

Church, immediately they are filled with an irrepressible and an unconquerable desire to gather with their co-religionists. This is not done by the power of men. There is a peculiar influence that rests upon the people, and under that influence they leave their homes and gather to these mountains. The result is that throughout all these valleys these people are living, enduring privations and suffering hardships; for in subduing and making the land habitable the lives of the people are worn out with toil. We talk about it being a blessed land. It is a blessed land. But it is a land that has been and is being redeemed by immense labor and at great sacrifice. In some of our distant settlements the people suffer great privations. But they are firmly wedded to the soil. They would not move to a better place, because they believe that this is Zion. They believe that God has appointed these mountain valleys as a gathering place, and the same spirit that rested upon those who first settled this valley and endured all the hardships incident thereto rests upon the people wherever they settled throughout these mountains. The gold mines of California and the inviting prospects connected with them had no allurements for the homeless people who settled these valleys in the early days and who lived in almost abject poverty. Their religion caused the Latter-day Saints to live here. They believed it was God's will they should come here, and that this country should be their abiding place. The character of their buildings bears testimony to this faith. They did not build as others did who settled afterwards in surrounding territories; but they built in a solid manner, as though they expected to live, and their children and grandchildren after them, in the homes they were then creating.

We believe God had a purpose in pouring out upon the people this spirit of gathering. We believe that God, as I have read in your hearing, has revealed His everlasting Gospel from the heavens. The truth having been withdrawn from the earth through the wickedness of men, the power and authority to administer the ordinances of the Gospel having been taken away because the men holding that authority were slain, this truth and authority have again been revealed through angelic messengers, in order that the Church of God might be established again upon the earth in its primitive purity, with all the authority that accompanies the Gospel. This is the light to which the Savior refers in the words that I have read; and through the preaching of that Gospel the spirit of gathering has rested upon the nations of the earth and has brought people from the four quarters of the earth together, that a people might be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man, and that they might escape the judgments and the calamities which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth in the last days. Jesus predicted that men's hearts would fail them in looking forward to the things that were about to take place, and we can see this today fulfilled. The spirit of fear rests upon the people, and they do not know what is going to happen.

I want to bring home to the attention of the Latter-day Saints, if I can, this truth, that God has sent to them a message. This was glad tidings of salvation, being the Gospel in its primitive purity and power; the message is one

warning to prepare them against the awful judgments and calamities with which He was about to visit the earth. While the earth today is in a state of commotion and agitation, there is a calmness and a serenity resting upon the Latter-day Saints that we cannot describe. It prevails throughout our settlements. There is nothing unexpected to us in these events that are creating so much agitation. We have been prepared for them from the organization of this Church. We have been prepared for calamity, for earthquakes, for cyclones, for pestilences and trouble of various kinds to come upon the inhabitants of the earth, in fulfillment of the words of God. And in the midst of all this, God has given us power to be united together. Governments may fall, thrones may tumble, dynasties may be overthrown, but there is a people in these mountains that are bound together by bonds that cannot be broken by any such events as these. They are bound together by the ties of a new and everlasting covenant, and the same love that filled the hearts of the disciples of Jesus in ancient days fills the hearts of the people here who have obeyed the Gospel. We are the only people that I know of that are in this condition. Commonwealers, industrial armies, may go to and fro in the earth and cause all manner of feeling because of their movements, but the Latter-day Saints are not disturbed by these things. They are not numbered among them. The Latter-day Saints are not agitators, but are a stable people. We may have privations, we may have difficulties to contend with, but we have a fixed purpose in view, and that is to build up the Church of God upon earth, to establish His righteousness and to gather together a people who love Him, who will deal justly one with another, who will be honest, truthful, upright, and virtuous, and who will cultivate every principle of virtue connected with the Gospel of the Son of God, and be undisturbed by all the agitating influences that may surround them. We have determined, with the help of God, that we will seek to establish and maintain virtue in the earth; that the virtue of woman shall be respected by us and by our children after us, that every human right shall be respected in our midst; and that anything contrary to this shall meet with our disapproval and opposition. The Latter-day Saints have set out to do this and to create if possible a new order of things in the earth. As I was remarking to a gentleman yesterday, we have lived in these mountains now close on to fifty years. We have been organized as a territory for more than forty-three years. Our legislatures have met during all this period, and until within two or three years almost all the members of the legislature were Mormons, for the reason that there were very few others here. But during that whole period there has never been a breath of suspicion concerning the uprightness of the members of the legislature. No man can say with any truth that a Mormon legislator ever had his palm crossed by bribe money, nor his interests promoted in any manner to induce him to lend his voice to the support of any act that would favor some special individual or class. In other words, there has been no bribery. It has never been said with truth that any Mormon official has been open to bribery. Senator Stanford,

of California, in my hearing in Washington, made this remark, "We have never had to send a man to Utah to watch the interests of the Central Pacific Railroad. We could trust those people and we knew that our rights would be protected." But in every state or territorial legislature where the railroad passed through they had to send agents to watch the legislature to prevent wrong being done to them. I think this is a remarkable record. I do not think it is equalled on the continent. Nor has there ever been a breath of suspicion concerning the fidelity of the Mormon people to their engagements. They are an honest people. Of course, we have individuals among us who are not honest, but take the people as a whole and when they make a promise, or incur an obligation, they keep that promise or obligation sacredly. And today there is no community in the country that have such a credit in the Eastern States as the Mormon people have in all mercantile circles. I am thankful for this. I hope it will continue, and I trust that where there is dishonesty it will be eliminated from among us. This is our aim. The Mormon boy that would be unvirtuous is as wicked in our eyes as a Mormon girl who is unchaste or unvirtuous. We do not think there is any sex in vice. We do not think that men can take liberties with women that are reprehensible and wicked for women to take with men. We hold our young men and our middle-aged men, and, in fact, our men of all ages, to as strict accountability in regard to chastity and virtue as we do our girls and our women, and with the help of God we are determined to do so. We are so situated that we cannot check vice as we should like to do. Surrounding circumstances are such that we do not have as much power in this respect as we would like. But this is the sentiment of the people and it is being inculcated and encouraged in the breasts of our young people. It is a remarkable fact that those who trespass in this direction lose the Spirit of the Lord unless they repent, and they become separated from us; for they separate themselves by their own conduct and by the spirit they possess.

We want to perpetuate in the earth these principles. We wish to inaugurate reforms. We want to do everything in such a manner that it will be an example to the world. At the present time there is a floodtide of corruption sweeping over the earth, and especially in our own land. Bribery prevails; the judiciary in many places is corrupted; the executive department of the government in various places is not administered as it should be; laws are enacted which frequently have their origin in corrupt motives, until the poor and the meek and the lowly have no chance in the struggle of life. It is in favor of the rich and those who by means of their money can exert influence that all these things run at the present time. This is one of the causes of this dissatisfaction that is so visible all over the land. I do not sympathize with the operations of these marching "armies," but there is a cause for all such movements.

I want to say to you, Latter-day Saints, that you ought to have your eyes opened to see what God has done and is doing for you and your children. He has fulfilled His promises to us. We have had our troubles here, but they have been the result of the misuse of