

some time, and is it not better to pay for our goods when we get them, and thereby secure them at a reasonable figure? In this way we can save money and be independent, and lay something by for a "rainy day," instead of living as a great many people do in the old country. They eat up their wages before they earn them, and when Saturday night comes the wages they receive are required to pay for the food they have eaten during the preceding week. When a week of sickness happens to overtake them, they get another week behind, and then another week, until they are a month or two behind, the shopkeepers carrying them on credit all the time. Then when they obtain employment again, they have to practice self-denial enough to enable them to lay up a shilling or two every week to pay off the old debts; and in many instances people have been known to pawn their Sunday clothing to enable them to procure a week's living. I sometimes wonder if that kind of training in the old country has not had some effect upon some of the Latter-day Saints in Zion, and if they have not come here with the idea that there is no other way to live than to go in debt a week or a month and then pay it after. Look among your neighbors and see if you cannot find some who always manage to meet their obligations as they are due, and others who live without contracting debt, who pay as they go, or else do not go. See if those neighbors are not comparatively independent; see if they do not have the chance of purchasing at a great advantage and procuring goods very cheap.

Since coming to Logan, a brother has told me of a little experience that he had in this direction. He bought a mowing machine and paid for it down. A few days afterwards another brother, who was a poor man, bought the same kind of mowing machine, on time. The one that bought first was a man of means and got the lowest price for cash down. The poor man had to pay twenty dollars more for his machine than the other man did for his. Now, twenty dollars is a very large percentage on the price of a mowing machine, and the poor man, who ought to have had the advantage in the price of the article, had to pay that amount extra because he wanted credit; and in addition to this, he had to pay an extravagant interest until the machine was paid for. This is not only true in regard to mowing machines, but it is also true in regard to threshers, hay rakes, and all kinds of machinery and merchandise. The result is, the poor people are becoming poorer, and the rich are having all the advantages.

Brethren, we ought to obtain wisdom from the Lord to enable us so to order our lives that we may have all the advantages that are within our reach. If we will only be careful and economical, and practice self-denial, and recognize the folly of indulging in the tastes and fashions and appetites of the world, it will be well with us. Self-denial is necessary in every family and in every

individual. It is necessary for the happiness, for the peace, for the wealth and for the health of the Latter-day Saints. It is necessary in eating, in wearing and in laboring. It should be studied in every walk of life. The appetites and fancies that are natural to mortal man, and that are cultivated by the world, lead to destruction. You find men who have prospered and who have accomplished any very great work in the earth, and, as a rule, you will find people who have practiced self-denial. It preserves us from transgression, from corruption, from poverty and from misery, and increases our wealth and happiness. The care that we give to temporal matters, of course, tends to increase our worldly prosperity. In like manner, the care that we bestow upon our intellectual, our moral and our spiritual matters, increases our intellectuality, our morality and our spirituality, and strengthens and qualifies us for the duties of the Kingdom of God and prepares us for the coming of the Savior. The more careful we are in regard to the requirements made upon us in the Gospel of Christ, the more circumspect we are in regard to our conversation, the happier and more comfortable we are, and the nearer we come to living so that the Spirit of God may dwell constantly with us. It is intended that God should be our companion, by the Holy Spirit, which is one of the Godhead, and that we should feed alike, clothe alike, labor alike, enjoy alike, and live upon one plane, and the higher the plane the better pleased our Heavenly Father will be with us. The more devoted we are in regard to our prayers, the better pleased the Father is with us and the more abundantly does He bless us. But the prayers that are offered should be the sincere desires of the heart. We are not heard for our much speaking nor for the remarkable things that we may ask for; but the plain, simple requirements of our lives offered up unto the Father in sincerity bring down the blessings of the Lord upon us. And when our lives are consistent with the prayers that we offer, God is pleased to answer our prayers upon our heads; He is pleased to heal our sick, and to turn evil from us, as individuals, as families, and as a church.

When we, as Latter-day Saints, keep the commandments of the Lord, we have no cause for fear in regard to the Kingdom of God. But we have cause to fear for ourselves when we are careless and thoughtless, when we transgress the laws of God and disregard the counsels of the Holy Priesthood, and when we do not honor the representatives of God in our midst. When the rights of men and women and their personal safety and purity are disregarded by us, then we are in danger, individually and collectively. But when our eyes, our ears and our hearts are open to see, to hear and to understand the mind and will of God concerning us, then He is pleased with us; then may we dwell securely in the land, and the Lord will preserve us and establish us in

the land where we are now planted; for this is the land that God has designed us to remain in, and it will be a land of Zion unto us if the statutes and judgments of the Lord are kept thereon. The enemy will not have power to overrun us nor to break us in pieces.

What has been accomplished against the Latter-day Saints up to the present time, with all the efforts that have been made by our enemies to destroy us? Twelve years ago, at the dedication of the St. George Temple, President Young made the declaration that if the Latter-day Saints in the future would keep the commandments of the Lord, the efforts of our enemies and the noise and bluster that they would make would be more remarkable than it had ever been; but, said he, their power will be less. Since that time the foundations of the Logan and Mantle Temples have been laid and the Temples have been built and completed, to the name and honor and glory of God. Has the declaration of the Prophet on that occasion been fulfilled? I say it has, and most remarkably, too. For a number of years after that declaration was made things moved along in a quiet way; but during the last five or six years there has been quite an effort made by the Government of the United States against the Latter-day Saints. Now, I ask, what has been accomplished? I desire to speak for the encouragement of the Latter-day Saints, that we may have the most cheerful and hopeful view that we can in regard to the work of God, and I think there is no other reasonable view to take. As I have said, two temples have been erected since the Prophet Brigham made that declaration, and work is being performed therein; and the temple at Salt Lake City is likely to be finished in a few years. Stakes and wards have been organized, and the Church of God has spread beyond the borders of the United States, both north and south. Has there been one Stake broken up? Has there been one Stake depopulated? Has there been one Ward depopulated? Or has there been one hamlet destroyed? Have the people been mobbed and driven from any one spot in all Zion, during the last twelve years, with all the efforts of the ungodly against us? Have we not, in spite of their labors, been spreading quietly and peaceably on the right hand and on the left? Have not our Elders gone out to preach the Gospel and to gather out the honest in heart as regularly as before? Has not Asia been penetrated by our missionaries, and have not other missions been opened in various parts of the world? How many Apostles, Presidents of Stakes, or other prominent men, have gone over and arrayed themselves with the enemy? Is there one? Only one Apostle has fallen since that time that I know of, and he did not fall because of these trials. And did he go against the Kingdom of God? No. So it has been since that time, so far as I can remember, with every prominent man that has been cut off the