

with diligence and success. The Book of Mormon has been translated into that language and is being circulated and read by the natives. Throughout the United States our Elders are laboring with all the zeal and diligence that we could ask for. In the northern States this winter has been severe, and there have not been many baptisms. While I was East I met Elder C. W. Stayner, who told me that as soon as spring opened he expected there would be a great many additions to the Church. There was an increase of interest among the people. In many places they listened as they had not done for years to the preaching of the Elders. In the Southern States mission the Elders inform us that they are making efforts to get doors opened in the cities, and they are encouraged by the prospects before them. In the Indian Territory our brethren have commenced to build a chapel. So that, so far as our own land is concerned, there is much to be thankful for, and many souls are being gathered out. The work of the Lord is also growing among the Lamanites, especially in Southern Arizona, under the ministrations of the presidency of the Maricopa Stake of Zion. We are trying to do our duty to this nation—to lay before the people the message of salvation which God has given unto us.

The days of trouble are at hand, and it is our duty, as God's servants, to go and declare to the inhabitants of the earth that these are the last days, and that God is about to bring to pass that which He has spoken concerning His judgments and calamities that should be poured out upon the wicked in the last days, preparatory to the coming of the Son of Man. The Elders, it must be said in their favor, go forth, as a rule, full of this desire to quit themselves as men and to cleanse their garments of the blood of this generation, by bearing faithful testimony to the truth. It is most gratifying to see our young men respond as they do to the calls that are made upon them to go here and there, wherever the authorities of the Church direct, as missionaries, to carry the message of salvation and glad tidings. And it must be said that the character of our Elders, in some respects, is improving. The pains that are being taken in our primary schools, our Sabbath schools, our young men's improvement associations, are bearing their fruits. I remember presiding abroad and having Elders come whose ignorance concerning the principles of the Gospel they had been sent out to teach was painful to see. There has been a great change in this respect. Therefore, I say the character of our Elders has improved. They now go out, as a rule, well instructed in the principles of the Gospel, familiar with the history of the Church, capable of explaining the doctrines and everything connected with the Gospel, and, when necessary, capable of defending the principles they teach. This is a gratifying improvement; and it will be more and more visible as the years roll by and as our facilities for imparting understanding will increase, as they are increasing on every hand.

Throughout these mountains the Lord has poured out His Spirit upon

His people. There is a great deal of union. Still there is much room for improvement in this respect. The Lord is trying us in directions in which we have never been tried before. Did any of you ever think that we should be tried as we are now being tried? These are new trials, and they are going to test the faith of a good many who are called Latter-day Saints. The depths of our love for the truth are going to be sounded, and if we are not built upon the rock and have a living testimony concerning the truth within us we shall be in danger. God is going to have a tried people, and the trials will not always come in the form that we are looking for. They would cease probably to be trials if they came in that way; but they come in forms for which, it may be said, we are partly unprepared. They come to us in unexpected forms; therefore the greater the trial of our faith. I tell you, my brethren and sisters, that I tremble for us and for myself, lest in these trials we should take missteps; lest we should give way to wrong influences and yield to an improper spirit, and be led away from the truth and that union which is so precious, which is so great a gift that God has bestowed upon us to distinguish us from all peoples upon the face of the earth.

I pray that God may give unto us the light of eternity to ever be with us, and that we may watch it and take care that it does not become dim in our hearts, that it don't become obscured by any influence or power; but that having that light shining upon our path continually we may walk undeviatingly forward until we shall attain unto that great glory that God has in store, and be crowned with Him in His presence with those blessings that have been sealed upon us by the authority that He has restored from heaven. I pray God to bless us during this Conference, to fill every man that shall speak with the power of God, and the hearts of all who hear with that heavenly and softening influence, that the words of life may fall like good seed into mellow ground, there to lodge; there to germinate, there to grow; there to bring forth fruit that shall be to the glory of our God and to our own salvation, which I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Apostle Franklin D. Richards

addressed the Conference. Following is a brief and necessarily imperfect synopsis of his discourse:

He felt the necessity of having the Holy Spirit in attempting to address the congregation. A grand view had been presented to us of the progress of the work of God in the present time, and even in the contemplation of this we are reminded that it is necessary for us to have a sense of our own unworthiness. Without humility the Spirit of God cannot dwell within us.

There is one principle which underlies the very existence of the Church of God, and that is the necessity of continuous revelation. Against this principle all the world goes out in opposition. But without it the Saints cannot grow in the knowledge of God. The reason why men have been left to form religious systems which have the "form of godliness but deny the power thereof" is this, they had no revelations.

They do not believe that there are any, nor that there ever will be any more. This is contrary to the spirit that prevailed among the ancient people of God. When on one occasion someone complained to Moses that certain persons prophesied, that man of God said he wished all the Lord's people could prophesy. Peter quotes the promise given through the Prophet Joel, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." We believe that we are living in the beginning of the days here spoken of, and we should therefore nourish and cultivate the spirit of revelation constantly, and the more since we believe that we are living in times of trouble, from which only the righteous can escape, by standing in holy places and immovable.

We are sometimes told, that the Scriptures say we must expect no more revelations, and in support of this, people quote the verse at the end of the Revelation of John, where men are prohibited from adding to or taking from the word of that prophecy. But it is clear that those who argue in this way do not understand the word of God. It was strongly forbidden to add anything to the ancient law or to take anything from it. Yet this did not mean that there was to be no more prophets or revelations after the time of Moses. The prohibition referred to is applicable only to the book in which it is found, and not to revelation in general. All the scriptures extant in Paul's day were necessary for instruction, etc.; so is everything that God has revealed up to the present day.

At the dedication of the temple in Kirtland, the prophet Joseph and the Apostles were sustained as prophets, seers and revelators. That is how the apostleship was looked upon then, and the speaker could testify that the apostles now are cultivating the spirit and are prophets, seers and revelators to the people, if they are willing to receive them. And so with other members of the Priesthood. Every head of a family should live so that he could be a seer and revelator to his household. It is distressing to contemplate the fact that the people can sometimes indulge in strife and contentions. No man has a right to get so interested in his own affairs as to forget what he owes his fellowmen. No one has a right to climb on another in order to obtain an elevated position for himself. None should speak evil of another. We must be careful in these things and have no animosity towards each other, even if we are of different opinions in some things. If we are not careful in these matters, we are in danger of losing the Spirit of God and thus be prevented from growing in righteousness. However, the work in which we are engaged is the Lord's. If we only will be faithful, He will bear us off triumphant, and build us up in the true faith.

Revelation is continually needed. Even the advancement of the world in science and inventions is a result of the spirit of revelation. The speaker referred to the application of steam and electricity to various uses, as an