

Written for this Paper.

## ON COMPETITION.

people. He has gathered us out by His wonderful power. It is a marvelous work and a wonder the way these Latter-day Saints have been gathered to these mountains. No man can travel throughout our settlements, either north or south, without feeling impressed with the wonderful power that has brought the people together and enabled them to endure the hardships, the inconveniences and the trials that are connected with their lives. And they are happy people. I was talking only a few days ago in New York with a very prominent man who had come up from Arizona through all our settlements, and he said it was the most remarkable thing that he had ever met with in his life, the happiness of the people, the contentment that reigned, the way they enjoyed themselves, their love and union, as well as the extraordinary exertions, patience, perseverance and courage which had been required to form these settlements. I am sure that no thoughtful person can travel throughout our land without being impressed in this manner. And what has done this? It has been the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon the people which has held them together. It is our duty to constantly keep in remembrance that this is a part of the plan of salvation to us. We were not gathered to get the best places in the land and to accumulate riches. God has promised that we shall have riches. We shall have them. We will be the richest of all people. I know that. God's hands, if I may use that expression, are full of blessings and of riches to bestow upon us. But that is not the object for which we were brought together. The object that brought us together was to lay the foundation of a new order of things in the earth. Do I mean by that to overturn existing political systems? No. God has revealed to us that this form of government under which we live is the best on the face of the earth, and that He raised up wise men and patriots in order that this form of government might be established, under which the spiritual kingdom of God might be established and grow and become a great power in the earth. God never intended that we should be revolutionists, and we have no designs in that direction. That is not our mission. We have not the spirit of it. We have to establish a new order of things. In what respect? To check this dreadful stream of corruption of every kind that is flooding our land, and not only our land but all the lands of the earth, to a greater or less extent. He has gathered us out from the various nations of the earth in order that we may do this. It is our destiny. It is the mission which He has given to us, and we should have an eye single to the glory of God in doing it. We should keep that first and foremost in our thoughts. No personal aggrandizement; no asking "Is this going to benefit me individually?" but to put our trust in God, who has always fed and clothed us, and will still do so and furnish us with all that is necessary if our hearts are pure before Him and we labor for the carrying out of His purposes in the earth.

My brethren and sisters, God has called us with the greatest of callings. No people could have a greater calling given them. And when we have been threatened with overwhelming destruction our Father has rescued us. When we have been surrounded by thick clouds of darkness, and there has been no ray of

light visible, He has dissipated these clouds and let the light of heaven shine upon our pathway. When it has seemed as though our enemies were so numerous and so filled with anger that our destruction appeared inevitable, He has softened their hearts, He has turned aside their wrath, and has given us favor in their sight. He has blessed us in wonderful ways, in making us to dwell in peace and love among ourselves, and also to have this feeling towards others. We should realize the greatness of our calling and keep our eyes single to the glory of God. What difference does it make to us in the end whether we are poor or rich? True, it is delightful to have all our physical wants supplied; but God in His infinite goodness and wisdom has not seen fit to permit us to have this condition always surrounding us. We have seen times of poverty, times of privation and great hardship; we have suffered great persecutions; but in the midst of it all who is there among you that has been destitute of the comforting influence of the Spirit of God? I know when we came to this valley and our food was dealt out to us by the ounce, as carefully as if it were gold, and the people were destitute of clothing, no happier people could be found on this continent than were the Latter-day Saints. Brother Wallace, was not that so? [Brother Wallace replied, "Yes, sir; it is a fact."] Why was this? Because the spirit and blessing of God rested down upon them. It has been so in the midst of all the trials that we have had to pass through, and it will be so from this day until Jesus shall come, whose right it is to reign, and He puts all enemies under His feet. All for us to do is to have our eyes single to the glory of God. Of course it is our duty to take care of those entrusted to us and of that which God has given us; but let us as a people keep our eyes single to His glory and our hearts pure. Let us live each day so that when the night comes and we reflect upon the actions of the day, before composing ourselves to sleep, there will be nothing in our minds to condemn us. In addition to that spirit of which I have spoken, and which every human being possesses who does not drive it out, we have the gift of the Holy Ghost, which quickens our understanding and enables us to see where we do wrong or where we do right. It puts us in a condition always to be in communion with our Father and God, and to have the fellowship of the Holy Ghost and of pure and holy beings. This is the way we should live, repenting each day. Some people think there is no need for repentance after they enter the Church. But it is a principle that must be exercised always. We have cause to repent every day of our lives, because we are weak and fallible and liable to err. We sometimes speak words that are not right; we have thoughts that are not right; we do things that are not right; and we can review ourselves in the light which God has given unto us; confess these wrongs before Him, repent of them and obtain forgiveness from Him. If we have offended any of our fellow men; if we have offended our wives, our husbands, our children, or our fathers, repent of it, ask God to forgive us; and thus go on day by day, until we shall emerge into the fulness of the glory of our God, which I humbly ask in behalf of all of us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

It has been said that "competition is the life of trade," and some have jocularly said in regard to new claimants for business patronage, "the more the merrier." Like many other so-called "wise old saws," these quoted contain a truth, but they involve also a vast amount of error and loss! In fact, there is everywhere today an acknowledged and active protest against unrestrained competition; for it is as a protective measure that "trusts" are organized, to preserve investment and secure a profit thereon, if human nature can, or will, submit to the measurable suppression of individual enterprise, at the dictation of a central rule. Competition finds no place, when production is less than demand. Both buyer and seller are then satisfied, whether the supply be labor or its products, such as sugar, wheat, iron, wool, cotton, stock, or any other thing. The one who disposes of his labor or its results is no more satisfied than is the consumer. But no sooner is this demand foreseen or observed, than a host, experienced in production or otherwise, endeavor to fill a presumed vacuum. The selling price recedes, and profit vanishes from undue and unneeded competition.

In the case of labor there is the same drift toward protective organization, and among artisans there are rules and restrictions for preventing any excess of educated or trained supply. So apprenticeship is limited, and organization being less potent than necessity, when a strike is resorted to, its success is always problematical, for clever artisans are not always the outcome of training. There is everywhere a certain amount of spontaneous ability, or ability proceeding from somewhat similar pursuits, which in an emergency can be relied upon to fill an advanced plane of labor from time to time. So the fireman becomes the engineer, the mixer of mortar the plasterer, and the common laborer steps into the shoes of one whom he has watched and can imitate to his own advantage.

To be sure, immense and continuous effort is made to include in organization every branch of skilled and auxiliary labor, so as to preclude failure in a contest with the employer or capitalist. But after all there are faulty elements in the masses which, desiring advancement, seize upon circumstances and make strikes futile in the main. Persecution, abuse, hard names, and even violence have been resorted to as so-called protective measures. Then the strong arm of the law is invoked for the preservation of property and that liberty of the man which is fundamental—"that in the pursuit of subsistence for himself or family, he shall dispose of his labor and ability in his own way and on his own terms!" Organization claim that individual right must yield to the presumed good of the whole, much on the same basis that society exacts the relinquishment of some things of individual right for the securing of others!

Malthus alone, among the philosophers, has suggested on a broad scale the regulation of this supply of common