the reason of all this organization and Priesthood. The preaching of the Gospel to the world and the gathering of the people are that we may be saved.

I desire to bear testimony to you, my brethren and sisters, this morning that this is the Lord's work, and that He will redeem His people. The spirit that today establishes the Church will become more abundant among the people, and the people will be more thoroughly settled and founded in the Gospel than they are today, until wherever we meet a Latter-day Saint, we shall meet not only a brother and a friend, but a devout worshiper of God and a man so true and faithful to the covenants that he has made that this work of the Lord will prosper and triumph. It will grow and increase day by day, gathering in the honest in heart from abroad and rapidly increasing at home, until it shall triumph, and Christ, our Savior, shall come to reign with us on earth a thousand years. Oh! how pleased I would be to live to see the commencement of that reign and to take part therein. That is what I labor for, among other things. I desire this, and desire it for my friends and for my kindred; for I feel that the Latter-day Saints are my kindred and my loved ones, and I want them to have the same blessing that I desire for myself. God bless you, my brethren and sisters, and all the people of this Stake of Zion. God bless the Presidency of the Stake. The Lord preserve President Smoot for a long time. He looked to me worse when we went to the funeral of President Young than he does today; I thought his chances then for life were not any better than they are today, and I see no reason why he should not be preserved unto us yet for a long time. I pray the Lord to spare his life, and to spare the life of President Woodruff and his counselors, and the chief Elders of Israel, as well as the whole Church. That He may preserve the Church and overrule all things for the final accomplishment of His work in the earth, and that we may have part therein, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The skating contest held at Stockholm last Saturday and Sunday drew a large crowd. The Crown Prince and Prince Eugen were present. As none of the skaters who participated, won three races, the championship of the world is still undecided.