

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SAINTS.

Address Delivered at the General Conference
Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake
City, October 4, 1903, by

ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH.

Their Walk and Conduct Should Be
Consistent With Their Profes-
sions—Doctrines of the Redeem-
er Affect the Spiritual and Tem-
poral Welfare of Man—Import-
ance of the Word of Wisdom.

My brethren and sisters, I am most happy in the privilege of being with you in this conference, and in listening to the words that have been spoken by our brethren of the Presidency, as well as the reports made by the brethren representing some of the stakes of Zion.

The duties and responsibilities that rest upon the Latter-day Saints are manifold, but no duty should be more sacred to them than a proper observance in their own lives of the rules and regulations established by the Redeemer of the world to maintain purity, uprightness and consistency in all the walks of life. If the claim we make be true, that the Father and the Son visited the Prophet Joseph Smith and revealed to him the character of the mission designed for His people, and that mission was to call the children of men to repentance; and if we have been made partakers of the truth, and subscribed to the conditions associated with our entrance into the waters of baptism, the consistency of our lives should be such that its impress will be made upon the minds of all with whom it may be our privilege to mingle, and that our lives are above reproach, and our course is in keeping with the declarations we send forth to the world, that impress will cause men and women to change to the better, and to regard with favor and consideration those of us who are obedient to the moral principles and doctrines of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. It may be that many, forming their judgment without an understanding of the purpose and mission of the Latter-day Saints, may fail to appreciate the character of the ministry of the Saints; but it has been my experience as I have mingled among the children of men, that the more thoughtful and prudent are deeply impressed with that position presented in the scriptures, "by their fruits ye shall know them." It is not difficult to lead thoughtful men and women to believe in the man whose life is morally correct, who by his actions and sayings shows himself to be temperate, upright and exemplary, wherever he goes and with whomsoever he mingles. I am led to believe that our mission in the world, as the chosen people of the Almighty, will be more perfectly accomplished by the upright character of the lives we lead in our homes and social gatherings, in the impress made by the discharge of private obligations, and the fulfillment of such public duties as may be required at a determination to uplift and better the moral condition of those with whom we mingle, than it can be in any other way. The world today presents thousands of openings for men who are strictly sober, who refuse to use intoxicants under any circumstances, and who, in the fulfillment of their duties in life, have displayed a proper regard for the rights and liberties of their fellows, and handled with consistency and honesty the trusts reposed in them. I believe that, in the providences of the Almighty, it is His purpose to equip and prepare His people to become the aids and helps in government, in all parts of the land. But we can never attain the place it is His purpose we should until we have thoroughly indoctrinated ourselves in an understanding of every moral principle, and have a full comprehension of the great responsibility imposed upon us in the handling of obligations and trusts. Our lives must be in harmony with everything that is pure, honest and upright.

FAIRREACHING DOCTRINES.

The faith we have received covers every principle necessary to the equipment and preparation of men and women for the duties and responsibilities of the temporal as well as the spiritual life. The doctrines of the Redeemer affect not only the spiritual well-being, they apply also to the moral and temporal welfare of mankind. He laid upon each one the obligation to observe the moral principles and doctrines of the Gospel, and that it is his duty to conform to the ordinances of God's house, and walk in harmony with the rules laid down by Him. He also pointed the way to the great possibilities confronting our Father's children, sought to impress upon them, in such form that there could be no misunderstanding His purpose. His wishes are affecting their conduct in life. "Thou shalt not lie," was the declaration of the Redeemer of the world. Are we obedient to the mandate? Have we allowed this rule? Have we written upon our minds the thought that the duty is ours to guard against the possibility of being a liar? "Thou shalt not steal," is the declaration of the same great leader of men. Are we mindful of that declaration? Has it truly found lodgment in our hearts? Is it written in the fibers of our being? Are we applying it as thoroughly in the

discharge of the duties that rest upon us as we should do? Let every man and woman ask themselves these questions, and see if the answer can truthfully come from their own lips. These requirements given by the Redeemer to the world have been accepted by me, and have been applied in my own life to the best of my ability. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." "Thou shalt not kill." "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Are these propositions with us in spirit and in truth? Have they riveted themselves upon our minds in such form that wherever we go, and with whomsoever we mingle, we maintain ourselves free from these grievous errors against which the warning voice of the Redeemer was uttered. I trust we have weighed these propositions rightly, thoroughly comprehending their import, and are striving to comply with them, so that none can question the consistency of our utterances and examples.

