

mount, the Lord gave a command that they should keep holy the Sabbath. That was not the inauguration of that day of rest; but on that occasion He again gave it sanction by His holy word. As Israel pursued their travels they were daily fed with manna as was necessary for them, the Lord sending a double portion on the sixth day, that they might rest on the seventh. This was prior to the giving of the commandment to which I have referred. The law, therefore, had been in force before then. It is an interesting and solemn feature that the Lord made special provision for the observance of the day. There were many in Israel who complained at the burdens put upon them. When they were pursued by Pharaoh they murmured bitterly against MOSES. Some of them had lost faith in the word of the Lord. So it was with some when they gathered manna, and who took an extra quantity less more should not come, but it would not keep on their hands. Thus it was that the Lord impressed upon ancient Israel the necessity of keeping the Sabbath holy; and He commanded that those who disregarded the law in that respect were to be stoned to death—which command was carried out. The Lord gave to Israel instructions that they should not work; but He also required that they should not be idle—that they should offer up their sacraments to Him. When the disciples of the Savior were found fault with by the Jews, Jesus declared to them that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath, and He taught the strict observance of that day. In the present age He has given instructions to the Saints to render obedience to the laws in this respect. He says:

And that thou mayst more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day.

For verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High.

Nevertheless, thy vow shall be offered up in righteousness on all days and at all times.

But remember that on this the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy Sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.

And on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that thy fasting may be perfect, or, in other words, that thy joy may be full.

Verily, this is fasting and prayer, or, in other words, rejoicing and prayer.

Then follows the blessing that the Lord will bestow on those who observe His law in faithfulness and sincerity:

And inasmuch as ye do these things with thanksgiving, with cheerful heart and countenance; not with much laughter, for this is sin, but with a glad heart and a cheerful countenance;

Verily I say that inasmuch as ye do this, the fulness of the earth is yours, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and that which climb-

eth upon the trees and walketh upon the earth;

Yea, and the herb, and the good things which cometh upon the earth, whether for food or for raiment, or for houses, or for barns, or for orchards, or for gardeus, or for vineyards.

Even if this later command had not been given, the law would have been in force upon us, but it has been repeated that we might more fully understand just what is required of us. We are commanded to keep the day holy. That is, that it is dedicated to the service of the Most High, and is to be used for no other purpose. As a temple dedicated and used only for the service of the Lord, so is the Sabbath to be made holy. We cannot, as Saints, afford to look upon the day with such carelessness as is apparent among the people of the present time. If we do, the displeasure of the Lord will be upon us. When there were not so many in our midst who did not believe as we do, there was less temptation; but today the Sabbath seems to be looked upon as a day of recreation, and if that course is persisted in by the Saints, God's curse will be upon them.

This is not a day when we can look upon the word of the Lord as being but a hollow sound. He has said to us, Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. That day is His, and we cannot disregard this fact without meriting and bringing the curse of the Almighty. Let us consider this fact, and remember that we will have to give an account of what we do upon that day. It is not a time for visiting or of pleasure seeking, but of offering sacraments unto God. The statistics of the world show that those nations who have best observed the Sabbath have been the most prosperous, and so will it be again. If we have been going astray in this particular, let us repent of this sin. Christ teaches us to ask that we be not led into temptation. He who thinks he has strength in himself to withstand all temptation is not wise. The brave man is always fearful lest he should be overcome, and battles to prevent that result. The brave are they who fear danger but meet it because duty calls them to do so. Let us not be afraid to tremble when we are in the midst of temptation. We are not secure from it until we have passed beyond this life. It is said that fools make a mockery of sin. But God's children do not do so. If we give way to small temptations, this condition becomes a species of intoxication, and we are led on to worse, while at the same time we are deprived of the power to realize our position. But with the Spirit of God in our hearts, we are able to realize our condition and avoid impending danger.

This is a time when we should consider the circumstances in which we are placed. This is a day of temptation. Latter-day Saints should so live that the channel of communication with the heavens is always open. Let us continually struggle to overcome evil, remembering that when we seem to be the safest the danger is sometimes the

greatest. Unless we fear to fall, the Evil one is apt to lead us astray. As Saints we have upon us responsibilities that others have not. We cannot afford to violate the covenants we have made with our Father. May we live in such a manner that His Spirit may abide with us. Let us remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, and remember to keep all His commandments.

The word of Almighty God has gone forth that He will bring victory to His people, and He will fulfill His promise. We have no time to spend in fearing the outcome of this work, but rather tremble lest we fall into sin. Let us rejoice in the promises our Father has made to those who are faithful. We are not called upon to fight with carnal weapons, and as long as we do the will of the Lord He will fight our battles. If we serve Him with full purpose of heart, He will protect us, while if we rest upon any man or men we will be mistaken. Let us trust in God, not man; let us worship Him, not the powers and riches of this world. Those among us who rely on our Father will not have to cry in vain. Let us, then, live that we may be pure, and fit habitations for the Spirit of God, and bring our bodies as near perfection as we can. Then great will be the blessings of God upon us, and His peace and joy will abide with us forever.

ELDER C. W. PENROSE

announced that on Tuesday evening, June 11th, a grand concert would be given in the Tabernacle, in aid of the sufferers by the recent great disaster in Pennsylvania. He advised all of the people to give liberally for the benefit of the distressed, this being a duty that they owed to humanity. Some might say that when the Latter-day Saints were in sore distress there were none who came to their aid. But that is no excuse for their not aiding others who are suffering. It is a part of the religion of the Latter-day Saints to help and comfort the afflicted, regardless of their race or religion.

Elder Penrose bore testimony to the correctness of the instructions given by Elder Talmage. Of all people those professing to be Latter-day Saints should observe the Sabbath in the way the Lord had directed them. This was not in the manner of the Puritan Sabbath, but as a day of rest, of going to the house of prayer, and of enjoying communion with the Lord. It was no time for excursions, or feasting, but all things done on that day should be performed with a realization that it was the Lord's day and should be dedicated to Him.

As to temptations among the people, these were necessary for their education. Offenses have been brought into the community, but woe unto those by whom they have come. No Saint engages in such a business. On the contrary, the true Saints use all their influence against it. They are responsible for their example and instructions. They cannot and should not force others to