

ation and final destruction of the race, if not stopped. The Lord is endeavoring to introduce among this people principles of righteousness, that the world may be saved from this condition, and delivered from the terrible fate that awaits them, if they continue to take the course they are pursuing.

Now when I look at my wife I want to look at a woman who realizes the responsibility that is upon her; as one who can share with me my responsibility, and will bear with me, as far as it lies in her power, the burdens and responsibilities of my household; and who is able to stand shoulder to shoulder with me in bearing this responsibility. "Mormonism" is calculated to develop just that kind of women; make them self-reliant; give them opportunities to acquire and possess knowledge for themselves; to gain experience, to understand the truth, to learn to do business, and to comprehend the responsibility of and how to manage their families. I think this is a very proper thing. It is certainly more consistent than the idea of making of a woman a mere toy, a mere ornament, a sort of holiday affair, a show window puppet, by draping and adorning her person and wasting her time in idleness, in balls, theatres and parties, and relieving her of all responsibility of the family. I think that is one of the most potent causes of domestic unhappiness, strongly tending to immorality and corruption, which are destroying the foundations of society and preparing the world for destruction. That kind of spirit and that kind of habit I am opposed to. I like to see women enjoy life with every privilege and right which they can consistently desire, and I do not know of any blessing or right that I would withhold from them. I want to see them enjoy every privilege and blessing, and such labors as will best qualify them to help bear off the Kingdom of God upon the earth, and establish the principles of righteousness in the hearts of the children of men.

Just as much depends upon you concerning the progress of this work as upon the Elders. Of course you do not preach as much as some of the Elders do; but I can tell you that I have seen sisters go out into the world on visits, and they would accomplish about as much good, and in some instances far more, than an Elder could do, in breaking down prejudice, enlightening the minds of the ignorant, in bringing those that were sitting in darkness to the knowledge of the truth and to the light of the Gospel. And I believe it would be a good thing if the sisters could occasionally visit their relatives in the East or West, or wherever they came from, and carry with them the spirit of the Gospel. I think they would accomplish more good than could be accomplished by the Elders in some things. But it is not expected, that women could go out on missions as men do.

I am glad to be here, and to be associated with those that love the work of God. I believe I love the truth. The Lord has put it into my heart to love this work; and I love those who love it, and I wish to be associated with them eternally. Therefore, I rejoice with you this morning, and I pray God to

bless the Relief Societies throughout Zion.

While coming up here this morning with Aunts Zina and Bathsheba, we were talking over the future of these societies, and Aunt Zina mentioned that the seventeenth of next March would be the anniversary of the organization of the Relief Societies by the Prophet Joseph, in Nauvoo, and she desired that something might be done to commemorate that event. It seems to me it would be a proper thing for all the societies in all the wards of the various Stakes of Zion to meet together in their associations, and all the societies of the City, in a place like this (the Tabernacle), and the sisters in the outer settlements meet together, and let them get up and work to a programme, and have a time of rejoicing. One thing, it strikes me, as an appropriate thing, to do on the occasion, would be to have some one in each society get up an essay or historical sketch on the organization of the Relief Societies, giving a history of them from the day they were organized. And some of these could be published, giving a history of the associations and the good that has been and is being done by them. This would be a good thing to do; and I think it would meet the approval of the Presidency of the Church. It will be fifty years the 17th of next March since the organization of the Relief Society; and it will be your jubilee.

We were also talking about building in some central place—say in Salt Lake City or Ogden, or in each of these places,—a hall where you could hold your conferences and your society meetings. And build it upon a plan that would be self-sustaining, so that you would not have to call for contributions from the society to pay rent or taxes. But build a good society hall; the lower story would rent and bring in something to help the poor. I do not see why it would not be as profitable to do this as to enter into making quilts, or to go around and collect means in order to feed and clothe the hungry and naked. If you could build, say in Salt Lake City, on a street where business is growing, a piece of ground could be got now at reasonable figures; the increase in the value of the land would be equal to the taxes. And besides having a place for meetings of your own, the building being convenient for renting for stores, for social re-unions, etc., would bring you in a handsome revenue by and by to help the cause along. It looks to me as though that would be a profitable thing to do.

We have come here to stay. "We came willingly, because we had to." We could not help ourselves. We had no other place to go. And the Lord has preserved us here, so far, and we have grown so big or numerous that I do not see how we are going to be ousted. We are going to take root on the tops of these mountains and spread out. We are spreading out on the north and south, and are running over the borders of the United States into Mexico and Canada; and on the east we are spreading out into Wyoming and Colorado; and on the west we would spread out into that desert a little more if it were not that we would be eaten out by taxes in that poor little sagebrush State. If it had re-

mained a part of Utah it would have been a prosperous country today. But it was turned over to speculators, and they have kept the people away from it until it is a poor little weakling, scarcely able to bear its own burdens. But some of our people are there in Nevada, and our children are growing up, and still they are asking for more room; and they will keep on growing, and we must have room equal to our numbers. The land is broad, and the Lord is merciful to us, and we will possess our inheritances, not sell them to speculators and boomers if we can help it. I think the Latter-day Saints have been exceedingly unwise in many of these matters. But the Lord will overrule everything for the good of the righteous if they will keep His Spirit and honor Him.

If these are facts, why not lay the foundation? We who are old can do but little else than to lay the foundation for our children, and let us begin to plan in our minds to lay the foundations broad enough, so that our children will not have to tear them up and begin to rebuild them. President Young was a man inspired of God, and his mind was broad and comprehensive. We see in all the progress of Utah his handiwork—the master hand of God exhibited in what he did. And so also was it with the Prophet Joseph Smith. He laid the foundations of this work on the broad basis of eternal progress. We have room to extend until we fill the whole earth with the knowledge of God and His truth. The foundations laid by God through President Young are good for us to build upon; and there is not much chance for us to improve on the foundation thus laid.

And in our new enterprises, whatever we do, let us get the inspiration of the Almighty; and when we plan, let us plan for the future as well as today; so that what we do may not be lost in after ages, but be good for all time to come, that our children after us may say, "Our fathers builded better than they knew," and they will give us credit for building well upon the foundations which have been laid for us. Let us lay our foundations in truth and virtue, in honor and integrity, in purity and righteousness; then our children will have plenty of room and a solid foundation to build upon.

May God help us to so build and lay this foundation is my prayer. Amen.

In the afternoon meeting of the conference of the Relief Societies of Weber Stake of Zion, December 17, 1891, the following remarks were made by

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

It is entirely unexpected on my part to be called upon to address you again today. And in attempting to do so I desire sincerely the attention and the faith and good desires and prayers of the Saints that are assembled. Every one who addresses a congregation of Latter-day Saints is under the necessity of possessing to some extent the inspiration of the Almighty and the light and guiding influences of the Holy Spirit, in order to instruct and edify the Saints. It is impossible for any one to administer spiritual food to the Latter-day Saints unless he is endowed with that spirit. I therefore ask and desire an interest in the faith and