THE WORD OF WISDOM.

President Lund, in his remarks, touched upon the question of the observance of the Word of Wisdom. It is a singular thing that there should exist any necessity, among a people so fully taught in regard to the sacredness of that requirement of the Lord, for repeated admonitions concerning it. It was first given to us as instruction from the Lord, without constraint, and later more fully impressed upon our part by the declaration of the prophet of God that it was in force upon us as a requirement. But little by little we drift with the stream, and it is difficult to change to the better, and to regard with favor and consideration those of us who are obedient to the moral principles and doctrines of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. It may be that many, forming their judgment without an understanding of the purpose and mission of the Latter-day Saints, may fail to appreciate the character of the ministry of the Saints; but it has been my experience as I have mingled among the children of men, that the more thoughtful and prudent are deeply impressed with that position presented in the scriptures, "by their fruits ye shall know them." It is not difficult to lead thoughtful men and women to believe in the man whose life is morally correct, who by his actions and sayings shows himself to be temperate, upright and exemplary, wherever he goes and with whomsoever he mingles. I am led to believe that our mission in the world, as the chosen people of the Almighty, will be more perfectly accomplished by the upright character of the lives we lead in our homes and social gatherings, in the impress made by the discharge of private obligations, and the fulfillment of such public duties as may be required at a determination to uplift and better the moral condition of those with whom we mingle, than it can be in any other way. The world today presents thousands of openings for men who are strictly sober, who refuse to use intoxicants under any circumstances, and who, in the fulfillment of their duties in life, have displayed a proper regard for the rights and liberties of their fellows, and handled with consistency and honesty the trusts reposed in them. I believe that, in the providences of the Almighty, it is His purpose to equip and prepare His people to become the aids and helps in government, in all parts of the land. But we can never attain the place it is His purpose we should until we have thoroughly indoctrinated ourselves in an understanding of every moral principle, and have a full comprehension of the great responsibility imposed upon us in the handling of obligations and trusts. Our lives must be in harmony with everything that is pure, honest and upright.

Upon one occasion it was my privilege to be in company with a large body of gentlemen, a number of whom were of our own faith. In this assembly was a man quite eminent in the sphere in which he moved. He had been an inmate of the hospital for some time, and in temperance interests. After studying and watching the character of the people who formed that association, he made this remark to me: "I have not known of this company a single man claiming to be of your faith who is a user of intoxicants or tobacco; and while I have been in their companionship I have heard one of them profess the name of Deity." This had made a wonderful impression upon my mind. If this so impressed one man, what would be the impression upon the world at large if, as a people, we would fully apply these laws in our lives as we mingle among the children of men?

My brethren and my sisters, these are questions for our consideration. They are for us to weigh and study. Before us lie the world, to whom the truth of the Gospel we have received is to be preached. It must be carried to every land, to every people. Its extension and growth can be brought about more successfully by the honesty, the truthfulness, the temperance and the industry of those who have received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, than by all the efforts that we may speak. The conditions that surround the people, the efforts they make to hold themselves in subjection to the divine will, impress those who come into their companionship.

I say to you that the principles of the Gospel are true; every one that God has revealed is true. He has laid the foundation for the development of His great work upon legitimate lines. He knows the condition of His children in all the world. He has put upon us the responsibility of establishing in our own homes, as far as may be within our power, the elements of truth in

such form that its impress will continue to grow and spread until all shall come to an understanding of the Gospel and receive it.

