

take part in the slaying of Stephen, he looked on approvingly and was accessory to the crime) that God rejected him? No; God called him out from the darkness in which his soul was enveloped, and He made Paul to see that he was indeed persecuting, not Stephen alone, but God himself and the Savior, who was crucified for the salvation of the human family. And how Paul thereafter suffered for that which he had done! He passed through the deep waters of affliction, and was overcome by the world, and paid the penalty of his transgressions by all his noble acts and his heroic death. So it will be with mankind. Every man who is honest in his heart and acts according to the light that God has given him will come up, perhaps through tribulation and sorrow, but will still come up to glory and exaltation in the presence of God. While I do not believe that murderers have a place in the Kingdom of God, yet I do believe that though a man's sins be as scarlet, if he repents truly and sincerely, they may be forgiven; for the Lord will reach out His hand to save the lowest and the most abandoned sinner, because he is a son or a daughter of God. You parents who have children, how do you feel regarding them? Would you not go to the ends of the earth to save the offspring that God has given you? Is there any labor too severe, is there any suffering too terrible for you to endure, if you can but bring back again to yourself the child that God has entrusted to you for a little time? No. Every true father or mother would be willing to do anything that could be required or imagined to save a child. This being the case, how is it with God, whose attributes are so much more perfect than ours, whose love is so much more intense, whose desires for our salvation are so much greater than ours possibly can be? Do you think He will leave His poor, weak children who are overcome in a moment of passion without any ambition for better things? No, He will not. I am pleased to know that the God we worship is not of this character. As He saves little children who can commit no sin until they reach the years of accountability; as He saves the heathen who never heard the name of Christ, so He will also receive and bless His children who come to Him with souls bowed down with regret for the evils they have done and with determinations that they will live better hereafter. He will receive them, and will make their sins, which have been as scarlet, as white as wool.

Now, if this spirit should fill our hearts as concerns the human family, how much more kind and considerate should we be to those of our own household and of our own church, and how much more willing to overlook their weaknesses, reproving them when necessary, but showing forth a love which will save and not degrade them? With this spirit I cannot see how we can have it in our hearts to turn against those who in a moment of passion are overcome in sin, but who repent of their sins, and forbid them the association of the people. Much more do we need to extend to such the charity and love which will save and exalt them. Much more do we need to show to them our willingness to bring them into a purer atmosphere and into better associations, that they may inhale with the air they breathe the Spirit of God, and thus become better and purer in their lives.

We can do much to save them; and yet we find right among us, with all our professions of love, that men are judged so strictly and their actions are so closely gauged by the plummet of justice untempered by mercy, that many men and women today are outside of the Church who are worthy of a standing in the community, because they have lived pure and virtuous lives. I only trust that God will work upon their hearts and cause them to come back to the Church, even though their souls may be bowed down in humility; that they will be so filled with a love for the truth and for the work that they will not allow themselves to be shut out from the privileges which belong to the Gospel of the Son of God because of the weaknesses and the lack of love on the part of men who preside in the midst of the people; for I know that men who judge harshly and women who draw so strictly the line will find that they themselves need the very mercy, the very charity and the very forbearance which they have forbidden others. Oh! what a blessing it is to be filled with this spirit of charity. It is one of the greatest gifts of God to His children. Paul has so beautifully spoken of it in his writings. He says:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

How much more peaceful would the world be if this spirit prevailed! Think of it, brethren and sisters; if this spirit of charity existed in the hearts of men, would you hear of the troubles which come to us from every quarter of the globe—the strikes, the disasters, and other troubles which afflict the human family? Would you hear of murders and of suicides? No. But as it is now we are so filled with a self-righteous spirit that we cannot see the good in others or forgive the weaknesses which they manifest. We feel sometimes like the man who, ascending to the high pinnacle of a mountain, looks down upon the creatures below on the street, and they seem very small and insignificant from his exalted position. Then it is that his head turns dizzy because of the height to which he has ascended, and when men get into that position they had better quickly descend to the earth, lest they themselves fall. And when men and women in the Church become so elevated in their own feelings and ideas that they become dizzy and look down upon the poor earth-worms who go about on this planet, they had better be very careful, for fear they may themselves fall and become less than even those whose smallness they despised. God will make of us great men and women if we are true to Him; but we cannot exalt ourselves; we cannot ascend ourselves to a high plane without bringing others along with us. We are bound to influence more or less the people who live on the same globe as we do, and how much better is it for us if we can only influence them for good, and if we can by a word or act help a soul out in the great struggle of life! I do not believe there is an in-

dividual that lives on the earth but can say or do something that will encourage a human being, and that will make the earth better for his having lived in it. This is the object we should constantly have in view. God give us the spirit to impart this help to each other, that we may lay up treasures in heaven. Amen.

Written for this Paper

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

Minutes of the first annual conference of the Sunday schools of Bannock Stake, held in the Music Hall, Rexburg, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 4th and 5th, 1894. There were present on the stand W. J. Young, F. S. Bramwell and Albert Taylor, of the Stake School Superintendency; T. E. Ricks, sen., and W. F. Rigby, of the Stake Presidency; T. C. Griggs, of the Deseret Sunday School Union Board; John M. Whitaker, General Secretary of Deseret Sunday school Union, and a number of Sunday school missionaries, ward Sunday school superintendents and Bishops.

Saturday, Aug. 4th, 10 a. m. Meeting called to order by Superintendent F. S. Bramwell; roll call, and representatives from sixteen Sunday schools responded, besides a number of Sunday school missionaries.

Elder T. C. Griggs addressed the meeting. He explained the object of Sunday school conferences, gave an outline of how they should be conducted, and spoke of the great importance of Sunday school work.

Elder Cyrus Harris, superintendent of Salem Sunday school, and Elder H. W. Miller, superintendent of Parker Sunday school, reported their schools in good condition.

Elder J. M. Whitaker offered such suggestions for the good of the Sunday school work. He urged all Sunday school workers to press forward with renewed diligence in the great cause in which they were engaged.

At 2 p. m. Elder C. N. Watkins delivered a short address on the subject of the Sacrament.

The First Intermediate Department of the Burton Sunday school was reviewed by their teacher, Sister Ada Watts, and displayed great proficiency in their answers to the many questions propounded.

Elder J. M. Whitaker next addressed the conference, urging upon the officers and teachers of the Sunday school to direct their instruction to the understanding of their pupils, and gave much good advice to the teachers.

Elder Don C. Walker, superintendent of Lewisville Sunday school, and Elder C. H. Barrett, superintendent of Willow Creek Sunday school, reported their schools in good condition.

Elder T. C. Griggs next described a model Sunday school, and indicated to teachers subjects that should be called to the attention of pupils.

At 8 p. m. Elder W. J. Young, superintendent Bannock Stake Sundayschools, addressed the conference; reported Bannock Stake Sunday schools in a very good condition. The ward Sunday schools were presided over by able and energetic workers. He encouraged all who were engaged in the Sunday school work to labor diligently in the good cause they were engaged in. There were thirty-seven schools in active work-