

Have yielded for the benefit of the people, we find today that the prosperous people of this Territory are those who have devoted themselves to the cultivation of the soil and who have sought to produce, according to the ability which God has given them, that which they needed for the sustenance of themselves and their families.

A few weeks ago I supposed in my ignorance that nearly all the Latter-day Saints were in a species of bondage, through their indebtedness. I thought that almost every farm in the Territory was mortgaged, and almost every home possessed by the Latter-day Saints was obligated to some person or firm, because of the indebtedness of the owner. But within a few days I have had this illusion dispelled, and I am happy to say that the condition of the Latter-day Saints is not by any means as bad as I supposed it was. The census bulletin of the government of the United States which was recently issued concerning this Territory, shows how wise and far-seeing was the prophet of God in counseling the people to take the course which he suggested, because it shows that of the farm population of this Territory there are out of every one hundred families eighty-six that own unencumbered the land upon which they dwell and the houses that they occupy; five out of every hundred occupy encumbered possessions; while only nine out of every hundred families who are living upon farms are tenants. You go from the farms into the villages and towns of the people, compare their condition with that of the farming population, and you will find that out of every hundred families who have their homes in the country, without owning the farms, there are fifty-six families only that own their homes, while five own homes encumbered, and thirty-nine rent the places they occupy. Then you come into Ogden and Salt Lake City—the only cities mentioned in this census—and we find there the happy condition of the farming people reversed. In this city and Ogden, out of every hundred families occupying homes there are only thirty-two who own unencumbered the homes in which they dwell; nine out of every hundred have mortgages upon their residences; while the remaining fifty-nine hire the places in which they live. Now you see how it is. People in the country have not the temptations to extravagance which are presented daily to those who live in the cities.

They have not encumbered themselves, and they are comparatively free. They can go to bed at night knowing that the roof that covers them is their own. The labor that they expend upon their home is for their own benefit. On the morrow they cannot be thrust out into the world without home or possession. It is theirs. People should be happy who have their homes in this condition, and they should seek to pursue such a course that they will not lose possession of their lands; but bring them up to the highest possible state of cultivation, make them places of beauty, and use the energies and talents which God has given them for the benefit of themselves and those who are dependent upon them.

I say that herein we can see how God has inspired His servants to teach the people; and though at times they have not understood the wisdom concealed in the counsel that has been given, yet

in following strictly that counsel they have found blessing and profit. Take, for instance, the principle of tithing. If you announced that to the world and asked them to observe it, would they not consider it one of the most burdensome taxes that could be inflicted upon them? Yet every Latter-day Saint is my witness that those who follow strictly this law of tithing among the people of God do not find it a burden, but rather find it a temporal as well as a spiritual blessing; for their property has been abundantly blessed, so that they have not missed the tithing which they have given to the work of the Lord. Take, again, the missions which we send into the world. If a man in the world was called to leave his business for two years or more to preach the Gospel, he would think it was ruinous to all his temporal affairs. But here are Elders who go out and spend year after year, and the very man who have spent the most time in the missionary field, and who stand at the head of the Church today, are the men who are the most prosperous and the most free from debt. And so the Lord will show forth the wisdom of the course which He presents to the people through the results which follow the efforts of the Latter-day Saints. We can do no better than to observe strictly every command that is given us by the servants of the Lord, however much they may conflict with our present ideas, and God will bless us in pursuing this course. We have before us the promises of great blessings. Only yesterday we had announced from this stand a prophecy in which all of us can take comfort—that we should come out of our present troubles with more credit and in a better financial condition than we have ever yet seen. I know men around me—and I have shared in the feeling myself—who have considered with horror the thought that our names were to be dishonored, our credit ruined, because, perhaps through our lack of wisdom or from some other cause, we have involved ourselves in debts which it seemed we would be unable to pay. We have thought this the greatest trial of our lives, because we are in the midst of it. We thought at one time the greatest trial was that which sent our brethren to prison, exiled our families, and scattered them here and there on the face of the earth without any human prospect of their ever again being gathered together, or of our being permitted to see on these stands the men whom we honored as the leaders of God's people on the earth. Yet out of that dark cloud the Lord has brought the glorious light of His Spirit, and today we are enjoying greater freedom and greater blessings than any we have had for many years. So I believe He will yet bring us out of our present troubles with no loss of honor. I testify that the prophecy which was uttered yesterday is the word of the Lord; for every man who will serve God and hold in his heart the influence of His Spirit will come out of these troubles and these seeming disasters brighter and clearer and better for the experience through which he has been called to pass. It is just as possible for God to do this, with all the darkness which appears before us, as it was for God through His servant to tell the widow who went out to gather sticks that she might bake a cake with which to feed herself and son once more before they died, and who out of that gave to the

prophet, that her barrel of meal should not waste nor the cruse of oil fail until the earth brought forth again in its abundance. So it will be in this case. The famine for money which has spread over us and the lack of things which seem necessary for our prosperity, God will supply in one of the many ways which it is possible for Him to adopt to bring about salvation, temporally and eternally, to His children upon the earth. Amen.

*Written for this Paper.*

## CABINET MINISTERS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3, 1894.—It was ten minutes to 11 o'clock last Tuesday. I stood on the White House steps. President Cleveland was in his office up stairs, ready to go to his cabinet meeting, which was to take place when the clock struck 11. A steady stream of visitors, sightseers and bridal couples sauntered up and down in half-moon walks which led from the iron fence to the porte cochere of the Executive Mansion. Some of the sightseers were in the vestibule staring at the wall of glass which separates the long promenade corridor from it. Others were trying the chairs of the east room, and still others were button-holing the guards and asking to be admitted to the private apartments of the house. Two brass buttoned policemen stood at the door, and a half dozen messengers, lounging in chairs or standing guard here and there, could be seen. No Congressmen or office seekers were visible. No one is received on cabinet days, and this order has become so well known that the latter class keep away, and the members, if they call at all, come early. I had taken my stand here to watch the cabinet come up. First I saw a carriage, with prancing horses, driving in at the gate. A swell coachman sat on the box, and a blonde man of fifty odd, dressed in dapper clothes, was its sole occupant. He had a heavy straw colored mustache, bright blue eyes and rosy cheeks. He sat straight up in the carriage, and, as his horses were reined suddenly up before me under the porte cochere, I could see that his yellow gloves were new and that his clothes had been made by a good tailor. This man was Secretary Morton, the horny-handed farmer of the administration. He had a package of papers in his left hand, but he held them gingerly, as though he thought the dried ink might discolor his new gloves; and as he jumped from the carriage I could see no signs of gardening or plowing upon his polished boots. Secretary Morton always drives to the cabinet meetings. He has for years made enough out of his farm to enable him to keep a fancy turnout, and Uncle Sam provides each of his cabinet officers with a carriage. This was a government carriage and it belonged to the department of agriculture. The secretary of agriculture stepped briskly into the White House after alighting from it, then turned to the left and then to the right, going upstairs to the cabinet room.

The next arrival was the Secretary of State. Judge Gresham looks more like a farmer than Morton. He walks from the State Department to the White House at cabinet meetings, and he has a way of pushing himself along with right-angled gestures which is peculiar to