Standing here before you, I desire to bear witness to the correctness of the views presented by President Smith, in sending forth his warning voice against the tendency to get into debt. The growth of business, the enlargement of our own concerns, the hope of a successful issue as we step into the business world, lead us into further investments, until perchance we find we have completely overreached ourselves. It is these matters that we want to guard against. Not that we should not take advantage of every desirable opportunity for legitimate business. We should seek to secure means as far as we can consistently to aid in the development of our country, and to provide for the needs and necessities of those who are dependent upon us, and to open the door by which they may be in need may be furnished employment. Nor should we forget those who come to us as strangers from strange lands, and are of our own faith. These are matters upon which all of us should reflect. Another thought presents itself to my mind, it is this: I believe there is a degree of negligence upon our part in looking after, as fully as we should, the strangers that come into our midst. Men drop down among us who may be of our faith, and who may not be being conversant with our language, and find themselves in a trying situation. I am fearful that the same thoughtful attention is not now given to this class of people that was extended to them in former days, and that too frequently they pass into the society of persons who embitter their minds against the truth, causing them to regret their alliance with the Latter-day Saints. I hope you will think of these things, my brothers and my sisters, and that, so far as possible, be things will be done which will lead them to guide these newcomers along the pathway of truth and righteousness. People gather sometimes on their own responsibility, and drop into neighborhoods without realizing the character of their surroundings. Our thoughtlessness, perchance, permits them to pass beyond the pale of our communion into the hands of others who impress them with the thought that what they have come to receive is not here, and that they have been misled.

My brothers and my sisters, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus is indeed the power of God unto salvation. Every one of us should obey its requirements. The souls of our fellowmen should be most sacred to us; and so far as lies within the law of God, there would more in the way of the accomplishment of a life work that shall be creditable to themselves and prove a blessing to us. The Gospel is true. May heaven enable us to obey its commands, and by thus living in harmony with its principles, fulfill the duties and responsibilities that rest upon us, being true to our obligations, guarding the rights and liberties of ourselves and of our fellowmen that the well-being of all our Father's children shall be, indeed, sacred to us; and that we shall not fall in the accomplishment of the proclamation of His word, the establishment of His work, the betterment of the condition of His children; that when we shall march forward to our reward, He may say to us, "Thou hast performed thy part in judgment and mercy, and hast blessed those with whom thou hast mingled, and hastured none." May heaven's blessing abound, and spread until righteousness shall prevail among the children of men, and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus ameliorate the condition of the human family, causing them to glorify the name of the Savior of the world, and His truth as it has been revealed in the day and age in which we live. In my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder David S. Edwards of Salt Lake City returned Nov. 23 from the Southern States mission, whither he was sent Dec. 17, 1901. He labored for a month in Alabama, when he went on foot to South Carolina, where he labored eight months in the country districts, the remainder of the time in the cities, with fair success, adding a good number to the fold of Christ by baptism, and making many friends. The prospects are very promising.

Elder John J. McGregor of Ogden, Weber county, returned Nov. 18, from the Southern States mission, to which he was assigned Feb. 18, 1902. He labored in the Ohio and North Ohio conferences, where he reports the Elders of the Church are doing a grand work, all feeling very much encouraged over the prospects for the future. They find the people of Ohio broad-minded and liberal, and entertain the Elders very kindly. A number have been baptized in the city of Cleveland and elsewhere,

with many earnestly investigating, and reading "Mormon" literature with avidity. The Deseret News is especially popular as also is the Improvement Era.

Elder Stanley S. Stephens of Ogden, Weber county, returned Nov. 6 from the Northern States mission, whither he was sent Jan. 22, 1901. He labored in Arnhem, Rotterdam, Brussels, Amsterdam and The Hague, with gratifying success, and reports the work in Holland in a prosperous condition. Since his release, June 20 last, Elder Stephens has been touring in Europe, visiting Germany, Switzerland, France and England, and has been very enjoyable time. He spent some months with relatives in London, doing considerable genealogical work. He also visited his father's birthplace, Bristol.

