

REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, at Provo, Saturday, Feb. 8th, 1868.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

I am happy in the privilege of meeting with you. We have come here to lay before you matters pertaining to the building up of the kingdom of God upon the earth. The remarks which you have just heard from brother George A. Smith are to the point. As far as I am acquainted with the inhabitants of Provo I think they are as good a people as those who dwell in Salt Lake City, or in any other settlement in Utah Territory. I think much of Provo; it is a very favored locality. We have established a school of the prophets in Salt Lake City. It is written in a revelation given to the prophet Joseph Smith, August, 1833, "Behold, I say unto you, concerning the school in Zion, I the Lord, am well pleased that there should be a school in Zion." And when speaking of the president of that school it is written, "And I will bless him with a multitude of blessings, in expounding all scriptures and mysteries to the edification of the school, and of the Church in Zion."

When the school of the prophets was inaugurated, one of the first revelations given by the Lord to his servant Joseph was the Word of Wisdom. The members of that school were but few at first, and the prophet commenced to teach them in doctrine to prepare them to go out into the world to preach the gospel unto all people, and gather the elect from the four quarters of the earth, as the prophets anciently have spoken. While this instruction prepared the elders to administer in word and doctrine, it did not supply the teachings necessary to govern their private or temporal lives; it did not say whether they should be merchants, farmers, mechanics, or money changers. The prophet began to instruct them how to live, that they might be the better prepared to perform the great work they were called to accomplish. I think I am as well acquainted with the circumstances which led to the giving of the Word of Wisdom as any man in the Church, although I was not present at the time to witness them. The first school of the prophets was held in a small room situated over the prophet Joseph's kitchen, in a house which belonged to Bishop Whitney and which was attached to his store, which store probably might be about fifteen feet square. In the rear of this building was a kitchen, probably ten by fourteen feet, containing rooms and pantries. Over this kitchen was situated the room in which the prophet received revelations, and in which he instructed his brethren. The brethren came to that place for hundreds of miles to attend school in a little room probably no larger than eleven by fourteen. When they assembled together in this room after breakfast, the first they did was to light their pipes, and, while smoking, talk about the great things of the kingdom, and spit all over the room; and as soon as the pipe was out of their mouths, a large chew of tobacco would then be taken. Often when the prophet entered the room to give the school instructions he would find himself in a cloud of tobacco smoke. This, and the complaints of his wife at having to clean so filthy a floor, made the prophet think upon the matter, and he inquired of the Lord relating to the conduct of the elders in using tobacco, and the revelation known as the Word of Wisdom was the result of his inquiry. You know what it is and can read it at your leisure.

So we see that almost the very first teachings the first elders of this Church received were as to what to eat, what to drink, and how to order their natural lives, that they might be united temporally as well as spiritually. This is the great purpose which God has in view in sending to the world, by his servants, the gospel of life and salvation. It will teach us how to deal, how to act in all things and how to live with each other to become one in the Lord. There is no question but that the waste places of Zion will be built up, that temples of God will be reared, and the Elders of Israel will enter into them and perform ordinances for the redemption of their dead friends back to Adam; but do you know the method of operation by which this will be brought about? Do you understand the workings of this great machinery of salvation to accomplish the great end for which we are looking? With all of our experience we have but a very scanty or partial knowledge of this great work. We say that we will enter into this business or that business to suit our own tastes and notions, without thinking whether our proceedings will advance the kingdom of God or not,

and when strangers come into our midst we are too apt to strengthen their hands, to destroy the very Zion which we are trying to build up. It may be that those who do this are not aware of the evil which they commit in taking this course; for while we encourage and strengthen those who are not of us, at the same time we firmly believe that scripture of the revelator respecting the separation of the Saints from the wicked: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

We have met in these valleys of the mountains with an eye to the perfection of the Latter-day Saints as individuals and as a community, that instead of every man turning to his own way, all should be willing to be controlled by the God of heaven. We have established a school in Salt Lake City for the instruction of the Elders of Israel in the doctrines which are contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, etc., and that is also the place where questions may be asked, and instructions given touching all doctrines and principles that may be entertained by them. That is also the place where correction may be given, and explanations be made upon all matters which pertain to the temporal and spiritual lives of the Saints. It is about two months since that school was established.

There have been petitions presented to the Legislature and much said concerning the division of this county. While cogitating upon this matter in our class, it came to me very forcibly to make a proposition for a few men to go to Provo and comfort the hearts of the brethren here, to show them the necessity of becoming one, of laying aside all individual bickerings, of overlooking and forgiving the weakness of one another and of uniting our faith together to make this one of the most beautiful and lovely cities of Zion. Why not do this, brethren? I believe I made the motion myself before the class for Pres. B. Young and Pres. H. C. Kimball to go to Provo and make homes there and live there a portion of the time; others were also named to do the same. If the brethren of the city of Provo are willing for us to dictate and guide them, and make our homes with them, we will try to do them good, and teach them the ways of life and salvation, and show them how to overcome the darkness so natural to the human mind, and give them extended ideas on the building up of the kingdom of God on the earth.

