

motive that has prompted them? The motive has been to do the will of God, and then to save the souls of the children of men—to impart to them the message of salvation, and to warn them of approaching judgments. I believe they have been as faithful in this generation as Noah and his sons were before the flood. Of course, we know but little about the efforts they made. We only know that God gave Noah a message and prepared a plan of salvation for the inhabitants of the earth; and no doubt he declared, with all the power that he had, the message that God had given unto him. But it had little effect upon the inhabitants of the earth. Our message has been better received. We have thousands who have listened to it, and who have believed it, and who have taken the steps which God has pointed out to receive the benefit which follows obedience to it. As it was in the days of Noah, the Savior said, so it shall be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. And we are living in those days, and this work that we are engaged in is a preparatory work—to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord, that the earth shall not be visited by the calamities that shall precede His coming without the inhabitants being warned concerning them. It is for this purpose that the Lord has poured out upon the people in these last days the spirit of gathering. It has rested upon the inhabitants of every land who have received the Gospel, and they have gathered to these mountains and valleys. They have come because they believe that God has commanded them to come, and the evidence that He has commanded them to come has been received by them through the outpouring of His Holy Spirit upon them.

It is a remarkable fact, that of all the thousands of Latter-day Saints that have crossed the ocean to come to Zion there has scarcely an accident ever happened to one of them. It is now fifty-three years since the Latter-day Saints commenced to leave Europe for America, and during that period they have traveled as though they were insured of heaven. Who ever heard of Elders being lost, or companies of Saints meeting with accidents and being destroyed? It is marvelous when we contemplate it, considering the numbers that have traveled and the length of time that has been covered by their travels. There has been a special providence over the people in gathering them from the far distant lands where they formerly lived, and it is because God has commanded them to gather. Not only has He commanded this people to gather, but He has commanded all people to listen to this message with which the Elders are entrusted, and to obey it, and to gather out from Babylon. When I say Babylon, I mean that corrupt system of things that prevails throughout the earth, and which is likely to be overthrown sooner or later.

Now, I have said that the Latter-day Saints have shown their love, to some extent. While I was mentioning that, it occurred to me that there has been an exhibition of love and self-sacrifice, covering some years, that is now scarcely thought of by the people. I allude to the sending down, for a series of years, trains from this valley and from other valleys to the

frontiers, to bring out the poor Saints. This is almost forgotten now. A new generation has grown up since those times, railroads have been built, and no one thinks now about our old mode of travel. But for a number of years there were hundreds of teams sent from this Territory to bring up the poor Saints from the Missouri river, and after the railroad was commenced, from the end of track. For years there were sent 500 wagons, 2000 yoke of cattle (for each wagon had four yoke of cattle), 500 teamsters, with guards to watch the cattle, flour to feed 500 teamsters and the additional guards, also the emigrants that had to be transported. In this labor they spent the most valuable part of the year for work, bringing the Saints up from the river, supplying them with food, caching flour as they went down, and picking it up again as they returned. Think of the expense of this! This was all done by the people who sent these teams without direct pay—they got some credit, I suppose on their tithing, but they got no money. Each entire year would be spent in this manner gathering the poor Saints! What was it for? Why did the people do this? Where can you find such an exhibition of kindness, such a desire to help others? Nowhere. You may search in vain elsewhere for such an illustration of kindness and good feeling and brotherly love. What was the motive? It was to help the people, and to extend to them the blessings that they themselves enjoyed. It was to contribute to their temporal salvation—precisely the same principle that prompts them when called to go upon missions, to leave their wives, their children, their fathers and mothers, and all the tender associations of life, to carry the glad tidings of salvation to the inhabitants of the earth.

These are exhibitions of love. I thank God for them. I thank God that I live at a time and among a people who are capable of comprehending the purposes of God, and who have risen to such heights of self-sacrifice as this. I think it is good to reflect upon, that there are people on the earth who have these feelings, and who are not sordid and selfish, and thoroughly engrossed in helping themselves at the expense of their neighbors; but who live for humanity and for something more than the accumulation of perishable riches, and who love their fellows sufficiently to do anything they can for their salvation. These valleys have been settled by a people of this kind. We have been sustained here by that principle of brotherly love. We never could have done that which has been done; we never could have maintained our foothold in these valleys; we would have perished by starvation, or by Indians, or by other evils, had this feeling not prevailed. The very settlement of Salt Lake City was only made possible by this brotherly love and affection. So it has been from that time till the present. In 1855 and 1856 I suppose hundreds of people would have perished in our settlements, through the grasshopper visitation, had it not been for the disposition to help each other; starvation was averted by this feeling. I thank God for its restoration to the earth. It makes one feel that there is one spot on the earth, at least, that is not wholly

given over to the worship of mammon; that there is a people in whose bosoms burn some of the old feelings of which we read in the Bible, and which we know are from God. It is delightful to think that these feelings are not entirely obliterated from the earth, but that there is a people who are seeking to cherish them, to maintain them and to impart them to their children after them.

And yet with all this how far we are ourselves from being what we should be! We have constantly to be battling against selfishness, and many of our people almost fear lest we shall be overcome by these evil influences that are surging around us and are washing, as it were, against our very thresholds. There is danger to be feared from this spirit of evil, of selfishness, of "devil-take-the-hindmost," of every man for himself, and many in our midst succumb to these influences after all that has been done to bring them to a knowledge of the truth. They forget the lessons that God has taught and is teaching, and they yield themselves to the spirit of the world, from which we have been gathered. I suppose this will continue to be the case until Satan is bound. God will not take away our agency. He has given you and me our agency to do as we please. I will not say that He cannot take away our agency; that would be irreverent; but it is not consistent with His plan to take away anybody's agency. Every human being has his agency. We can serve God or we can serve the devil. We can listen to the voice of the Spirit of God and the entreaties that we hear from it, or we can reject them and listen to evil-blandishments and allurements. There is a percentage, perhaps,—I trust it is very small, and I am led to believe it is—of the Latter-day Saints who forget the lessons God is teaching, and who yield to sin and seek to build themselves up instead of the Zion of God.

Now I look upon it that when a man receives the truth it is his duty to seek to build the truth up, to labor for Zion, and not to build up anything that is opposed to Zion, from the day that he receives the Gospel of the Son of God throughout his mortal career. Personally I would not want to do anything else knowingly. But in saying that, do I mean to convey the idea that we are to be an exclusive people, that we are to shut ourselves up, and cut ourselves off from all communication with our fellows? No. When I labor for Zion I labor for the whole human family, I labor for God, I labor for the establishment of that rule and dominion that He seeks to introduce and perpetuate in the earth. I do not labor for the Mormons alone, but I labor for all; for as far as this spirit to which I have alluded extends, so far will it benefit and bless all who partake of it. It will bring a blessing to every man, to every household, to every community, and to every nation. And when we talk about Zion we talk about this better condition of things that we are aiming to establish.

I was conversing with a lady a few weeks ago. She was a lady in public life and talked about addressing me a letter on a public topic through the papers. We entered into conversation about affairs here, and I said to her