

"Trifles, light as air, are to the jealous confirmations strong as proofs of holy writ."

Yes, trifles that would not be noticed ordinarily, to a jealous person, and especially where there is no love, or where love is not strong enough to overcome jealousy, become as strong as proofs of holy writ. I have seen this illustrated many times.

Now, if you love us, you will not be jealous of us, you will not suspect our acts, you will not attribute false motives to us, you will not distort our words and put a wrong construction on them; but you will have confidence in us. We ought to be trusted. The Lord has trusted us, and can not you trust us? Can not you have confidence enough in us to believe that we will give right counsel in all affairs? If you do not, then our declaration today is of no use. It would be useless if you are going to rise up and say, "Oh! don't you see how they favor that man?" "Don't you see how they discriminate against that other man?" "Don't you see they will allow that man to do this, and they will restrain that other man? That man is a republican and this man is a democrat—or that man is a democrat and this man is a republican." Thus they would attribute false motives to us, and color our conduct, and look at us with suspicious eyes, watching for some evidence of unfairness on our part. Let me warn you today, in the presence of the Lord and in the name of our Lord and Master, against that, and be careful; for Satan will strive to instill these ideas and thoughts into your minds to weaken the influence of the Priesthood of the Son of God. It is most unfair to us, it is most unjust, because we can see what others cannot see always; we can see reasons for a certain course of conduct that others cannot see. You men that have large families understand this. One child may think, Father is not fair; he lets my brother or sister do such a thing or have such a thing, and why cannot I do the same or have the same? Now, the father knows the reasons for doing as he does. We may as well impugn the providence of our Heavenly Father on the same principle, if we carry it far enough. The Lord blesses some men in various ways, and others do not receive these blessings, although apparently they are just as worthy. And infidels impugn the justice of the Eternal Father because of this,—as they see it,—discrimination in His treatment of His children, and they scout the idea of there being a God, because, measured by their puny, fallible standard, He does not come up to the mark that they think He ought to reach.

As I say to you again, have confidence in us, believe that we are honest, and say, "No, I cannot understand that; it is not altogether clear to me; but I know that there is nothing wrong. If I understood it, I know it would be all right." That is the way we should talk. Do you think that I would doubt a man whom I knew? No. I always believe good about him. If I cannot understand some of his actions, I think, well, if I knew the reasons I would understand it and it would be reconcilable with my ideas of the justice of his character. That is the way I feel towards all my friends. I am loth to believe that they are acting from improper motives or with improper feelings. For this reason I never want to hear a one-sided

statement, nothing *ex parte*, because it is impossible to come to a correct conclusion without hearing both sides.

I trust that the Lord will impress these thoughts on all our hearts, that we may feel and realize the truth of these things.

There is another subject that I would like to allude to, if time will permit. It is this: You have heard of our entering into enterprises and striving to do something to furnish employment for the people and to cause the people of this State to assume that position which we think they are entitled to. We have endeavored to seek the mind and will of God concerning this; and we have endeavored to be careful about every step, that there should be no misstep, no wrong conclusion, no wrong action. If ever men sought this, I believe I am justified in saying that we have. Now, we are entering into these enterprises for wise purposes. First, speaking for the Latter-day Saints, it does not seem right that the people should gather to Zion, and then scatter throughout the land. This is a gathering dispensation. We have felt that God has entrusted you to us as a flock is entrusted to a shepherd. The eyes of the Latter-day Saints naturally turn for counsel and help to the authorities of their Church, in the hours of distress and affliction. It is therefore a cause of unfeigned sorrow to us to see men and women—either Latter-day Saints or others—idle in our land, being without employment, and dependent upon the Church or upon individual charity for that which is necessary to sustain life. According to the report read at this conference there are too many dependent upon the Church for assistance. We should lessen this number by every means in our power, and place within every person's reach—not only the Latter-day Saints, but every citizen of Utah—the opportunity of earning his or her own bread. I can scarcely conceive of anything in human affairs that is so painful to men and women who have been energetic and industrious to be reduced to penury and to a condition of dependence; and we should be merciful to those who are in this condition. Some people become helpless, and they have to be sustained. When help is extended to such, it should be done in the most delicate manner, not to wound the susceptibilities of the poor. I believe there are men and women that would almost rather starve than to go about and make their wants known. They feel what we would call proud. Well, it is a proper pride to feel independent; and it is contrary to all our practices in the past to do anything that would have the effect to reduce people to pauperism. Residents of this stake should earn their own living, by some honorable means of employment.

These reasons have had great weight with us, and we have talked and counseled about them a great deal, as well as prayed about them. Now, the Lord in his goodness seems to be opening the way for us to obtain employment. We have, as you know, a large enterprise at Ogden. Some of the brethren who went up there, I understand, have become dissatisfied and come away because the conditions did not altogether suit them. We are doing everything in our power to make employment for our own people. We do not want people from afar to come in and take the bread that ought to be earned by the residents

of this State. But some have said they are not suited with the conditions. This is unfortunate. The contractor is desirous of employing residents of the State. He says he likes our citizens; he has had them work for him before, and they have given him entire satisfaction, as they are peaceful and quiet and do their work. A number of men were sent up there the other day, and I met one of them on the street. He said to me, "Well, a good many of us have come back." I asked him the reason. Said he, "we did not like the man"—a sort of subcontractor I think he was. I asked him whether he required of the men anything that was improper. "No, but we did not like him." Therefore, he and others had quit work. I think that is a very unreasonable thing. If work is there, it seems to me that we should embrace the opportunity to work. We do not want any working man oppressed; we do not want any tyranny exercised over them; but this contractor can get the men without drawing them from our settlements. There are many coming here who will gladly take employment. They may not stay long; they may give dissatisfaction in some respects; but they can be obtained.

I wanted to say this much to this conference before we adjourned. Our brethren ought to look at this in the light that we design they shall view it in—look at it a little from our standpoint. We want employment furnished to the people. We want business revived. We want to control that which we should control. We want to obtain the influence that belongs to a people having a credit that is unexampled for integrity and honesty and good management. We want to reap the benefits of this character and this credit, which President Young commenced, and which has been carefully built up during forty-eight years. We want the citizens of Utah—the entire community, to have the benefit of this credit, and not see strangers come from afar and do that which we ought to do. And if you will take hold and have the union that has been shown in our proceedings at this conference, and be determined to be united, it will give us power and influence in the earth, and men will respect and honor us.

Allusions were made by Brother John Henry Smith to the circulations of our periodicals. It occurred to me while he was speaking that the day has at last come, I believe, when we should use the press as we never have used it. It is a mighty engine for good, if used properly. Our enemies have used it in the most effective manner against us, and Satan has been determined apparently to exclude every line of truth from circulation in the world. I believe that instead of this mighty engine being used for our destruction, we should use it for the salvation of our fellowmen, by disseminating the truth and circulating it in every corner of the habitable globe. I trust that that day has come; and we must enlarge our hearts and become liberal in these things, and use the paper and the ink for the purpose which our Great Creator undoubtedly designed them for—to do good to human kind.

My brethren and sisters, I pray God, in the name of Jesus, to bless you all, to bless you in all your relations in life, and to fill you with the Holy Ghost continually. No better blessing could I ask in your behalf, or in my own, than this. Amen.