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WORDS OF WARNING

Delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, July 8, 1894, by

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

The remarks which have been made have suggested to my mind the object the Lord announced in the beginning He had in view in sending forth the Elders of this Church, and also in giving the revelations that have been embodied in what we call the book of Doctrine and Covenants, which we receive as the word of God to us in this generation. In Section 1 of the book of Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord says:

Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhabitants of the earth.

Wherefore, fear and tremble, O ye people, for what I the Lord have decreed in them shall be fulfilled.

In another part of the same section, the Lord says:

Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, jr., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments.

And also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world; and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets.

* * * * * And again, verily I say unto you, O inhabitants of the earth, I the Lord am willing to make these things known unto all flesh,

For I am no respecter of persons, and will that all men shall know that the day speedily cometh; the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand, when peace shall be taken from the earth, and the devil shall have power over his own dominion;

And also the Lord shall have power over His Saints, and shall reign in their midst, and shall come down in judgment upon Idumea, or the world.

Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.

We have been told this afternoon something concerning the Elders of this Church going forth to preach to the people. It is true we have sought to teach the primitive Gospel as it was

taught by the Apostles of old with all the gifts and graces that accompanied its preaching in their day. But there was something more than this. Every man that went forth was commanded to lift up his voice and call upon the people in warning tones and tell them that the Lord was about to visit the inhabitants of the earth with judgment; that these were the last days, and that calamity should come upon the inhabitants of the earth unless they repented and turned from their sins. For these were the days spoken of by Jesus when men's hearts should fail them with fear in looking for the things which were coming upon the earth. This message has been proclaimed for sixty-four years in the ears of all people who would listen to it. The Elders have traversed the islands and the continents warning the people. Our own nation has been warned incessantly, I might say, so much so that we have become odious in the eyes of those who have heard our talk. They have looked upon us as croakers and almost as traitors because we have lifted our voices in warning, telling them that there was evil coming upon the land unless there was repentance.

It is not a pleasant duty for men to discharge, to have to warn their fellow-men of impending evil. It is much more pleasant to predict peace and to say, "You are all right, you are doing just what you ought to do. Keep on." We are all pleased when we are praised and are told that our course is a proper one; but it has been the unpleasant duty of the Elders of this Church to bear a different testimony. They have been commanded to say to the people, "You are doing wrong; you are going to destruction; and you must turn round and repent or God will scourge you and remove you out of your place." For saying these things the Latter-day Saints have been mobbed. For the first sixteen years of their organization they were driven from place to place, and in order to escape further trouble, after their leading men had been murdered for bearing this testimony, they had to flee into the desert and do what we have heard described this afternoon.

I want to say a few words to the Latter-day Saints: You see now some of the things fulfilled which have been predicted to you from the beginning. You see trouble, and this trouble may be intermittent, but it will increase from time to time, not only in our own land, but in other lands. For God has told us that the testimony of His servants should be followed by the testimony of judgments, of earth-

quakes, of pestilence, of famine, of tempests, and the sea heaving itself beyond its bounds. The Latter-day Saints have been gathered out from the various nations that they might escape these judgments. God has said that the time is near at hand when Babylon shall be overthrown, and the message which came to you, my brethren and sisters, in the lands where you lived was, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues." The words of the Apostle John, in his book Revelations, the last book in the New Testament, will be fulfilled concerning Babylon, and Babylon will be overthrown. It will not be done all at once, but it is decreed and will be fulfilled.

The whole land is now covered with strikes. Combinations are formed, some of which are secret. We have for very many years been urging upon the Latter-day Saints not to connect themselves with secret combinations; not to partake of the sins of Babylon, but to be a stable people; to be a people that will keep aloof from those things that are bound to bring destruction upon the land. There never was a time when wisdom was more needed among us than at the present time. We should exercise self-control and act prudently and judiciously in these trying times. Here is a conflict between labor and capital, and it is leading to bloodshed. Who can tell where the end will be? Therefore every man who makes a profession of having received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the warning that the Lord sent through His Elders, by means of which the people have been gathered to these valleys, should be exceedingly careful about his associations and should do nothing that will bring condemnation upon himself or discredit upon the people.

It is for this express purpose that we have been gathered, and I felt this afternoon, although not feeling well, that I could not let this meeting be dismissed without saying to the Latter-day Saints a few words upon this topic. I want to warn all of you that there will be more and more disturbances, and it is for us as a people to profit by the teachings and warnings that have been given unto us now for so many years. We have been taught that we were brought to this land expressly to build up Zion on the earth. And what is Zion? Zion is a reign of righteousness; a reign of honesty, and a reign of freedom; and the day will yet come, as we have all been taught, when it will devolve upon the Latter-day Saints to uphold constitutional government upon this