

himself in the land of his birth. She opened a little store in Shields, but it did not pay, and she has been paying visits to the Saints, lamenting her rash act in coming back; and her mind is set on getting out to Utah as soon as the money is raised. She still considers herself a Latter-day Saint.

I may say that the DESERET WEEKLY is much appreciated here by all who have the pleasure of perusing it. It is highly interesting, valuable and instructive. Success to it.

JOHN HAYES.
15 CARDIGAN STREET, NORTH
STOCKTON-ON-TEES, May 1st, 1889.

DISCOURSE

Delivered By President Lorenzo Snow, At Logan, Monday Morning, May 6th, 1889.

REPORTED BY A. WINTER.

By request of President Woodruff I will occupy a portion of the time this morning. I feel that any Elder might be inspired to speak the praises of God after such beautiful and affecting singing as we have just heard from our talented choir.

I thank God that in these times of corruption and wickedness in the world, we have holy and righteous men and women who can devote those superior talents which God has bestowed upon them to His praise and glory. And I might say further, that there are thousands of virtuous and honorable men and women, whom the Lord has gathered out from the nations, that are also willing to devote their time and talents to aid in accomplishing the work of God in the interest of His children.

While I occupy a short time this morning I ardently wish the faith and prayers of the Latter-day Saints, that I may be enabled to say something which will be of service and profit. You know that it is impossible for us to address a congregation of Latter-day Saints in a manner to satisfy ourselves, unless we have the promptings of the Spirit of the Almighty. We are entirely dependent upon the spirit of inspiration, and if there ever was a time, since Adam occupied the Garden of Eden, when the Spirit of God was more needed than at the present time, I am not aware of it. The signs of the times, and the rapid approach of scenes that will try the hearts of the Latter-day Saints and their integrity, demand that we now seek earnestly the Spirit of God, and Divine assistance, for it will certainly be needed in the scenes now rapidly approaching. We know that we have needed it in the past. We can easily see that if we had not been in the possession of the Spirit of God to direct us through many of the scenes through which we have passed, we should not have been in the enjoyment of our present prospects of exaltation and glory, and our circumstances would have been much less favorable. And if we have needed the Holy Spirit in the past, we may truly understand that it will be needed in the future.

I remember very clearly the troublous times which were experienced in Kirtland some fifty-three years ago, where the Prophet of God resided, where God Himself, even Jesus, the Son of God, appeared and showed Himself in His glory. He stood upon the breast-work of the pulpit of the Temple, built by commandment. There was under His feet a pave work of pure gold, in color like amber. His hair was white as the pure snow. His countenance shone as the sun in its strength. His voice was as the sound of rushing waters. This wonderful manifestation was in the temple which had been reared to His honor. I was in Kirtland at that time, where we passed through scenes which, I sometimes think, we are now beginning to repeat. The circumstances which surrounded the Latter-day Saints at that time were of a peculiar nature; at least, the effects upon the people were of a peculiar character. Perhaps a few words in regard to our condition at that time might prove of some service to us in the future—might give us some useful lessons. At that time a spirit of speculation pervaded the minds of the people of this nation. There were money speculations, bank speculations, speculations in lands, speculations in city lots, speculations in numerous other directions. That spirit of speculation rose out of the world, and swept over the hearts of the Saints like a mighty wave or rushing torrent, and many fell, and apostatized.

Just previous to this great apostacy the Lord had poured out wonderful blessings upon the people. The gifts of the Gospel had been poured out to a remarkable extent—the riches of eternity. Angels had visited them. The Son of God, as I before remarked, had talked with His servants. At the dedication of the Temple the blessings which the people received were marvelous. During that rich time of God's favors I, myself, attended the various meetings which were held in the Temple. We had prayer meetings, and testimony meetings, and such testimonies as the brethren and sisters could bear were wonderful. They prophesied, they spake in tongues, and had the interpretation of tongues to a remarkable degree. These blessings were almost universal upon the people in Kirtland. Their hearts were then devoted; they felt as though they could sacrifice anything they possessed. They felt that they were dwelling almost in the presence of God, and it was natural that they should have that feeling under such marvelous influences.

All these blessings, and many others that I have not time to enumerate, were enjoyed by the Latter-day Saints just previous to the time when this spirit of speculation began to pervade the hearts of the people. One would have imagined that after receiving these wonderful manifestations no temptation could have overthrown the Saints. But it did, and it scattered them, as it were, to the four winds.

Singular as it may appear, this

spirit of speculation pervaded the quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the quorum of the Seven Presidents of Seventies; indeed, there was not a quorum in the Church but was more or less touched with this spirit of speculation. As that spirit increased, disunion followed. Brethren and sisters began to slander and quarrel one with the other, because their interests were not in harmony.

Will this be the case with the Latter-day Saints I am now addressing? I fear it is coming, but how far it will affect you it is not for me to say. You will have the experience, however; and perhaps it is very necessary that you should.

As President Woodruff stated here yesterday, one-half the quorum of the Apostles, in the days of Kirtland, fell beneath these evil influences. It was this speculation, this love of gold—the god of the world—which produced this doleful effect. And if it had this effect upon those who held the highest priesthood upon the earth, how would it affect us who, perhaps, have not had the intelligence, the information and the experience they possessed?

It is the love of gold that has affected too many of our brethren and sisters in Salt Lake City, in Ogden, and in other places. May God grant that it will not seriously affect the people of Logan and the adjacent settlements in this Stake of Zion! But it will, doubtless, affect some of you, more or less; and in the name of the Lord I warn you of these things that are coming. As was so beautifully expressed by Brother Thatcher yesterday, in regard to the possession of your inheritances, it is a subject that demands your most serious attention and consideration, that you may be enabled to act wisely in these matters. I know what I am talking about, having had this experience, and been through those scenes whereof I speak.

Fifty-three years ago we were living very happily in Kirtland. The Lord was very merciful to us. We had left our kindred and friends and gathered to that place in obedience to the voice of God through His covenants; and we went there with honest hearts and pure motives. In the same way you have left your friends and your surroundings in the nations where the Gospel reached you. You have come here with honest hearts and with resolutions strong and powerful to serve God and keep His commandments, to work in His interests and endeavor to prepare yourselves for celestial glory. These are the feelings which we all possessed, the determinations we all made; and we have endeavored, I hope, to carry them out faithfully. But there is rapidly coming something that will try you, perhaps as you have never been tried before. All, however, that is necessary for us to do now is to see where our faults and weaknesses lie, if we have any. If we have been unfaithful in the past, let us renew our covenants with God and determine, by fasting and prayer, that we will get forgiveness of our sins, that the Spirit of the Almighty may rest upon us, that peradventure we