

desirable results are to be reached. The great law of development running through man's whole being, moral, intellectual, physical, is systematic exercise—work. Nature abhors idleness, and reveals to the idle none of her precious secrets; but to those who apply themselves with energy and system she generously unlocks her doors and permits free access to all her hidden treasures of knowledge. In a systematic course of self-culture, the first powers of the mind to receive our attention are the perceptive powers. Then would follow the memory and the imagination, the conception, judgment and reason, in their order. The feelings and emotions also demand consideration—the egoistic, or those we feel in view of self, the altruistic or those we feel for others, and the cosmic, or the emotions in view of the true, the beautiful and the good. Following the emotions are the will power, attention, choice and action. All of these faculties and powers are capable of cultivation, and should receive care and attention from us to that end. The habit of close and careful observation should also be cultivated, inasmuch as without this the useful lessons nature would teach us are but half learned. These powers can be easily cultivated, and a proper study of the natural sciences, botany, geology, zoology, is an excellent exercise for their development. The memory, too, should be carefully trained. This, however, not being a faculty in the sense in which we have used the term, but rather a capability of all the faculties, must be cultivated in connection with all the faculties. Some people are deficient in the memory of dates and names. They should study history. The M. I. A. reading course furnishes excellent books for their study. The great law of memory is to remember; reflect on that which you have read and heard and recall it often, if you would strengthen your memory. Imagination, that faculty of the mind by which self forms ideals, should also be developed. Every young man should have a worthy ideal, and should strive to attain it. A worthy ideal inspires laudable ambition, and ambition can be satisfied only by energetic effort. Perhaps, after all, the faculty most worthy of cultivation—at least it was so considered by the ancients—is reason, or the power to discern cause relations. The study of history philosophically, of logic, of mathematics and of the sciences tends strongly to develop the reasoning powers. Neither must we forget in our system of self-culture the cultivation of the emotions. Self-esteem and self-confidence, when they do not degenerate into egotism, are commendable in any young man. Love and sympathy for others should also be encouraged. But, though a man be gifted with all the intellectuality desirable, if he has not the will power to back it, he loses in the great human struggle. The power of concentration can be cultivated by carefully attending to those subjects with which the mind is occupied—letting no stray thoughts intrude upon the mind. Choice and action are similarly developed. The subject of will-culture is an important one, for to the will more than anything else I attribute a man's suc-

cess in life, and to the want of it his failure. To obtain the greatest results in self-culture, however, one must choose his course of study with reference to his adaptability. I do not believe that we can become proficient in any line we might select at random. We must work along those lines which the Creator has marked out for us with energy and devotion in order to attain the highest degree of perfection. It is for us to seek and find, then pursue with energy and devotion, and success will crown our efforts.

ELDER JUNIUS F. WELLS

next read a lengthy communication from President Joseph F. Smith, addressed to President Woodruff, in the course of which he said that as circumstances would not permit his attendance at the Mutual Improvement Associations' conference, he desired to express himself briefly by letter, in the hope that he might continue to be remembered by the Saints and the youth of Zion, among whom he joyously labored in times past, but of whose society he had been deprived for several years. In every step of the progress made by the Saints from the beginning, the impress of the divine purpose, power and design was visible to all eyes by the Spirit of God; and at no time in the history of the Church was this more so than within the past decade. The trying circumstances through which the Saints have passed for the last few years seemed to have been necessary to develop in them a greater measure of faith, hope and charity, and of many other graces characteristic of the divine nature which should dwell in the hearts of all the people of God, and to draw the dividing line to some extent between the truly faithful and those prone to evil. Experience had been enlarged, the mind had had opportunity for expansion, and the heart to be attuned to the tender mercies of Him to whom we had been constrained to seek for strength and consolation in the dark hour of persecution and trial. The bitter feeling of resentment and the spirit of retaliation first awakened in our bosoms toward our would-be oppressors had given way to peaceful resignation, to the will of heaven; and from the mere grovelling sentiment of weak humanity we had risen to the nobler thought inspired by the example of the Son of God, until we could breathe in healthful accents His prayer, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." To those who possessed the testimony of Jesus, hardships and trials and the severest tests of faith served only to develop their latent powers and magnify the beauties of divine truth within them. They were strengthened in their convictions by the unfair contest between the conflicting elements which were at war with each other and by the contrast between the peaceful and loving spirit of the great latter day work and the cruel contentions and grisvous spirit which made war upon it. There was more danger to the work of God in the flat-teries and fellowship of the ungodly than in their opposition. He had always rejoiced in the assurances he had had from his youth up of the righteousness and purity of our cause, inspiring his soul with a fervent conviction of the verity and authenticity of the

divine mission of our Great Redeemer, and also that of His servant Joseph Smith. To accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of the world he must necessarily accept Joseph Smith as a divinely inspired prophet of God. He prayed constantly for their eternal welfare, that the merciful Father would pour out His Spirit upon the youth of Zion, bless them with the riches of His divine gifts, lift them up nearer unto Himself, and have them in His holy keeping.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

said the Primary, the Sabbath school, and the Mutual Improvement Association were the three institutions established in these mountain valleys to prepare and qualify the rising generation for their labors for time and eternity. The responsibility resting upon our children was very great; their position in this respect was, in a great measure, different from the rest of the world. They had been gathered here to the mountains of Israel and become associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their fathers had been called upon during the generation that had passed and gone to preach the Gospel to the inhabitants of the earth; and the children were required to follow in their footsteps. The Elders who had gone abroad to proclaim that Gospel had been called largely from the mutual improvement associations. He felt that they were engaged in a great cause, and would say to the teachers in these organizations, male and female, "You will be blessed for what you have done." Let them not be discouraged or weary in well doing. As they sowed so would they reap. He had watched the progress of these institutions almost from their commencement, and the Lord would assuredly reward those who labored in them. We had been informed by revelation that whatever knowledge a man obtained by his diligence and perseverance here in the flesh would remain with him in the morning of the resurrection. It would pay any man or woman to treasure up wisdom and understanding and do all the good he or she could here; for we were on a mission. He prayed that all those who were engaged in this excellent cause would continue in their efforts, and seek to induce others to become associated with them. He besought them to labor while the day lasts, for "the night cometh when no man can work."

The choir sang the anthem:

From afar, gracious Lord,
Thou hast gathered Thy flock.

ELDER LYMAN R. MARTINEAU

reported as to Cache Stake, whose mutual improvement associations, he said, were making excellent progress. Among their officers today might be found young men who had traveled, who had been trained in colleges and universities, who had adopted the profession of school teachers, and become acquainted more or less with the needs of the young. In Cache valley they had a bright class of young men, full of ambition and usefulness.

ELDER WM. G. BROUGH

next reported concerning Morgan Stake. Though their number was small—the entire membership being only 250—yet they had shown a marked improvement during the past year.