REMARKS

Made in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon April 30, 1899, by

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I have been requested to address you this afternoon, and I trust that the time I occupy may be for our mutual benefit. I returned last evening from a trip to San Francisco, where I had the privilege of meeting last Sunday with the conference of the Latter-day Saints held in that city. I also had the privilege of meeting with them during the following Monday and Wednesday evenings, and addressing them present. The reports given to me by President Nye as to the condition of the conference mission were very satisfactory indeed. They have built a very beautiful and good people in that city, and the money and labor have been some of those outrages perpetrated upon our missionaries which have been frequent in some other sections where the Elders have been sent to proclaim the Gospel. I could not of the good work of God, and that mission enjoying their ministry, the same as has been expressed here by Brother Pat. A Young, who has been meeting him there in connection with the other Elders.

I have enjoyed very much my experience the past few months in visiting Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Colorado, and I feel well to report to each of these States with the young men who are laboring there to spread the Gospel. I may say that some of my most amusing experiences were I am away from home. I was across a great many Latter-day Saints who were very much surprised indeed when they learn that the Latter-day Saints believe in the Bible. The great majority of those who have read the newspaper reports about our people, and the many things which have been written by those who have been sent to us and who are filled with hatred towards the Latter-day Saints, have the impression that we are a very degraded, wicked and heathenish people, that we do not believe in Jesus Christ, or in the teachings of the Bible, and that we have a Bible of our own. When I have met people of this kind and told them that Latter-day Saints believe that there is no other religious people upon the face of the earth who believed in the Bible as they do, and that those who accept its teachings as fully, they have expressed great surprise. The idea, I suppose, has grown up that we have a new Bible of our own, because in addition to believing in the Bible we also believe that there is a book which contains the divine teachings of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, given when He visited this continent after His resurrection and revealed Himself to those who were dwelling here. The Nephite Bible, as they term it. I visited the Eastern States, the cradle of this country, and the sacred history of the American Indians, and gives an account of that people being a prophecy of God, as much as the ancient people whose history is recorded in the Bible.

While in San Francisco a week ago I was very much amused to pick up a paper there known as the San Francisco Call, and in it I read an article to the effect that I had become the dictator of the "Mormon" Church; that there had been a quarrel in the inner circle of the Church, between President George Q. Cannon, myself, John Henry Smith and others, and that Mr. Roberts had gone East "some out on top," that Mr. Smith was very shy assuming my efforts, and that I was now the great dictator of the "Mormon" people.

They say that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country. Certainly there are none of the Latter-day Saints who attributes to me any such wonderful power or influence as some of our friends seem to be anxious to bestow upon me.

It is said in that paper that I have been speculating to the people in my public utterances that I believe in sustaining the President of the Church on earth, even to the laying down of my life if necessary. It is said in that article that I dictated and run the Democratic convention that took place in Ogden which nominated Mr. Roberts, and that Mr. John Henry Smith also seconded my efforts.

Mr. Smith must feel very much honored to find that he has been playing "second fiddle" to a man who has been praised all over the State speaking in behalf of the opponent of Mr. Roberts and laboring for the success of the Republican ticket. It will be a little surprising to him to learn that he has been laboring with me to secure the election of Mr. Roberts. We generally have to go away from home to find news. I found considerable while I was away.

I am pleased to say that this entire article—which I understand has been copied since in one of our best newspapers—is false from beginning to end practically a fabrication.

I am pleased to say to the Latter-day Saints and to the world that there is no quarrel between the leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that there is absolute harmony, there is peace and good will, and perfect fellowship. There are those of my nearest friends who would very much delight if there were some division, but I am glad to say there is none.

Coming from San Francisco, I purchased on the road home the "North American Review," and I found in it an article signed by Joseph Smith, the grandson of Brigham Young, and the idea struck me about his article being a reply to Senator Hoar's speech. I would like the Latter-day Saints to know some few of the things which are being spread broadcast in the East of the leaders of the United States, to call it so claimed, I think, that the North American Review is the highest grade of writers who can be found in America to contribute articles to it. Certainly the editor of the North American Review has from himself proved indeed (?) by publishing the article of Mr. Joseph Smith, that the Latter-day Saints are the most degraded people in America, and determined to find, in the uncivilized West, a haven where they would be free from Christian influence.

The three men says we were "horrified." He should have said we were surprised. He should have told of that old song of the Jewish people, when the exclamation thousand women were assembled to the death of widow from their husbands, and the cry of Nathan, "Thou art the man." He should have told of that fearful night when nine babes were torn as their mothers were slaughtered. He should have told that those babes had no protection, no over their mothers' breasts. Instead of saying that we were horrified, he should have said that we were startled from the United States, as we thought, into civilization and contented, where we loved our country and its institutions, and where we were free to worship God according to the dictates of our conscience. He should have said that we were driven out of a nest. He should have said that we appealed to the President of the United States for protection, and that we were driven out of the United States, as we claimed, I think, that the North American Review is the highest grade of writers who can be found in America to contribute articles to it. Certainly the editor of the North American Review has from himself proved indeed (?) by publishing the article of Mr. Joseph Smith, that the Latter-day Saints are the most degraded people in America, and determined to find, in the uncivilized West, a haven where they would be free from Christian influence.

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"The beginning of the Civil War found this same people, populated from time to time from the remnant among those of a remnant which had been driven from their homes in Illinois, and which was totally guilty of stamping out the New Rome of rebellion in the South."

A sentiment that was never permitted to go in connection with the Mormons in those years. The first telegram that was ever sent over the transcontinental line was in the presidential chair, President Young. Of this fact, and I will read it to you:

"Utah has not seceded, but is true to the Constitution and laws of our elder brothers."

The people of the Utah Territory in Mexico, and the fact that a son of Brigham Young, Dr. William Young, is a leading citizen of Mexico, and that in Cuba, absolutely refuse the statements of this young man that we are disloyal to the government, and that the rebellion and the disunity of state, I have the testimony of Judge Zerkel, the Supreme Judge of Utah, and author, as to the statements of Joseph Smith regarding the loyalty of the people of Utah, and I will read extracts from "Pioneers of the Past" and I will read them to you showing that people, Gentile, Catholic, Methodist, he was married, recognized that the slaves ought to be set free. Brigham Young's will and testament, and the statement about the slaves, so as to give the Latter-day Saints an idea of the opinion of a non-Mormon judge of Joseph Smith, in contradiction to the opinion of an independent boy who has been false to the teachings of his grandfather. Mr. Joseph says:

"It is by no means improbable that some future text-book, for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a grave and solemn charge, that the United Americans of the nineteenth century has carried the most powerful influence upon the Mormons. Yet, I am not prepared to say. And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be 'No.' The Mormons, in the Utah Territory, and in the Mormon Priesthood, are the very school in Christian means to exist now their lives, may be an electric connection in their destinies, history does in surprises and revelations quite as startling as which we have witnessed in the past. Slavery is dead, or is in the act of free debate, who was and is today, accepted by the Mormons, and Brigham Young, a man more early from the Most High—such a revelation bring it not to be disposed of by putting it in contrary with the Christian sentiment. Fanatic, impulsive, distortion, or bad, how, we can not know, but those who have spoken to another in the pulpit in the Mormon Tabernacle, in Salt Lake City, and in the Mormon Temple, in Nauvoo, and in the Mormon Temple, in Nauvoo, and in the Mormon Temple, in Nauvoo