

thing that has been done since, is now looked upon with the greatest favor. I have listened to most eloquent addresses, giving to President Young the greatest praise for that which he accomplished in Utah Territory.

My brethren and sisters, this is the condition today. The world is turning their attention to us. They are looking to see what we are doing, and they give us credit for being a far richer people than we are. A most extraordinary thing happened—that is, I thought it extraordinary—at this late Irrigation Congress. A committee on resolutions was appointed, and all the resolutions introduced in the Congress were referred to this committee. They embodied such of these resolutions as they approved of in an address, and when the address was brought in and reported, I thought it was the most important part of the proceedings, because upon the character of this address would be likely to depend the legislation of the United States Congress, and I prepared myself by going on to the floor (having before that a seat on the platform) to discuss this address. In the address there was a comparison between the landless people of Massachusetts and the ninety per cent of the people of Utah who owned their own homes, which was unfavorable to Massachusetts and exceedingly favorable to Utah. I had a conversation with a delegate from New Mexico and suggested to him that that did not please us, and he called attention to it. Afterwards got the floor myself, and I addressed the Congress on the subject; and do you know that it was with difficulty that we could get that changed, they were so determined to give Utah the praise which they said Utah deserved and to give Massachusetts the discredit which they said Massachusetts deserved. They said it was only telling the truth, and why not let it stand? And it was only by using influence of this kind, saying to them that we from Utah preferred to have that stricken out, because we did not want to excite any feeling in Massachusetts against Utah, that we succeeded in getting the line stricken out about Massachusetts. To me this was a wonderful thing. I said to myself, who would have thought a few years ago that it would be necessary for delegates from Utah to plead against getting too good a character as contrasted with other portions of the Union, especially with the state of Massachusetts?

I mention this to show you how public opinion has changed. At that Congress whenever allusion was made to Utah it was in the most respectful manner. I call attention to this because we are being forced into public notice. The eyes of the world are being drawn to us, and in the providence of our God this will continue to be the case more and more. There is not an irrigation association that would not like to have men from Utah come and visit it and tell the people how to settle the land, how to irrigate the land, how to live on a small piece of land and keep out of debt, and how to live in union and harmony, and how to build farm settlements close together, where the people can meet together for religious, social and educational purposes, and not be scattered over a large surface of ground, distant from each other. These measures that God has inspired His servants to take in this country, and which we know the Lord inspired President Young to take

as the leader of the people, and which some probably have thought were just the contrivance of man, are today approved of men. The world, of course, think it is man's wisdom and shrewdness that has accomplished this; but we know that President Young was inspired of God. After the lapse of time the vindication of these measures and the counsel given by the servants of the Lord is coming. We have had to wait some time for it, but it is coming at last—a vindication that is most gratifying to all of us who have lived to behold it and to hear it expressed.

So it will be, I tell you, in everything connected with this people. Men are looking at our method of preaching the Gospel, and thinking about it. By looking at the reports I see that we have today between 800 and 900 missionaries in the world. Think of it! A small community like the Latter-day Saints having between 800 and 900 young men traveling among the various nations of the earth and through the United States, learning things and becoming familiar with the ways of the world, gaining an experience that no other people upon the face of the earth are gaining. Think of the effect of this number coming home every two years and going among the people; and then again, 800 more going, or perhaps 1000 going to fill their places, and they coming back in their turn after traveling two years and gaining experience. You reflect and consider in your own minds the effect that this must have on our people. Why, there is no people on the earth that are having such a schooling in this respect. These young men go out, and they go out without purse and scrip, and they trust in the Lord, and they have faith developed such as cannot be developed in any other way. They become familiar with human nature. They are brought in contact with nearly all kinds of people, and they gain an experience that is better than any experience that can be gained in any other manner. Why, in olden times, it was common in Great Britain for men of wealth to send their sons to take what was called the grand tour. They would travel through Europe in company with tutors, and it was considered essential to the education of what they called a gentleman that he should make the grand tour. Now, every one of our young men take the grand tour; but they take it in a way to learn far more than they would if they had money or if they were under the guardianship of somebody, as they are brought in contact themselves with the people, and they come back developed and with an experience that is beyond price. Think of the effect that this will have on the community! There is scarcely a ward in our whole Territory, and it may be said outside of our Territory, that does not send some missionaries yearly. They go and they come back, and the effect that they have upon the people, upon public opinion, in influencing and in helping matters, is wonderfully great. Insensibly perhaps to the people with whom they associate, they have an influence. They are broadened in their minds, they are enlarged in their capacities, they have increased in their experience and they become men of understanding, because their faculties have been aroused and developed.

When men are told of this they are surprised at it. Why, they say, the

effect will be wonderful on your community. And it is so. Let me say to you that God having established this work and having conducted it by revelation thus far, it will in spite of everything obtain influence in the earth, and people will be drawn to it in admiration of it. They may fight it for awhile, and try to crush it and to crush the people; but the principles of truth which we have espoused, and that which God has taught us and is teaching us, they are bound to rise and to have influence, and they are bound to have their effect upon consistent people. You can see it now if you choose, but you will see it still more, that the influence of this people will spread, and we will be preaching the Gospel of salvation without baptizing the people. They will look upon us and they will imitate us and follow our example; and the world will be better because we are in it, and this nation will be benefited by our example. Where I go I tell them that we have a great mission to perform as a people, and we expect to fill it. I cite this instance: when they talk about the corrupt use of money and the bad effects of money, I say Utah Territory has been organized now for forty-five years; we have had a legislature for forty-five years, and I have never yet heard a breath of suspicion concerning bribery in Utah. I have never known a legislator in Utah vote for anything that was not right because he was influenced by money. Senator Stanford, the president of the Central Pacific railway, in his testimony as I have heard him before Congress, said that they never had the least occasion to send men to Utah to watch the legislation of Utah; their road was perfectly safe in our hands. He did not tell what they had to do in an adjoining state. I appealed to the manager of the Union Pacific on one occasion and asked him what his experience was. He said it was similar; that they had never had occasion to watch the legislature. The only thing they could find fault with, he said, was that sometimes they had suits for damages, some people thinking they were damaged more than he thought they were. I have endeavored, when I have been talking with leading men, to say that we have got a mission. We are going to change things. The introduction of moneyed influences in our politics is a thing that, if God gives me strength and power, I shall oppose with every faculty of mind and body. I have almost sworn—I never do swear—but I have almost sworn that while God gives me strength I will fight that to the very last, that there shall be no corrupt influence brought into our country if it can be prevented. I want to make, as one, a stand against it, no matter where it comes from, or by whom it is practiced. We have maintained a character thus far for honesty and for being above bribery; and this people, I know, when they are appealed to they will with all their might oppose the introduction of any such influence.

Now, in relation to this reform and our mission of which I have been speaking, we will build railroads cheaper than anybody else, and we will build them honestly. We will go into all concerns, all enterprises, and we will do them honestly, and the men that handle the funds will be honest men and be able to account for every dollar. We have built a little railroad from here to the Lake. Not a dollar has been spent that