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REMARKS

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

My beloved brethren and sisters, I am pleased to meet with you upon this Sabbath day and at this holiday time. Inasmuch as I have been called upon to address you for a short time, I am earnestly desirous that I should enjoy the Spirit of God. I feel that it would be useless for me to occupy your time without I enjoy your sympathy and your faith and prayers; for no man, no matter who he may be or what his experience may have been, can edify the Latter-day Saints if he does not enjoy the Spirit of God. If, however, I am able this afternoon, as a servant of God and a weak follower of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to deliver to you His word, our time will be profitably spent and we shall be satisfied. I never arise to address believers in the doctrine of Christ without feeling my great dependence upon my Heavenly Father, and how weak I am within myself, and how incapable I am of edifying His Saints and feeding them the bread of life, except I enjoy the inspiration of His Holy Spirit.

As Latter-day Saints, we have many things to be thankful for. What a great work we are engaged in! This tree which has been planted by the Prophet Joseph Smith, under the inspiration of God, how its branches are extending! How the roots or feelers are spreading into the various parts of the world! The work is increasing throughout the length and breadth of the land. The people are becoming more interested in this latter-day work, and the responsibility is upon the Latter-day Saints to preach this Gospel to the nations of the earth. Throughout the various Stakes of Zion the work is increasing. A great many of those who have not been interested in the Gospel before are now taking an active part in the work. Young men are desirous of knowing for themselves whether this Gospel be of God or whether it was originated through the wisdom or cunning of man. I can say that if men were the founders of this work, it will surely come to naught; but if it be of God we can safely leave the outcome with Him. Never mind what other people may think of this work. Those who are doing their duty and keeping the commandments of God know that the Almighty is at the head of this work, and that He will bring it through successfully.

I have just returned from quite an extended trip through southern Utah. I have visited the various Stakes of Zion in that region. In something like thirty-five days I have spoken in over fifty meetings of the Latter-day Saints. I have been able to get a pretty thorough understanding of the condition of our people in that part of Zion. The

people do not by any means seem to be losing interest in the work. They do not appear to have the idea that it is going to the ground. On every hand it is growing and increasing, and the people are taking more interest in it. I have no doubt that there are people in Salt Lake City who are just as true and faithful to God as are the people in the smaller settlements of Utah; but here we are so mixed up with other elements that we do not feel that influence of the Spirit of God as much as we do where most all of the people are Latter-day Saints. In a number of the settlements that I have visited you can count on the finger of one hand those who are not of our faith. Therefore, if there is wrongdoing in those settlements, or conditions exist that are forbidden by the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we cannot charge it to any but the Latter-day Saints. There has been among some of our young people a great indifference manifested toward the work of the Lord. They have been willing to fight for the Gospel, if necessary; they have been willing to die for it, if enemies approached to destroy us; but to live for it has been another thing with them. In this connection I have earnestly petitioned my Heavenly Father that He would give me power to do one thing, if no other, and that was to awaken an interest in the hearts of the young people of Zion where I have visited, that they might lay to heart the importance of this work in which we are engaged, and be led to investigate for themselves and know of a surety that this work is of God, and not of man. My desire, at least in having the young people attend the meetings, has been fulfilled. They have attended the meetings very faithfully. Young men who have hitherto manifested no particular interest in the Gospel, or have only attended meetings occasionally, have come out to our meetings very regularly, and have exhibited a great deal of interest in the conferences that have been held. This is a source of joy to my heart to see that the young people are becoming interested in this latter-day work. For we must realize that those who have carried this work through the heat of the day will not always be with us. The time will come when we will be left to depend upon the testimony of the Gospel which we have for ourselves. Therefore, if we will come forward while we are young, and listen to the rehearsal of the experience of those who have been with the work from the beginning, and be impressed by their teachings, it will have a greater effect upon us than will the reading of their experiences after they have passed away. Not only that, but a great deal of the history of this people has never been written, and never can be. Much of the sufferings and trials they have had to pass through at the hands of their enemies will never be recorded, only by the angels, who know and see all things. The Latter-day Saints have been greatly misjudged. Their motives

have been misconstrued. People have thought evil of them, simply because they did not understand their motives. If they had understood that the Latter-day Saints were trying to better the world, trying to bring forth fruit, with the help of God, that would show that their organization and institutions were really ordained of God, they would not have persecuted this people as they have done. There is no doubt in my mind but that many an honest-hearted Christian has been led into darkness concerning this people. We have been misunderstood; and in many cases the idea has been entertained that we were opposed to the government under which this Church has grown and been nourished. I say, had it been understood that we were simply trying to teach the Gospel that our Lord and Savior taught, and to bring about a better condition of affairs in the world, honest-hearted people would have turned unto us, and they would have given us sympathy, and we would have been enabled to accomplish much more than we have. But this is God's work. We are simply instruments in His hands. We come upon the stage, and we play our part to the best of our ability, and then we are willing to leave the result with God. It has been said that God buries His workmen, but continues His work. So one by one those who have been identified with this work pass away. Some of them leave a written history, to a small extent, of what they have passed through and what they have known; but their full history or their characters can never be made as plain to us on paper as they can by conversing with them. So I say that it is very essential that all people who have any interest in this work should make use of the opportunities that present themselves to hear those who are yet among us who have been with the work from the beginning; and they should seek to know for themselves concerning this Gospel. If they find for themselves, and not for another, that it is of God, then there is no sacrifice too great for them to make for this cause. If we become thoroughly converted to the Gospel of Christ, we will not prize our lives as anything in comparison with our standing in the Church of Christ and with the saving of the souls of others who have not yet come to a knowledge of this faith. Therefore, our brethren go to the nations of the earth, leaving all that is near and dear to them, and place themselves in the hands of God to preach His Gospel. They go abroad, not feeling that their time is their own, but that it belongs to God, who gave them life; feeling that everything they have they are indebted to Him for, and that He has given and He can take away. This morning I attended the meeting of the German Saints, held in the Assembly Hall, and had the pleasure of talking to them a little in their native tongue. While seated upon the stand there my heart was made to rejoice at seeing a number of those with whom I had labored in Switzerland and Germany, and also, a