

become converted in temporal things. We are trying to understand the Gospel as Enoch understood it and as Christ understood it, and to do business as they did it, living in co-operation and managing our affairs in the same way, but many of us are not willing to be taught in temporal matters. We should seek to carry out the commandments of the Lord. We must teach our children, our families and friends and unite in building up the Kingdom of God.

We sometimes forget these things are required by the Lord in building up His Kingdom. They are the material things God requires of us. For our earthly existence, and for the fruits of the earth that the Lord gives us, and for everything we should be thankful. We are educating our Sabbath school children to grow up and qualify themselves to become apostles, judges, bishops and all manner of officers in the Church that shall be needed to rule the Kingdom of God. And our young men should think upon these things and remember that some time the power and authority will come upon them to enable them to discharge these various duties. This is the precious land of Zion, to be occupied by God's people. When we first came here, we could scarcely imagine that we would become 250,000 in number. What is it to be in the next sixty years if we continue our teaching the word of the Lord? We should realize that we are in a state of preparation, preparing our generations after us to live better than we, and to become sanctified in the Church.

We ought to have a generation in a little while prepared to go down and build up the New Jerusalem, according to the promises of the Lord in revealing the everlasting Gospel unto us. We are living too much upon the fractional part of the faith, as Brother Grant has been telling us. We should know that our course is right, and then continue in it. It is not half so important for our neighbors to know that we are honest as it is for ourselves to know it. We should prepare ourselves to build up Zion, and we ought not think these things so far off as we do, for it will not be long before we are called upon to do this work. We ought to raise men that are fully qualified to go into the world and build up the Church and spread the Gospel, thereby building up Zion. We should be willing to work to this end. We want to increase our 1,700 missionaries now in the field until we can get 200,000 out, and until the work of the Lord can be echoed from sea to sea, and from the north to the south. I want you to understand, brethren, that we have not come to a comfortable place, to squat down on it not to move again, but we should labor and send forth the Gospel to the nations of the earth, and help to build up Zion, and the man who is too old to go abroad should work here and help the younger men to go.

There is work for all to do. It is our duty to teach righteousness in the earth. It is your business as truly as it is the business of President Woodruff or any of us, to preach and work righteousness in the earth. I delight in the work of the Lord. We have a great work in hunting up Elders to send abroad to preach to the people. Our Elders should feel that we owe a duty to the human family. It is our duty to help to gather Israel and help to build up Zion, not with the tenth of our incomes only, but with all that we have; directly and indirectly we should give all.

Well, we are beginning to see what is before us. We are beginning to understand what blessings await those who are faithful and truthful in all things, and to understand what our duties are.

I pray that the Lord will impart

strength unto us, and inspire us in our duties and make the fruits of our labors to be seen in our present life. And I pray the Lord to bless us with His spirit while we are together, so that Israel may read of the good time we have had. And I want to tell you, brethren, that these things spoken of regarding the coming of the Lord are not so far off. We have been praying to our Heavenly Father, whom we do not behold; but His Spirit is here and He answers our prayers, just as when we talk through a telephone we are answered, although we do not see the person with whom we are talking, and so it is with our Heavenly Father. The three great patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, started with a small beginning, and revelation tells us that they have become Gods, and the promise was given to them that their seed should be as numerous as the sands upon the seashore. We are their children, and are not the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob our blessings? It is our privilege to be exalted in the presence of Father Abraham. We have great encouragement to work righteousness and to qualify ourselves to teach the nations of the earth the Gospel. God bless you. May He bless us all and inspire us to labor for eternal lives, and may we be saved and exalted in His presence with all the faithful men and women who have lived. I ask it in the name of Jesus, Amen.

#### REMARKS

Made at the Sixty-eight Annual Conference of the Church in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday morning, April 7th, 1898, by

ELDER ABRAHAM O. WOODRUFF.

My beloved brethren and sisters, I am pleased to meet with you this morning, and I trust that I may enjoy the Spirit of the Lord during the few moments that I may address you, as our brethren enjoyed that Spirit yesterday. I have no desire to speak a word that cannot be heard by every soul that is here this morning, and I have no desire to speak a word that will not be dictated by the Holy Spirit of God. We have learned in our experience how easy it is for men to speak to the edification of the Latter-day Saints and those who are seeking the truth when they are inspired by the Spirit of Almighty God; but with all the oratory and learning of men, they are not able to convert those who are honest in heart, except they possess this Spirit. The men who have had the greatest success in converting souls to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have not been men of very great learning; they have been men who have been taught of God, who have been God-fearing, humble, and willing to give unto Him the honor and the glory for all they were able to accomplish. So I desire this morning to possess that same spirit of humility and the Spirit of the Lord, that I may be able to edify the Latter-day Saints for a few moments and to touch upon some points that will be for the benefit of the people in general, or of some of us at any rate.

In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints there is everything I believe, that is necessary for our happiness here upon earth and for our salvation in the future. Within its organization we can find everything to keep our minds occupied, everything to instruct us in every labor of life, and the Spirit of God to guide us in all that we undertake to do. A great many ministers who are not of our faith have made comments upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and some of them have remarked that all that was necessary to thwart our purposes and

to bring to naught the work that has been set on foot by the Lord was to show up our principles; yet those who make such comments have always been of that class that have never undertaken to expose any one of our principles, they knowing full well that the principles of the Gospel which they have investigated are founded upon Scriptures and upon the word of God. All the comments that I have ever heard or read that our enemies have ever made upon the doctrines of Jesus that they have avoided the direct bringing to light of any one of the principles in which we believe; but they have made incorrect assertions, they have misrepresented us in various ways. This may be because they have not thoroughly understood our motives.

I have in my pocket a slip of paper clipped from the Portland Oregonian of March 26th, giving the opinion of one Mr. Stone, the secretary of the Young Men's Christian association. His comments are very much of the character I have mentioned. He says that the Mormons who have been members of his association have not been permitted to vote or hold office because they are not considered as Christians. We are excluded from the pale of the Christian churches, as they term it, and therefore our people have been excluded from voting or holding office in that association.

I would like to say a few words upon this matter, inasmuch as the Latter-day Saints are given to joining these various associations and societies that are not part of the Church of Christ. In this city alone, we have a great many young Latter-day Saints—at least, they are the children of Latter-day Saints—who belong to these various associations. Now, we have no objection to people believing as they desire. At the same time it is our wish that the Latter-day Saints should grow up with a knowledge of the Gospel. First implant the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ within their hearts, and then they cannot be contaminated by error, if they are true and faithful to the principles of that Gospel. In various places throughout the States of Zion we find that the Latter-day Saints have been given to joining secret societies as well as other associations. This is forbidden by the Priesthood of the Son of God. There is all of the brotherhood and all of the insurance, if you please, contained in the Church of Jesus Christ that are necessary for us. It is a fact that there are Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City and elsewhere, who cannot find time to attend to their duties in the Priesthood, but do find time to attend to their lodge meetings. We are running wild in this respect. Irreverence for the Priesthood of the Son of God is growing out of this. Those young men who attend lodge meetings and do not attend their Priesthood meetings, what reverence do they have for the Priesthood of the Son of God? They have very little, if any, because they have never learned to reverence that Priesthood.

Our missionaries, whose number has been increased some two hundred in the world during the last year, have also been performing a great work at home. One hundred and forty have been sent out among the Latter-day Saints in the various settlements, to bring in the indifferent and those who have been negligent in their duties, and to try to get them to take a live interest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to join the various Improvement Associations. The effect that this corps of missionaries has had upon the people in general has been reported as being very good. Not only the Young Men's and the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations, but the various Priesthood meetings have been better attended than ever