I have been informed by your presiding Bishop that this day was set apart for the people to make nominations for their municipal election. At the meeting for this purpose the people will have an opportunity of expressing their views and of making their nominations. If we would live according to the laws of God, be contented to live according to the rules and regulations of the Holy Priesthood, we should have but little use for probate courts, district courts or supreme courts in our Territory; their existence here would only be in a name and form, for the people would live above the laws of man. We should have very little use for anything else in the shape of government but the Priesthood, which is after the order of the Son of God. The Jews and Gentiles have of late brought some of their difficulties before the High Council in Salt Lake City for adjudication, in preference to going before the District Court; and the High Council, I believe, has invariably given satisfaction when such cases have been brought before it. This is a step in the right direction—to settle all matters without having recourse to law, which would do away with the necessity of employing and paying lawyers, court fees, etc. If we could ever see the time when we will live according to the laws of the Lord as given to us, and never suffer ourselves to transgress the wholesome, just and righteous principles and rules which they inculcate for our guidance, we could live within ourselves, sustain ourselves, and make ourselves rich—rich in the knowledge of God and in the possessions of this life. If we could learn to sustain one another and the interests of the kingdom of God, we would advance in the wealth of this world much faster than to sustain those who have no interest whatever with us. I would delight much to see a people who would actually live the principles of the Holy Gospel in every respect. But we are careless and thoughtless; we are not ignorant of the fact that we are continually making ourselves poorer by our unwise proceedings. This is grievous to behold. If every man in this church would consent to be guided by

the dictations of the Holy Priesthood in all their business transactions, dealing honestly with one another, giving to every man his due, instead of making a few rich and a great many poor, we would all become rich together, and have every convenience and appliance which is calculated to give comfort and happiness to man. We have got now about ten thousand dollars for the gathering of the poor, and a number of cattle of various kinds and ages, which we shall sell as soon as possible for money. If we had the money which the people have squandered by their injudicious trading, and by wrongly applied labor, we should have means sufficient to gather every poor Saint in the old world.

I can see the foolishness of the elders of Israel in wandering here and there with their produce to make gain, and trying to undersell each other; they have always lost by this proceeding whereas if they had stayed at home, they would have made money. Every man who has property and means, should live so as to obtain wisdom to know how to use them in the best possible way to produce the greatest amount of good for himself, for his family, and for the kingdom of God; but instead of taking this course it does appear that the great majority of the elders of Israel are crazy to run here and there to get rid of what they possess at any price. What for? Do they do this to build up the kingdom of God? "Have you built a good house?" "No." "What have you got?" "Folly, folly, weakness and poverty." When we can get the people to stay at home, and observe the law of God, we have the things of God for them, and the things of the world too as soon as they are prepared to receive them and make a good use of them. It grieves me to see the people take such special pains to make themselves foolish and miserable. I am speaking of the community, and it is the one man, the one woman, and the one child multiplied that makes the great nation or people. Let us learn wisdom and govern ourselves accordingly.

We shall hold meeting among you today and to-morrow, and I hope the people of Provo will be benefited by our visit, and I pray that they will apply their hearts to understand, receive and treasure up, and bring forth truth to the glory of God. Amen.

Correspondence.

CEDAR CITY, Iron Co.,
Feb. 5th, 1868.

Editor Deseret News:—Winter holds firm sway over the elements here, but appearances indicate that it will not be of long duration.

Our Bishop is still busy and persevering in raising money to gather the poor Saints from the old countries. He is leaving nothing undone to accomplish this godlike work, and his philanthropic labors are being crowned with much success. He is full of the spirit of emigration, and has already had the pleasure of remitting to President Young nearly \$700,00 in money, besides contributions in wheat, &c., where money was not come-at-able. When the subject of raising means for the emigration of the poor was first spoken of in this place, it did not seem possible to raise \$100,00 in money in the settlement, but by various means, the above results have been brought about. Even our Sunday School scholars brought in their five and ten cent bills to swell the fund, and still the noble work goes on with unabated vigor.

Our sabbath meetings are very interesting and well attended, notwithstanding the intense cold, and the unfinished state of our hall. Bishop Lunt has however, purchased two heating stoves for the hall, which make it much more comfortable.

The youths are being encouraged and felt after, with fatherly care and counsel. There are three day schools in our city during this winter, two taught by female teachers, and one by a male teacher. Music is being worked in as one branch of study in the day schools, and a very important one it is, as every teacher who has tried it must confess.

Our choir, under the patronage and encouragement of our leaders, still improves. They gave a concert during the winter which was very successful and satisfactory.

