

to dwell with God and Christ and with the holy angels, why should not we emulate on the earth the purity that they possess, which makes heaven the best abode that it is? I am thankful that this standard has been raised among us. It gives hope for the future of humanity. Otherwise, the fate of this generation is sure. They are going the downward road, and nothing can save them except thorough repentance. The Elders wonder why it is that they do not gather out more from the nations of the earth than they did formerly. The reason is obvious. The people are corrupt. They are full of lust and abominable evils. Abortion and feticide and kindred sins are practiced almost universally. An intelligent man with whom I was traveling a few weeks ago told me that when he re-visited his home in Massachusetts about twelve years ago, to see his mother, he went to the school houses where he had gone to school in his boyhood. In the first school that he visited, out of all the scholars that were there he found only four who were of native American families, and two of them were colored boys. The rest of the children were all of foreign extraction. In the other school that he visited there were ten out of the entire school that were of native American families. He went back to his mother's house, and there was a lot of old maids there. He said to them: "The Yankees are dying out. You women are not having children; you are old maids; and those who are married do not have children. What is to become of us?" That was his comment. And you can mingle among the better class of this nation—I mean those who are in good circumstances, and of old American families—and you will find that very few of the young men marry. Luxury prevails to such an extent that they think they cannot marry. They do not want to marry and take their wives into a lower condition than they have occupied in their parents' houses; and as young men they have the entree to society, and they go wherever they please and are welcome; therefore, they do not marry. The result is, the best blood in America is not being perpetuated. The old families are not being kept up, and their places are being filled with foreigners. When they do marry, they do not have children; or, if they do, they have only one or two. What will God do with a people of this kind? He will let them be blotted out, if they do not repent. They will bring upon themselves, by their sins, the very condemnation that God has said would follow, because they destroy the life that God gives to them, and they do not perpetuate their race. The result is, an inferior class of people is growing up, because the foreigners, when they come here, are not contaminated with that dreadful sin—the murder of the innocents, the murder of unborn children, as well as those that are born—and they are not likely to be for one generation, at least. These are sad truths, but they are true nevertheless.

I have been told, though it seems incredible to me, that among those who call themselves Latter-day Saints the same evils are growing up. I tell you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that any woman who commits this horrible sin will be damned, just as sure as God lives; and any husband who will suffer his wife to take means to prevent the natural increase of the race as God has designed it, that man will be cursed of God. I want to lift my voice against these dreadful evils that exist in the world; and if they are coming into our midst, I say to you, Woe unto those who practice them; for they will stand before the bar of God as murderers, and they will be damned. Hear it, all ye people! This is the curse that is coming upon our race today upon this continent, especially through the Northern States. It is not so in the South. It will creep in there, however, after awhile, if care be not taken. But the Southern people have not yielded to this crime to the extent that those have in the North.

God has chosen us to institute a new condition of things on the earth, to arrest the tide of evil. He has selected men and women from the world who have the courage to carry out whatever He tells them. And we have tried to do it. But the nation has interposed and said, "Stop," and we shall how in submission, leaving the consequences with God. We shall do the best we can; but when it comes in contact with constituted authorities, and the highest tribunals in the land say "Stop," there is no other course for Latter-day Saints, in accordance with the revelations that God has given to us telling us to respect constituted authority, than to bow in submission thereto and leave the consequences with the Lord. Nevertheless, we can stand as a living protest against the evils of the age, and cry out against them, and by our lives proclaim that we are determined, with the help of God, to do all in our power to redeem the race, if it be possible to do so. God has chosen us expressly for this mission. It required people of courage, of integrity and of virtue, and I believe the great bulk of the Latter-day Saints are a people of this character. Because of this virtue they were prepared to receive the truth when it was proclaimed to them. They were not corrupted, and the Spirit of God had an abiding place in them. It is a remarkable fact that those who are unvirtuous very rarely join the Church. They seem to have become corrupted so that the Spirit of God has left them, and they have lost the strength necessary to enable them to endure.

Brethren and sisters, let us remember the mission that God has given unto us, and let us put our trust in Him. He has been our savior and our deliverer out of the many trials that we have had to pass through. Notwithstanding we have gone through considerable during the past six years, when I look at the condition of the people as I travel through the settlements,

I feel to thank God for the prosperity that he has given to us. I go into the houses of the brethren in our settlements, and I see great comfort. I contrast it with the times of old, when we had scarcely any food, no habitations and very little clothing, and I thank God that the trials we now have to contend with have assumed a new form, and that God, in his providence, has permitted us to dwell in the land to which He has led us. I trust he will continue to do so. I hope He will give us patience to bear all things uncomplainingly, and to go to with our faith undisturbed, knowing that He comprehends all things, and that after the trials there cometh the blessing. We have never yet passed through severe afflictions without their being compensation in the shape of great blessings bestowed upon us. And so it will be. Trial will follow trial; but blessing will follow trial also. Blessing will follow blessing; and the cause of truth will spread, the honest heart will be gathered out, and the great work of God will go forth, notwithstanding every effort to oppose it and to thwart it. And you may notice this: Those who fight against this cause may be prominent for awhile. Sometimes prominence is given them because of their opposition to this work, and their names being linked with ours is all that gives them prominence frequently. But after a while, when they have ceased to fill the positions occupied by them, and which gave their voices some weight, they will drop out of sight and be forgotten, as hundreds have been who have figured more or less conspicuously in their opposition against us. We need not be disturbed, therefore, at the utterance of this man or the other who occupies official position, and who for a while inflates himself with the idea that he is an important personage and that he is going to do some great thing against the Latter-day Saints. I have seen so many of these men pass away and sink into oblivion. They step on the stage and figure for a while, but soon they pass away. Therefore, do not let us be worried over them; but let us pursue the course that God has pointed out, and putting our trust in Him, know that all things will be overruled for our good.

Before I sit down there is one subject that I have felt I wanted to speak about. I think it of some importance to us as Latter-day Saints. It was referred to yesterday by two or three of the brethren. It is in relation to the events of 1891, and connected with the coming of the Lord. It was intimated by Brother Roberts that some people thought that such an event might perhaps happen, and he was anxious that the Saints should not be disappointed if nothing did occur during that year that would fulfill expectation, because a great many anticipations have been indulged in connected with that year, and I believe there has been altogether too much agitation upon this subject. I have seen a great many times in our history when sanguine men have attached a great deal of importance to certain