

done if I had felt hurried so I could not ask the blessing of the Lord upon that which I was engaged in. We make a mistake when we do this, because there is a power that the Lord exercises and there is a blessing which He bestows by which everything comes right, and we accomplish more in the end than we possibly could do without that blessing. Have you not noticed it yourselves, how some days everything goes right, and you accomplish more, and you feel gratified with that which you have accomplished, because everything has seemed to work together to enable you to accomplish it? The blessing of the Lord will do this. Our mothers, our wives, if they would take a little more time, their house work would go along much more easily and much more pleasantly, and they would be less ruffled and disturbed in their dispositions than they sometimes are at the present time.

We should be a prayerful people, because we are the people of God; and we should be a people that live so near unto Him that He will hear us. He has said that He will draw near unto us if we will draw near unto Him, and we should feel His presence constantly, and feel that He is not far off, but that He is near at hand. Then when sickness comes, we can ask Him in faith for His blessing, because we are living in the way to exercise faith before Him. And sickness will come, because the Lord has said it. We can read of the plagues that are going about now, and there is a feeling of terror running throughout Great Britain and Europe at the present time respecting this plague that is in the East Indies, and that is carrying off so many people. There is a dread lest it should come to Europe and do as it did three hundred years ago. You have no doubt read about the great London plague. Plagues were common in those days, and they spread and the people apparently could not prevent them. The Lord has revealed to us that pestilence will come in the last days, and that there will be an overflowing scourge, to use the language of one revelation. Well, this will be a very serious thing, and we should live so that we shall be prepared for it, and that we shall be in a condition that we can exercise faith in our families; for this is one of the purposes for which God has instituted the gathering of the people, that they might stand in holy places when the judgments shall go forth that shall destroy the inhabitants of the earth. And these judgments will come, because the Lord has said they will; and we shall see them, and we are as liable to have them as other people if we do not keep the commandments of God and if we do not live in such a manner as to have faith in Him and in His ordinances. We should teach our children to be administered to when they are sick, so that they also will have faith. I have seen children that whenever they are sick they are healed immediately, because they have faith. They say, "send for father,—send for somebody,—I want to be administered to;" and they are healed. Now, this faith, if it grows up with children, will grow to be a great power and a great influence with them; and it should be cultivated in our families, because as the Lord has said, there will be plagues go forth, pestilence will go forth to scourge the inhabitants of the earth, and we are as liable to them as any peo-

ple if we do not live so as to have them averted and taken away from us. Hence we should exercise faith in the Lord. There will be trouble of various kinds. There will be famine. I came up here last week through Nebraska, and I saw vast quantities of corn on the ground stacked up, uncovered, exposed to the elements. And this almost at every farm. They are burning the corn because it is cheaper than fuel. The corn cribs that they have are full, and then there is this quantity besides, thousands of bushels in some places, which is left exposed to the elements. Now, it struck me that this is a terrible condition of things, and I felt almost as though it was a foreboding of famine, because when food is wasted in this way it does not seem to me to be right in the sight of heaven; and I had these thoughts as I came along. Then when I got home I was told that men, because of the increased price of wheat, have sold their wheat until some have barely enough left to seed the ground this coming spring.

Brethren and sisters, I do not know that it is an improper thing to allude to this on this occasion. If I were you farmers, I would have some wheat stored up. We have talked about it year after year, year after year; maybe your ears are pained with hearing it so often, as you have heard it in past years especially, because before the railroad was completed it seemed a very necessary thing that we should have some wheat stored up. Since the railroad has been completed, however, we have not felt that necessity to such an extent, and I believe many have grown very careless on this point, thinking we could get supplies from the east or the west if they were needed. But there will be famine. It is only a year or two ago since all through western Nebraska and western Kansas there was a famine for food, and many hundreds of people abandoned their homes and went off. The drouth had caused their places to become valueless. Since then they have been paying some little attention to irrigation in that region, in order to save their farms. But we are liable any time, even in this great country of ours, so fertile and so rich with all that is necessary for life, this choice land, as it is called in the Book of Mormon, above all other lands,—we are liable to have famines, and it would be no injury, at least, if we should provide against it, even if the famine does not come. If we do not find a need for it, it certainly is not an unwise thing, nor a costly thing, to save our grain. Every family ought to have two or three years' supply of grain ahead in all our settlements, as a precautionary measure; and we can change our grain when it grows old and there is danger of weevil, and put new in. But that which ought to be done is this: every settlement should have one or more elevators in it. I wonder myself, say, for instance, in a county like this, with numbers of shrewd business men as you have, why you do not combine together and build a granary for yourselves. I keep some 1200 bushels of grain on hand for myself, but I would like to have about 2000 bushels of grain put up for my own use; and if my son Abraham had lived, I suppose this fall we should have had a granary. There ought to be public granaries. They would be of great advantage to all the

farmers. Then if you wanted to borrow—which I hope none of you want to—but if you should on a pinch want to borrow, if you had a granary certificate, certifying that you had so much grain on hand, you would find it would be of great convenience to you in this direction as well as an excellent way to preserve the grain. There is a great deal of grain wasted in our country through vermin and poor granaries. The grain is not properly cared for. We ought to try and take care of our grain, and have grain on hand all through the country. It would be no harm, but might prove a very great blessing to everybody. I would therefore suggest to you business men that you combine together. Lumber is cheap now, labor is cheap, and everything that is needed to construct granaries is conveniently obtained, and you would find it of great service to you if it were done. It seems to me that if I were the President of the Stake here I would appoint a committee of practical men to do this—that is, to effect an organization that would accomplish this, and all to contribute a little, so as to have stock in it; those that had not much to contribute, could put in according to their means, and everyone take an interest in it, and put their grain in where it could be moved by elevators and changed so as to keep it in good condition, and be sold from time to time, and replaced with new grain.

My brethren and sisters, I have talked on these everyday topics, and I hope they will be of profit to you. We want to make the Latter-day Saints the best and the most perfect people on the face of the earth, and I want to say to you here today—to repeat something that was said yesterday: God has chosen this people with the express purpose of making them a great people. We shall be, if we fulfill the destiny that is assigned to us. We shall be the saviors of our nation, and we shall save the nation through the Priesthood that God has established in His Church. This may come in contact with some of your ideas. You may think it will be done through party conventions, through politics, or through political leaders. It will never be done in that way. It will be done through the power of God, through the revelations of Jesus Christ. It will be done through the medium of that authority He has placed on the earth, and which he recognizes as His. That will be the way in which this will be brought about. It will be brought about in God's own time and God's own way, and these Latter-day Saints—you who are here today, with other Latter-day Saints throughout these valleys—will be the people that will accomplish this, under the direction of the Almighty. I heard one of the leading men of this nation a few weeks ago talk to the First Presidency concerning the position we occupy in the minds of leading men. We sat and listened to him with the greatest interest. If he had been familiar with the predictions—which he was not—made by the Prophet Joseph and by the Prophet Brigham and by other leading men among us, concerning the future of this people and the destiny that was in store for them, he could not have described in more forcible language than he used the position we occupied and the light in which we were viewed by the leading men of this country. I have letters also in my possession, written by leading