

apparently. I thank the Lord that it is not a famine for food. It may be a lesson to us to prepare for that which may come after. The Lord has only to let loose the grasshoppers throughout this country and we should soon have a famine for food. Many may think this will never come; that it is folly to talk about a famine in this land. But a member of Congress, who had devoted a great deal of time to investigating that which was prehistoric almost on this land, told me that the evidence was clear and indisputable that there had been times when all the vegetation of the Mississippi valley had been devoured by locusts or grasshoppers, and that terrible famines had been the result, with great destruction of human life. When I heard this it reminded me of the predictions that had been made in our day concerning the famines that would come. If grasshoppers were let loose, they could soon spoil the prospects for crops in those regions where food has hitherto been so plentiful. But whether this shall come or not, I think it a wise precaution for the Latter-day Saints to keep a year or two's bread-stuff on hand.

In our present circumstances, when so many men are deprived of employment, we should be filled with sympathy for our brethren who are without work, and not allow them or their families to go hungry or destitute; but if they will work, let us give them food for work, and not let our streets be filled with the unemployed, wanting the necessities of life. It seems as though we shall have to return to first principles, and that the lessons that have been imparted unto us by the Presidency and Elders of the Church in years that are past are now going to be required to be put into practical operation. Home manufactures have been dwelt upon until our ears have ached almost with the talk; but now we can begin to feel the value probably of home manufactures. President Woodruff was impressed that something should be done toward the manufacture of sugar. Some of the Twelve were doubtful about its success. We met together, we prayed and sought to know the mind of the Lord about it, and the Lord revealed in great plainness that it was our duty to say to the Latter-day Saints, "Go to work and build up a sugar factory, and seek to produce sugar in the land." Some of us have been carrying a heavy financial burden ever since, because we were earnest in our desire to see the mind and will of God carried out. But how many Latter-day Saints are there who have felt to sustain the hands of the authorities of the Church in trying to urge this forward? We have been deserted, as it were, and left to stand by ourselves. We have been looked upon as encouraging hazardous enterprises that would embarrass the people. Better to put money in banks than in home manufactures! Now what do we see? We see that we are compelled in a measure to fall back upon these manufactures. How are we going to live if money is out off? We have been depending on money. Everybody that wanted work wanted money, and we have become so used to it that it seems as if we cannot live without it. Now the prospect before us is that the wisdom, which prompted the estab-

lishment of the sugar factory may be vindicated. We cannot tell what the elements may do between this and the harvest, but the prospect is that a quarter of a million of money will be kept in this country that would have been sent out to purchase sugar. In other words, this season's run at the sugar factory is likely to be worth two hundred and fifty thousand dollars at the very least, according to present calculations. Then the farmers have cultivated beets and will get cash for them. They cannot sell their wheat, or potatoes; they cannot sell anything scarcely that they produce; but the beet crop, if it should be a success, can be sold, at remunerative prices, for cash. Then see the employment that is given to women and children, and to teams, in this business. See the men that it requires to convert the beets into sugar. Well, who has seen this? "Oh! I can make money better. I want ten per cent for my investment. The sugar factory won't pay five per cent, in fact, may not pay at all. I want my money in a bank, or in some enterprise that will give me at least ten per cent." That has been the feeling. The wisdom that God has given has not been listened to. Wisdom has cried aloud in the streets, and her counsel has been unheeded.

The Lord will call a halt. He will not let His people do foolish things and continue to do them. We have all been doing them. I confess this day in this congregation that I have, for one. Still, I have been doing the very best I could, it seemed to me; but now I can see many mistakes. Cannot you, too, see your mistakes? I think you can. At any rate, I am willing to confess that I am a fallible man. But if I have done wrong—and I know I have—I try to repent of it, and beseech God, in humility, to forgive it. I ask Him to forgive His people, and not let disaster come upon them. I pray for this with all my heart, and I know there are many who do so. We do not want disaster to come upon the people—this flock which God has gathered together, and of which He has made us shepherds. It is an awful responsibility; and it makes me shrink and feel as though I was nothing before the Lord or before the people; but it is our duty to cry aloud unto the people and entreat them to listen to the voice of the Spirit of God; and if we will do so, we will be led through our difficulties.

In all my conversations in the East—and I have had a great many with leading men of both parties—I have endeavored to create the impression that in the mountains there was a conservative element that could be relied upon in the days of trouble. They would not organize into mobs, they would not raise riots, they would not be carried away by the ridiculous ideas which find circulation from time to time throughout the country; but in days when other people would be quaking and trembling, and perhaps breaking forth in riot, they could be relied upon as conservative and stable. I have endeavored to create this impression, and with some degree of success. I have also called attention to the fact that we were a people who were true to our engagements; that when we created an obligation, that

obligation would be maintained, and that our country was not plastered with mortgages, as many parts of the land were. Therefore, our people were not disposed to run after every will-o'-the-wisp. I am thankful that thus far these ideas have been sustained by the conduct of the people. I am proud of the Latter-day Saints so far; and if we will pursue a quiet, conservative course, and not be carried away by fear, we shall establish a credit for ourselves that will in the future redound to the benefit of the people of this Territory. I hope the Latter-day Saints will do this. I hope we will remember constantly that we are under the eye and care of our Father in heaven. I can truthfully say that I have not been worried five minutes in all this, although I have obligations and many responsibilities weighing upon me; but in the kindness of God, He has made them light, and I have not felt the burden. I want, however, to do the best I can to meet every obligation. I have remarked to my children that when I came home after fifteen years of missionary labor, out of which I had only been in this city nine months, I had never owed a hundred dollars in my life, and I was not in debt. My family took in washing and laundry work, and did weaving, rather than run in debt. I have been in debt a good deal for the Church in performing missions; but they were public debts and have been attended to. I have had a horror of debt; but circumstances sometimes arise that compel men in public positions to assume responsibility.

Let us, brethren and sisters, profit by this experience that we are now passing through, and let us seek to live according to the counsels that have been so plentifully and powerfully given unto us by the servants of God from the beginning. Where we have done wrong or been unwise, let us repent of it. Let us teach our families economy. There is an extravagance in our method of living that I feel to say to my own family should be repented of. We use things in a lavish, careless way, because perhaps of our former privations. I have seen the day—and many of you have—when sugar was more precious than gold in this town. I remember in 1865 going to Bishop Leonard W. Hardy and coaxing him to let me have ten pounds of sugar for ten dollars. I saw the other day one of my children, who was about to eat some cracked wheat, put as much sugar in his little bowl as he had cracked wheat. I thought to myself, how different this is! I made it a text afterwards to talk to the folks, and to ask them whether they let little children do as they pleased. That is not the way to bring up children. They should not be allowed to help themselves to everything and to waste food. But we fall into these ways. It is not an uncommon thing to see people who cannot afford it go to the butcher shop and get tenderloin or porterhouse steak, paying the highest price for meat, and living in a way that is at least injudicious. Many of us have fallen into ways of this kind. Now is a good time to retrench, to call to mind the lessons of the past, the privations we have gone through, and how thankful we were for a little of that, which we have now, in some in-