

and there is scarcely an exception. Where a woman who is a Latter-day Saint talks about the principles of the Gospel to her children they take an interest in it, and are influenced by it more than the children of others are who do not teach them in that manner.

I know it is so in my case. My mother was a woman of great faith and an ardent Latter-day Saint; and the impressions made upon my mind by her have influenced my life. She gave me lessons that I have never forgotten, and they have had a wonderful effect upon my entire career, prompting me and stimulating me for good. I am sure it is the case in every family. The effect of woman's influence cannot be over-estimated; and on this account, I am glad to say these organizations have furnished you with opportunities that you would not have under other circumstances. And every one that has talents has the opportunity of exercising and cultivating them in our meetings and associations. This will bring forward the talent that exists among you, and I am sure it will have a beneficial effect upon the whole community, and grow and increase as the years roll by.

I am very sorry that President Woodruff could not be with you this morning. He on two occasions expressed his regret that he could not be present. A slight attack of sickness rendered it imprudent for him to come. He charged me to bear his kind regards to Sister Richards and the sisters present, and to say to them, God bless them in their labors.

I hope these Relief Society conferences will be continued. They ought to be held every three months. Such occasions as these should not be neglected, and they should not pass without being improved. I am sure you must have felt interested in the meetings which have been held. These gatherings will do good to all who share in them. The young women and the girls should attend them, and be profited by the instructions that are given. They will be profitable to them.

May God bless you. Amen.

I feel grateful to have the privilege of meeting with you this morning. This is a Conference of the Relief Societies of this Stake, as I understand it. I do not know but this is the first opportunity I have enjoyed of meeting at one of these conferences; at least, it is the first for a great many years.

I was much pleased with the remarks of President Cannon in praise of woman; for, when I reflect upon it—and I do not often forget it—I remember that my mother was a woman; and my sisters and daughters are women and our wives are women! I have a very tender regard for the sex. I have faith in them, I believe in them, and love to see them happy, pure, virtuous and prosperous.

I understand that one, at least, of the objects of these societies is that the women of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints may improve and avail themselves of every opportunity possible for the culture, improvement and benefit, not only of those who are in favorable circumstances and are blessed with the necessities or comforts of life, with peace and happiness,

good homes, husbands, fathers, etc., but also of the poor and the needy, the overburdened, the ignorant, the untaught, and those that lack experience and knowledge to perform the varied duties devolving upon them in their varied spheres in life. In looking at this matter, it seems to me that there is a very great field of labor for the societies. For, notwithstanding all the good things that have been said and all the good things that may be said of the mothers and daughters of Zion, if we pause to reflect about it we will see that there is great room for labor in the direction of improving the condition of women, not only in domestic, but in social and secular as well as religious matters, and not only in moral, but in physical advancement; in politics as well as in the bettering of the condition of our domestic relations. I believe it legitimate for these societies to look after the welfare and happiness of the sisters in relation to their domestic affairs.

Where a woman, being a wife and mother of children, and the head, next to her husband, of her household, is lacking experience, knowledge and influence with her family in regard to bringing them up in the way they should go, and in the knowledge of the principles of the Gospel, and with regard to her conduct generally as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ or Latter-day Saints, I believe it is perfectly legitimate for the Relief Societies to strive to alleviate her condition and give her aid and comfort, and try to enlighten and encourage such persons; strengthen their hands where they are weak, build them up where they lack, and enable them to proceed as they should in those households. I do not know whether this is considered a part of the duties of Relief Societies, still, if they do not so regard it, I think it is a legitimate thing for them to do. No one can reach the mother and daughter of Zion in their homes and domestic relations, and in their personal affairs, so well as their sisters can. And those who have experience and intelligence will be enabled to impart great good to those that need in these directions.

Speaking of the influence of women over their husbands, I concur very heartily with President Cannon in this matter; and I am thankful to add this by way of bearing my testimony, and to offer my congratulations to the sisters that they do have such wonderful influence over their husbands; that as a rule the mothers in Zion, the mothers of Israel, are the very best women that live in the world, the best that can be found anywhere. And therefore the men, as well as the women, are to be congratulated that these good women and mothers in Zion have such influence over their husbands, for it is exerted for their good; and also that they have such influence over their children, for it will be exerted for the welfare of their children, and for the good of their neighbors and associates. The good influence that a good mother exercises over her children is like leaven cast into the measure of meal, that will leaven the whole lump; and as far as her influence extends, not only to her own children, but to the associates of her children, it is felt, and good is the result accomplished by it.

And, sisters, you do not know how far your influence extends. A mother that is successful in raising a good boy, or girl, to imitate her example and to follow her precepts, through life, sows the seeds of virtue, honor and integrity and of righteousness in their hearts that will be felt through all their career in life; and wherever that boy or girl goes, as man or woman, in whatever society they mingle, the good effects of the example of that mother upon them will be felt; and it will never die, because it will extend from them to their children from generation to generation. And especially do we hope for this in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And now that the Kingdom of God is about to be established in power and glory upon the earth, and that God has set His hand to accomplish His work, never more to be destroyed, the good seeds that are sown today are destined to bear fruit, and cast their seeds to again grow and again to bear fruit, and still again to cast the seeds of righteousness on the earth, until righteousness shall reign in the earth and flow like a river, and wickedness shall be uprooted.

Now the Lord will accomplish this work, and He will do it in His own way. He is laying the foundation of this work in the hearts of the mothers and fathers of Zion just as fast as they will let Him. He is working with the material that He possesses; He is working by the exhortations of His servants; and He is striving to make them what they ought to be now, in order that their children may eventually be better than they and more susceptible to the influence of the Spirit of the Almighty, and better adapted to the enjoyment of those influences that come from God than the fathers have been, traditionated as they are in the follies and prejudices of the world.

It is a great work that we are engaged in. These conferences of the women—the mothers and the daughters in Zion—are excellent; the responsibility placed upon the women in these associations will result in good; every organization of the Church is designed for good. The organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints itself, its purpose and spirit, and the force and effect of the work we are engaged in, are all good, and are all calculated to make good men better men, and good women better women.

And it is a good thing we have found something that is calculated to make women equal in their spheres and callings in life with their husbands, their fathers and their brothers. There is something in "Mormonism" calculated to make women help meet for their husbands in every sense of the word. Not as in the world; for they—especially they that are possessed of wealth—are pursuing a course to make their wives toys, so to speak; to make them dolls, if you please; they treat them, not as their equals, not as their reasonable companions, but merely as objects of flattery, of admiration, feigned or real, and for the gratification of their carnal desires. This is wickedness and abomination in the sight of the Lord. This is the thing that President Cannon has been speaking of, which will end in the degenerating of, which will end in the degenerating of,