

Therefore I say all the Latter-day Saints will have to be tested. I think of it especially in these days when water is so scarce, when there is scarcely enough to keep our trees alive, much less to save our crops. I think that this is testing both those who have been tested by past acts, by prosecutions that have been instituted, and those who have not. The whole land from north to south is suffering for want of water, and I ask myself, should this continue for another season or two, how would the Latter-day Saints feel? Would they bear it patiently and without murmuring? Or would there go up from all our settlements a murmur that would be heard all over the land—fault-finding, quarreling, a contending for this element so necessary to life, to the preservation of the crops, to the preserving of the improvements which have been made at such immense toil and expense?

I hear of litigation threatened in connection with Parley's Canyon, in connection with the waters of Utah Lake, between the canals and the city; litigation in the north between the canal companies with the Hooper Canal; with other canals and the Davis County Canal. Men are ready to go to law, almost to fight. I have heard it said that some have even talked of taking their rifles to defend their rights, and I have asked myself, is it possible that among Latter-day Saints there can be such a spirit and feeling as this, among those who have come here professing to be the Saints of God, rather inclined to boast of their fidelity to the truth, rather inclined to do as I have done this afternoon—tell about our past sufferings and sacrifices and hold ourselves up as being a little better than other people, because we have done more for our religion than other people? Is it possible that we have forgotten the purposes for which we have come to these valleys, so far as to be ready to rush into all manner of evil and to commit deadly wrongs against each other because of grievances, real or imaginary, which we think we have suffered or are suffering at the hands of our brethren?

It is on this account that I have now read in your hearing the words of this prophet. I say to you as a servant of God, and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that the man who proposes any such thing as quarreling with his brother—whether or not he be justified in his own feelings by wrongs he has suffered—who proposes to commit violence in defense of what he may consider to be his rights, that man is not of God, and he has lost the Spirit of God when he indulges in any such feeling; for that is not in keeping with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed are the peacemakers, says the Son of God, for they shall be called—what? fools? No; the children of God. What an honor. Yes, that is the promise. If we are stricken on the one cheek we are taught to turn the other. If a man takes away our coat at the law, we are told to give him our cloak also. Were these merely expressions of the Savior that

had no meaning, or are they intended to teach us these principles, and have them carried out practically in our lives? Judge ye, Latter-day Saints, what His intention was. You know by your own experience that this is the Spirit of Christ—that when you submit to wrong and bear it patiently, as you have done in times past, the blessing of God rests upon you. The peace of heaven is in your hearts, and you feel that God has accepted your sacrifices.

If the streams of these mountains should dry up and the land be covered with death, so to speak, to all vegetation, there is only one course we can take that will be acceptable in the sight of God, and that is, live at peace with one another—bear patiently the dispensations of the providence of our God, without murmuring, without quarreling and fault-finding, not seeking to blame somebody for that of which God is the cause. Of course there may be mismanagement in these gifts. There may be wrongs connected with the administration of affairs; there may be many things that should be corrected; but let us go to and correct them in the spirit of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; let us go to and find out what the wrong is, if wrong there be. If injustice be done in any direction let us ascertain what that injustice is, and, as people of God, correct those wrongs. There is one sign which always accompanies the people of God, and when that is absent we cease to be the people of God—union. Whenever the Latter-day Saints become divided they cease to be the children of God. Whenever you see clashing, division, and strife, and Saint arrayed against Saint, section against section, locality against locality, you may be sure that those who have that spirit and manifest that feeling are not of God. I care not what their professions may be or what their position in the Church may be. I care not what their experience may be if there be this spirit and feeling among us, depend upon it that something is very wrong and there is room for a radical change. or the spirit, blessing, and power of God will be withdrawn from us, and His anger will be kindled against us.

I have felt very much stirred up in my feelings concerning these matters. I have seen and heard manifestations of late that have made me sick at heart. You know it is nearly four and a half years since we were compelled by circumstances to withdraw from mingling with the public—that is, the First Presidency of the Church and a number of the Twelve Apostles. The people during that time have been left, to a great extent, to themselves, and I have been greatly reminded of the parable of the sower. A sower went forth to sow his seed, but while he slept an enemy came and sowed tares. After a while the tares began to grow, and the sower said, "An enemy hath done this. I sowed wheat, but lo! I behold the tares are growing up among it."

I looked at my own meadows when I went away. When I came back I found them full of weeds. These have grown and gone to seed; they have prevailed over the grass and lucern. There had been no one sowing good seed, but the winds of heaven have scattered the weeds until they have filled the meadows. I therefore found it necessary first thing this spring to sow good seed to overpower the weeds which had taken root there.

Is it so with us? You must be the judges. You must examine yourselves and see whether there have been tares sown—whether there has been a spirit engendered among the Latter-day Saints which is not of God. If the fruits of the spirit be division and strife, a disposition to quarrel and indulge in litigation, to contend for rights, and to get deadly feelings in the heart because somebody tramples upon us or wrests from us our rights, then you may know that these fruits are not the fruits of the Spirit of God. That was not the spirit which the Saints had in former times. When they were robbed of their possessions, though it was exceedingly painful and they saw themselves rendered houseless wanderers, they received it with some degree of meekness; they submitted to it as a part of the providence of God. They felt that God was watching over them, and they were patient in their afflictions.

So we should be today, no matter what may occur. We are the only people upon the face of the earth, that I know of at least, who can trust and have trusted the Lord to the extent that we have. We can still trust Him. He will not desert nor forsake us, but He will test our faith. If by withholding the rains of heaven and the snow, by drying up the fountains of water He can test our faith, I do not know but that is as good a way as any of doing so. It matters not how we are tested, if it only accomplishes the end desired, proves us, and shows us where we stand. We have been taught to expect that there will be famines and pestilence, and woes, and calamities, and afflictions of various kinds. This has been the burden of the teaching of the Elders to us all the time, and we should be prepared for these things, for the Lord hath said the judgments shall commence at the house of God; and if they begin there, where will the ungodly appear? We must be tested, but we must not think that that test will come in one direction only. Do not let us be deceived by imagining this.

I speak about these things because I think they ought to be dwelt upon. Some may think it unnecessary. Perhaps it is; I hope it is; I hope there is no necessity for any such remarks as these; but lest there should be I feel to make them and to say to the Latter-day Saints that you must be united if you desire to be blessed of God. I would tremble for the fate of this people called Latter-day Saints if any other spirit were to enter into their hearts.