Our city fathers have not been idle in their sphere. They have just completed and forwarded the necessary documents for the entry of 639 acres of land for the use and benefit of our citizens, besides having a general care for the welfare of the people here.

Gates and Co's. grist mill is about

ready for business, having already ground corn and chopped some wheat. Stewart & Chaffin are also pushing their grist mill to completion. A. Bauer & Co. are building machinery for the manufacture of shingles, laths, furniture, &c. Samuel Leigh & Co. are finishing their building and machinery for iron founding, making shingles, laths, &c. Our School Trustees are trying to finish a school house, and altogether our city is kept lively and business-like.

Among other things our military matters are not forgotten. We have lately had a visit from Capt. J. D. L. Pearce and Major A. P. Hardy, who fully organized a cavalry company, and infused quite an interest in military matters among the people here.

Our fast days are not forgotten, as the first Thursday of each month comes along, and the offerings of the Saints are freely dispensed to the most needy amongst us. We have had more land surveyed for our increasing population. Some small settlements are being formed in our neighborhood. The waters of the Iron Springs are being put on to a very nice patch of land and six or seven families will settle there the coming spring. Winter has been very severe on our sheep. Many of the oldest and poorest have died, and the clip of wool the coming season will be rather slim. Measures are being planned and adopted for the better care of our sheep hereafter, and we anticipate a great improvement in taking care of sheep and raising wool in this country.

The DESERET NEWS is appreciated, and its coming is looked for with increased interest.

I remain your brother in the Covenant,
JOHN M. MACFARLANE.

LEGISLATIVE.

Evening Session, Feb. 15, 1868.

House.—A bill for an act relative to incorporations for manufacturing and other purposes was read and referred.

The petition of Mr. W. S. Godbe, for the extension of Bear river bridge charter, was read and referred.

A bill for an act concerning libel was taken up on its second reading and ordered printed.

A bill for an act creating the office of Coroner, and prescribing his duties, and certain duties of Justices of the Peace, &c., was read, amended and passed.

A bill for an act amending an act in relation to marks and brands, was taken up on its second reading and was not concurred in.

Adjourned till Monday, at 10 a.m.

February 17th.

Council.—Councillor Hyde moved, that one thousand dollars be inserted in the general appropriation bill, to compensate, in part, Col. R. N. Alfred, of Springtown, Sanpete, for services rendered during the last three years in suppressing Indian hostilities; referred.

An act creating the office of Coroner, &c., was received from the House amended, and the amendments were concurred in. It was further amended and returned to the House.

Councillor Smoot presented a bill prescribing rules and regulations for the execution of the trust arising under the act of Congress, entitled "An act for the relief of the inhabitants of cities and towns upon the public lands," which was read and ordered printed.

An act incorporating Mount Pleasant, in Sanpete County, was passed and sent to the House for concurrence.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a.m.

House.—A resolution authorizing the re-location of the Territorial road leading from Pleasant Grove city, through the city of Provo, in Utah county, was passed.

An act concerning libel, was taken up and non-concurred in.

An act defining the time of commencing civil actions, was read and passed.

The Council announced their concurrence in the House amendments to the bill for an act concerning Coroners, &c. The title was further amended and concurred in.

A bill for an act repealing an act entitled an act regulating estray pounds and for other purposes, was passed.

The committee on roads made a report on the Salt Lake and Wanship wagon road company, and reported a bill in relation thereto.

The committee on militia reported favorably to granting the petition of Cols. McLellan, Bromley and others, for the amendment of the militia law, allowing fines assessed by court-martial to be expended for division, brigade and regimental purposes. Said committee were authorized to bring in a bill in consonance with their recommendation.

Adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.

Feb. 18, 1868.

Council.—Councillor L. Snow, chairman of Committee on roads, bridges, etc., reported it inexpedient to legislate on the subjects of roads in Washington county this session; accepted.

The petition of William Price and others, to detach Goshen present from Utah Co., and attach it to Juab Co., was rejected.

An act incorporating Mount Pleasant was received from the House amended, and the amendments were concurred in.

An act concerning the road from Salt Lake City to Wanship, was received from the House, read and referred.

An act regulating the terms of the Supreme and District Courts, was received from the House; read and referred.

Some other bills advanced a stage.

Adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.

House.—Mr. Rockwood presented account of the Territorial Road Commissioner for the year 1867, which was referred to the committee on claims with instructions.

A bill for an act defining the eastern boundary of Juab county, was presented and referred.

An act incorporating Mount Pleasant, in Sanpete county, passed.

An act regulating the terms of the Supreme and District Courts, in Utah Territory, passed.

The committee on claims and appropriations were instructed to incorporate in the appropriation bill one thousand dollars, to aid in the construction of a road up the Provo canyon, to intersect with the Wanship Wagon Road; also two thousand dollars to improve the road running west from S. L. City to Tooele; and one thousand