

been passed in as completed, and when he came to look over the different jobs he found that there was one boy out of the number employed that had not taken advantage of his employer and performed his work with greater speed to the neglect of its perfection; and that boy was chosen to be foreman, because he was honest though he was not watched.

You know how it is with those who work by the piece; they almost double the work which they would do by the day. We say there is an incentive to it. Why should there be? If a man engages the time of another, the man employed should devote his whole strength and energy to the interest of his employer. He should be studying his welfare; he should feel that the prosperity of his employer is his own advancement, and he should not take advantage of his employment as a day laborer. These are things that we should learn. We should try to be at the head of all people in all labors that are required at our hands, and nothing short of this will satisfy our Eternal Father or will enable us to live up to the full line of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which we have espoused.

I have enjoyed beyond the power of words to express the meetings of this day and yesterday. I think the reproofs which we have received from the authorities of the Church should be impressed upon our minds. We are living in perilous times, in the times mentioned by Paul in his epistle to Timothy. He says:

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

President Woodruff told us today that we were living in these perilous times; and if we did not have the word of the mouthpiece of the Lord to this effect, the signs are so abundant, even in Zion, that we cannot deny the fulfillment of this prophecy. Perilous times have indeed come upon the earth and men are lovers of their own selves. Look at the condition of the world today. Who does not see the spirit of covetousness, the spirit of self-love, growing up in the hearts of the people? Who does not see the desire to lift ourselves up, regardless of those who suffer from our elevation? It is this spirit of covetousness and of self-love that has placed nine-tenths of the whole property of the United States in the hands of less than two hundred and fifty thousand people. More than nine-tenths of the property in these United States is owned by less than two hundred and fifty thousand people! Is it not appalling to think of it? And then the other one-tenth is rapidly passing under their control, because of the immense power which they wield on account of their wealth. It is this self-love and covetousness that has placed in the hands of fifty men, as Chauncey Depew has announced, the power to stop every wheel of commerce in the United States, to tie up every railroad, and prevent the traffic which now seems so necessary to the continuance of this government and its business. We marveled at the power which a few thousand men had to tie up rail-

roads; but there are fifty men, so this man says who himself stands at the head of a great railroad corporation, who can do this today! And they can do it under the cover of the law. The power of the government was called in to open the roads through this country when these strikers stopped the railroads from operating. But who can compel these other men to set these wheels in motion? If they should take it into their heads to say today that the railroads should stop running and business be at a standstill, where is the law in this nation that would force them to again open up the avenues of trade? I do not know of any. It is good for the people at large that these men are not possessed of the spirit to stop these things and to check business operations. But if fear takes possession of their hearts, and if they see destruction abroad upon the face of the land who can tell what day they will call in their wealth? Who can tell how soon or how long it will be before they will concentrate their property, and place it in a position where they will have it under their own eyes? Who can tell how long they will continue to operate railroads at a loss, as so many of them now are being conducted? It may be a day, it may be a year, and it may be longer; but with this menace before us we can easily see that there are other agencies which wield an influence in this nation that can do great injury to the whole people, and these agencies are limited to a few men who can operate under the cover of law, and be protected in their unjust operations. We may well say that perilous times have come. We may well say that men are lovers of their own selves and covetous. You see it even among the Latter-day Saints. Where are the patriots even among us? There are some I am pleased to say; but we are filled with the spirit of self-love. We desire our own aggrandizement and we scarcely think of the means which we adopt in order to lift ourselves into prominence or into wealth; we scarcely think of the sufferings which our actions may cause to our brethren and sisters.

Then it is said that one of the troubles to come is that children shall be disobedient to parents. Do you not find this among the people? I think it is everywhere apparent. It seems to me that in my short life I can see a wonderful change in children. There is a lack of respect for parents:

"Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

This seems to have dropped out of our memory, at least to a very great extent; You find disobedience among children. Sometimes it is the fault of the parents themselves. But we should try and correct this evil, so far as God gives us the wisdom and power to do it. The foundation of government is laid right in the family circle. If you find disobedience in the family, either on the part of the children to parents or wives to husbands, you will find disobedience in the church and in the government. I have never yet seen a boy who was disobedient to his parents who was obedient to the Priesthood and gave it the respect to which it is entitled. Some children say, "My father (or my mother) is not worthy of respect." Who placed you to judge your parents? Who has given you the scales of justice? The

Lord has made no exception in the command which He has given, "Honor thy father and thy mother." He does not except unworthy parents. They may be unworthy, but they will have to answer for their own sins. The duty is still incumbent upon the childreun to honor their parents, if they would receive the fulfillment of the promise connected with this command. We speak of China as an uncivilized nation, and yet the laws of that nation are so strict in enforcing filial obedience, that the father has almost a solute control of his children, and any disregard of the commands of the parent is visited with most severe penalties. An extreme instance of the enforcement of the law is found in history. There was a certain son and his wife who beat the mother of the former. This came to the knowledge of the king. He commanded that these children who were guilty of this charge should be beheaded. He ordered that the place in which they lived should be anathematized and a curse placed upon it. The mother of the wife, who reared so unfaithful a daughter, was ordered to be bamboozed, branded and banished from her home. The magistrates in whose district the crime occurred were also to be whipped and banished. The students of the schools in that district were forbidden public examination—and that in China means probable advancement; for students there look forward to the public examination as a time when they can be rewarded by the viceroys or one of the rulers, and they were forbidden the opportunity of advancement because of this crime that had been committed by two of their fellow citizens. And the house in which the whipping occurred was to be dug up from its foundations and never more to be rebuilt. That was the punishment which Chinese law inflicted upon those who were disobedient to their parents or who abused them.

If you will read the scripture, you will find there how the disobedient son was to be punished in the days of Moses. He was to be taken without the gates, where his sin was to be announced, and he was to be stoned to death—a law which would find many victims if it were enforced today. But we ought to learn obedience without the necessity of being punished in any way. I do not believe the Lord blesses children who disobey their parents and disregard their counsels. Whether these parents are the examples they should be or not, it makes but little difference, so long as they do not require a child to go contrary to the commands of God, it is the duty of the child to yield obedience to its parents. Of course our first allegiance is to God our Eternal Father, the Father of our spirits. Still it is not for the child who has no experience, to always judge of these things. Sometimes the child thinks the commands of the father or the mother are improper, and he sets up his judgment against theirs. This is not right. Then it is the duty of the father and the mother to see that obedience is rendered, so long as the child is under their control; not with harshness, not with blows, but rather with reasoning, with persuasion and with kindness. These are far more effectual in bringing to us the obedience of our children than the infliction of any number of blows. Parents, however, should be wise. They should not throw about their children such a code of laws that