

unvirtuous; but that virtue is uncommon with men, every person who is familiar with the world, I think, must be forced to acknowledge. And if men commit acts of this kind, there must be others with whom they commit the acts. The result is, virtue among women is not as general as it should be.

We see the deplorable effects of the introduction of this spirit in our cities and settlements, and they are painful to witness. No man can take a course of this kind, and persist in it, without causing the withdrawal of the Spirit of God and a spirit of evil to take possession of him which will, unless he repents with all his heart, result in his destruction. He loses faith, in consequence of which he goes into darkness.

There has been no more fruitful cause of apostasy in this Church than this. Those who have been familiar with the Elders who have fallen and know the cause of their fall, will agree with me, I am sure, in saying that this sin has been the most fruitful cause of the overthrow of Elders in this Church. The Lord, in two revelations, says: "He that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith." A man who does this commits adultery in his heart. He yields to a spirit that drives the Spirit of God from him. To stand faithful, he must repent; for the two influences will not dwell in the same bosom. The Spirit of God will dwell only in holy and pure tabernacles. To have it, therefore, we must be pure, not only in our acts, but in our words, and our thoughts; for by the medium of thought we can corrupt ourselves and indulge in lust, which will drive the Spirit of God away from us, leaving us in darkness. Therefore, we cannot be too careful upon these points, especially our young people.

I hope that in Sanpete, near as a Temple is to you, there is no necessity for you to marry in order to prevent terrible consequences and exposure. In other words, I hope there are no children born among the Latter-day Saints here four or five or six months after marriage. This is a dreadful evil. God has provided ways by which our young people can get married. There are some valleys where it is more difficult to reach a Temple than it is in this valley; but every young man and every young woman should live so that he or she can get a recommendation from the Bishop to go to the Temple, to be married according to the holy order which God has revealed. Every girl among us should be taught to value her virtue more than life itself. Beware, young ladies, of those who would induce you in any manner to do anything that is not strictly right, or that you would not want your parents or friends to know. Have nothing to do with a man of this kind, no matter how much you may think of him; and unless he repents, the Spirit of God will be withdrawn from him and he will be left to himself.

I feel that too much cannot be said upon this subject, to caution our young people. Every facility should be given to the young to marry. Sometimes, when our children want to marry, we put them off. This has been done too often for the happiness of some. They have wanted to do right, they have wanted to honorably fulfil the law of God, but have been prevented from doing it by their parents or some one else. This is not right. Every facility should be furnished to our young people to marry in the proper manner. Encourage marriage in them when they reach the proper age; and if they do not have all they would like to start life with, let them start. Far better to do this than for them to live unmarried and in the commission of sin. As you doubtless are aware, I am a great advocate of early marriages. I believe that every young man of marriageable age should take steps to secure unto himself a partner. We have growing up in our settlements as beautiful girls as can be found on the face of the earth. Wherever I go in this Territory I am struck with the great number of our marriageable girls—very intelligent, lovely girls. The young men in our midst should marry them. They should not be allowed to remain unmarried. But, girls, remain maids until you are a hundred years old if you cannot get men who are men of God. Better to remain unmarried all your lives than to connect yourselves with unworthy men, and afterwards have to be divorced.

Speaking in regard to drunkenness. Let every girl be warned against a drunkard. A girl may think, "Well, if I only marry him, I shall have influence with him, and I shall prevent him from indulging in this bad habit." Perhaps the young man may say, "When we get married I am going to quit." Do not trust any such man. Do not trust a man who puts the intoxicating cup to his lips. Let him cease the habit before you marry him; for I tell you that in too many instances where girls trust men in this way they will find that they have trusted in vain, and very likely they will have sorrow brought upon them through doing so.

There should be no drunkenness in our valleys. I do not know whether you have any saloons here or in any of your settlements; but I want to say, as one Latter-day Saint—not speaking in an official capacity, but as a member of the Church—I have no fellowship whatever for a man who peddles intoxicating drink to his neighbor. The Latter-day Saint, so-called, who sells liquid poison to his neighbor is not a person that I fellowship. Money made in that way brings a curse to those who earn it; it brings no blessing to those who inherit it. There is no blessing connected with the sale of liquor or intoxicating drinks to our fellow-men. Latter-day Saints, of all people, should be free from this. We should set our faces against it. If I could speak to all the boys of this country, I would say, *Never touch anything of an in-*

toxicating character. *Never taste it.* You do not know what demon may be unchained within you by merely tasting this dreadful stuff. I have cause to know this. A young man of my acquaintance was given brandy, with the remark that it was cider. He had never tasted anything of the kind before, and when he drank this, it aroused within him a taste against which he will have to struggle all his life. It is like unchaining a demon that cannot be controlled. There are some men so organized that when they taste intoxicating drink they cannot control themselves. Therefore, it is better never to taste intoxicating drink in any form. Never put it to your lips. Never let it pass the portals of your mouths. It is far better for men to live without this; and I know that they can. I have proved that men can do good work without it.

Why is it that our girls do not drink? Have they not just as much right to drink as a man has? They have just as much reason and justification to do it as the boys have. But who ever hears of our girls going to saloons? What young man is there among us, though he himself may go to the saloons and drink, that would court a girl and expect to make her his wife if he knew she entered a saloon and poured such vile stuff down her throat? But why should he expect her to refrain from these things and he have the license to indulge in them? Is there one law for the men and another for the women upon these points? Certainly not.

Is there a law that a man may smoke and make himself a stink in the nostrils of sensitive men, while his sister, or the girl whom he is courting may not do the same? It is a wrong idea that boys should have privileges in these directions that our girls do not have. It seems to me that the smell of cigarette smoke is just as offensive, just as hateful and unpleasant, when a boy or a man has it about him, as it would be if a woman had it about her. I do not know that there would be any difference in the odor.

I speak in this strain this evening because this is a Priesthood meeting and here are the teachers—the persons who visit the houses of the Saints. Teachers, do you inquire where these girls and boys are at night? Do you inquire of the parents if the children keep good hours? Do you inquire if they are at parties at improper hours and with improper companions and improper surroundings? You should do this. It is well enough to inquire how they feel toward the Presidency of the Church, or to the Twelve, or to the Presidency of the Stake, or to their brethren and sisters. But there are other questions which may be asked, and which are equally as important as these. And if you live as you should do, the Spirit of the Lord will suggest these to you when you enter into the house. You can very properly enquire concerning the habits of the young people, and perhaps by doing so you may stop some soul