Elder John F. Cunningham of Mendon, Cache county, who was set apart Oct. 15, 1901, for the California mission, returned Nov. 23, in good health and spirits. He labored in the Los Angeles and Sacramento conferences in California, and in Salem, Or., where he reports the work making excellent progress; the Elders are generally well received, are making many friends and some converts.

Elder John S. Smith of Sugar ward, Salt Lake county, returned Saturday, Nov. 21, from his second mission to Great Britain, for which he was set apart Dec. 10, 1901. On arriving in Liverpool he was assigned to the Scottish conference, where he labored the entire time with the exception of three months spent in Manchester, England. Elder Smith reports the work in Scotland progressing. This is especially so in the city of Edinburgh, where, within the past three or four years a flourishing branch has been built up. The same having a present membership of 100. The Saints here are united in their efforts to advance the cause, and weekly meetings are held, which are usually attended by many investigators. There is also a good Sunday school in Glasgow. The work is still somewhat backward, but Elder Smith is of opinion that it will pick up some in the course of time. In Manchester conditions are favorable.

BRAIN FOOD

Is of Little Benefit Unless It is Digested.

Nearly everyone will admit that as a nation we eat too much meat and too little of vegetables and the grains. For business men, office men and clerks, and in fact everyone engaged in sedentary or indoor occupations, grains, milk and vegetables are much more healthful.

Only men engaged in a severe outdoor manual labor can live on a heavy meat diet and continue in health. As a general rule, meat once a day is sufficient for all classes of men, women and children, and grains, fruit and vegetables should constitute the bulk of food eaten.

But many of the most nutritious foods are difficult of digestion and it is of no use to add brain workers to eat largely of grains and vegetables where the digestion is too weak to assimilate them properly.

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WITH THE LITERARY FOLK.

Special Correspondence.

Philadelphia, Nov. 18.—At a gathering of distinguished men at a recent dinner in London, England, the late Richard Henry Stoddard says of Poe, whom he knew: "Poe was a curious character of the highest order, and the courtly gentleman." "His invention was boundless, his execution limited, scanty and sparse. He repeated himself thrice in his life. 'To F. S. O.' he betted them each time. It was the same with his stories, which he repeated many times, over and over many pen names. This strange fact was known to his friends and his detractors who conceded it, his friends being his worst foes and his worst foes the kindest of his few friends. Let me say here 'The Bells' was sold twice and paid for every copy. 'Annabel Lee' was sold twice and was printed by Griswold before it could appear either in Stair's Magazine or in the Southern Literary Messenger and when it was assessed no literary value whatever."

BERTHA MILDRED NIXON.

When Miss Marie Manning was living on a Wyoming ranch, unconscious of gathering material for her novel "Judith of the Plains," she was known among some neighboring Shoshone Indians as "White Squaw Head in the Clouds." To this sobriquet Miss Manning had no objection, as it was merely a poetic way of describing her as tall. But she did object when, later, on making a visit with a party of friends to the camp of the Indians, a Shoshone brave named "Run Across the River" led one of the men in the party aside and offered "ten cayuses for big white squaw."

In his "Recollections, Personal and Literary," edited by Ripley Hitchcock, the late Richard Henry Stoddard says of Poe, whom he knew: "Poe was a curious character of the highest order, and the courtly gentleman." "His invention was boundless, his execution limited, scanty and sparse. He repeated himself thrice in his life. 'To F. S. O.' he betted them each time. It was the same with his stories, which he repeated many times, over and over many pen names. This strange fact was known to his friends and his detractors who conceded it, his friends being his worst foes and his worst foes the kindest of his few friends. Let me say here 'The Bells' was sold twice and paid for every copy. 'Annabel Lee' was sold twice and was printed by Griswold before it could appear either in Stair's Magazine or in the Southern Literary Messenger and when it was assessed no literary value whatever."

The latest picture taken of Rudyard Kipling, whose new book, "The Five Nations," published a few weeks past, is considered one of the great literary events of the year, reveals the disenchanted evidence that Kipling's trousers bag at the knees. O temporal! O mortal! O poetic pants!



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