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REMARKS.

APOSTLE JOHN H. SMITH,

At the General Conference, in the

Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sat-

urday Morning, Oct. 8, 1881.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

I AM pleased to meet with you this

morning, and have had much satis-

faction in listening to the teachings

and instructions of our brethren.

The duties and responsibilities that

are imposed upon us are of that na-

ture that is necessary for us to be

called together from time to time to

have our brethren's presence and

aid in the discharge of our duties.

The order of the Priesthood, and the

duties and responsibilities that are

imposed upon us, as the servants

of the Most High. Our minds are

called to reflect upon various sub-

jects. My reflections have been di-

rected for some time in a direction

that is different from what has been

from what it has been heretofore,

and that is in regard to the selection

of missionaries from among the vari-

ous Stakes of Zion, to go abroad

and represent the cause and king-

dom of God upon the earth, in the

various fields of labor wherein we

are enabled at the present time to

substantiate the principles of the Gos-

pel. And in looking round among

my brethren for those that it would

be proper to send upon missions, I

find, in my judgment, that it is

highly necessary that we should

and mothers in Israel should adopt

a more strict and conscientious course

in the instruction of their sons in

regard to the principles of the Gos-

pel. We find in searching among

our brethren, that we are compelled

at times to call upon men who have

in their minds, and in their hearts,

neglected to fully study and com-

prehend in their entirety the prin-

ciples of the Gospel. They have been

in the discharge of some of their

duties, but the cause of life, the

necessity of providing for fami-

lies, adding father and mother, &c.,

have prevented them receiving that

care and attention and instruction

by those who are placed to watch

over them that they should receive.

It is a fact, patent to all of us, that

these children who are called around

the bedside at home and instructed

in the principles of the Gospel by

father and mother; that these chil-

dren, though they may be wayward

and prone to do wrong, yet they are

quite a number who will grow up

and be able to stand up for the

principles of the Gospel before the

world. I think, therefore, it would be a

wise and prudent thing for us to

in Israel, that have signs arrived at

the years of accountability, to teach

them, not only when they have

grown to this age, but from child-

hood up, so that when the time ar-

ries they may be prepared to stand

forward in the various fields of labor,

and use their influence in the ad-

vancement of the work which our

breast, and they cannot shake it

off. Now, I am sanguine that there

are many who call themselves Lat-

ent, Saints, who have neglected

their duty in this respect, and many

a son is permitted to grow to man-

hood, whose father has never asked

him to bow with them at the family

altar. This is a serious neglect, and

the part of those who have named

the name of Jesus, who have come

up to these mountains to be taught

in the ways of the Lord. It is a sad

neglect, and those who have ac-

cepted the Gospel should be careful

in the past, should guard against it

in the future. We should attend to

the sacred duty of instructing our

sons and daughters, so that when

they are called to all various pos-

itions, they will feel it an honor to

respond. This sentiment and feel-

ing should be in our hearts at all

times. It is not necessary that our

children should be taught to make

particularly long prayers. Christ, our

Brother, has set us a wise and pru-

dent example, and we should follow

his example. It is not for the num-

ber of words that we use in appreci-

ating our Father, but it is that we

approach Him in earnestness, real-

izing that He can bless us, and if we

draw near to Him as we should,

we shall receive His blessing at His

hand. I have sometimes thought

that fathers have been unwise in

this matter; their prayers have been

too long; so much so that those who

may be looking for them in the same

place, find them nowhere. I have

known a father who has been pray-

ing for his children, and the children

family when this duty is to be per-

formed. This should not be so. The

prayer should be a prayer of thank-

sgiving, and it should be made with

a pride in this duty, and made to

feel that it is their duty to be in

attendance when the family bow down

to return thanks to God for all the

mercies and blessings that have been

sent down from time to time. If we

as parents will do our duty in this

respect, if we exercise our privileges

as fathers, we will find that we

will find a race of men and women

growing up around us who have

faith, who will honor their parents

and the cause we desire them to re-

present to the world. If we do not

do this, if we neglect this duty, we

will find that our children will

grow up without culture and a proper

regard for the ordinances of the Gos-

pel of Christ, we will find that our

children will find that they are

strangers to the principles of the

Gospel, and from the principles of

truth. We should look well to this

condition of things and see that we