

thoughts that arise in our minds. Our hearts are evil in consequence of the fall. As the prophet Jeremiah says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" There are a great many things that are conceived in our hearts that it would be well for us to stifle before they received shape. What is frequently the result of these evil conceptions? Innocent people suffer wrongfully. Injury is done, slanders are circulated; while those who start them justify themselves, because forsooth they concerned them, and therefore they have the right to issue them. Just as well might the counterfeiter, the bogus-maker, say that because he makes a bogus bill he has the right to circulate it. There is not any of the spirit of God connected with such conduct.

It is my duty and your duty to think pure thoughts, to have holy desires, to be charitable, to be kind; to be long suffering, to be full of love, and not any of those other evil influences. Why, the devil would have no power on the earth if it were not for some people who allow him to use their tabernacles. I have often thought of this valley when we first came here. There were a few Indians, but who witnessed the devil or his power here? If there were no wicked men or women here how could the devil manifest his power here? Who heard tattling? Who heard backbiting? Who heard of litigation? Who heard of fighting? Such things were never heard of. But no sooner did men come and the adversary obtain power over them, than all the evils we now witness throughout this land and in this city, which grieves us so, began to manifest themselves. And the more there are who will yield to the influences of the evil one; the more there are who will be guided by him, and the worse the conditions become. There are those who would have here gambling houses, and liquor saloons, and houses of ill-fame, and other deplorable evils which abound in the earth, why? Because they are willing to yield themselves to the devil. I speak it plainly, it is the truth. If such people who practice these and kindred evils would not lend themselves to the devil he would have no power here. What is our duty? It is not to lend ourselves in any particular to the devil, but it is to obey God; to let the fruits of righteousness be manifested in our lives. If we are Latter-day Saints, let us live up to the profession and be that in truth and in deed, and not think that we have no labor to perform in the controlling of our thoughts and our evil desires; neither to allow ourselves to imagine that because we have become members of the Church that God will do it all without any efforts on our part.

There is a work devolving upon every son and daughter of Adam; there is a fight that we have to fight against the evils of our own nations, for the heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked. The natural man is at enmity with Christ and with God; and unless he seeks to conquer his nature by bringing it into subjection to the mind of God, he is not a son, or she is not a daughter of God. This is the labor that devolves upon us. This is why we meet together at conference, it is to impress upon the people the character and the magnitude of this work that rests upon each individual man and woman. As I have said once before in this tabernacle, we may be heralded through the earth as famous; but unless we conquer ourselves it is in vain that our names are known and that our deeds resound through the earth. I care not how famous a man in this Church may be—he may be an apostle, he may be a high priest, a bishop, or hold any other important office or position; but unless that man conquers himself and carries on the work within himself of self-improvement, and brings himself and all there is within him in subjection and to the mind and will of God, I tell you, his fame is as empty as the sound of a trumpet when it passes away. We hear it; it strikes the ear, but it presently dies away; and that is the end of it. So it is with fame of this character. Therefore I say to you that that which is applicable to the individual is applicable to us as a people. Our fame may go forth for great works and mighty things that we have done; but unless we ourselves bring forth the fruits of righteousness in our lives; unless we conquer our evil passions, our evil habits, our evil inclinations, our evil desires, and bring them under com-

plete subjection to the Spirit of God, our labor is comparatively profitless, for that is the object of preaching the Gospel to us.

I would like to have the power to impress upon your minds the importance of this great truth. There is nothing so important to me, as an individual, as my own salvation. That is the most important thing to me that can be—that I myself shall be saved; that I myself shall so live as to be counted worthy by the Almighty to receive an exaltation in his Kingdom. This is of the utmost importance to me individually. As Brother Rich said, if all the rest do certain things, and he did not, he could not receive the blessing, the reward of such works; or if he did, and all the others did not, they could not have the blessing. That is a great truth; and it should be impressed upon us. You may think it a grand thing for men to go on missions. I remember the time, and probably the feeling still exists—I hope it does, when it was deemed a great honor for a man to go upon a mission, especially a foreign mission. It is right that we should value these labors. It is a great thing to preside as a bishop or president of a Stake, or to act in the calling of an Apostle. All these things are great in and of themselves, and they reflect honor upon those who bear these offices, and especially when they seek to magnify them. But after all, the great labor, the most honorable labor that any person can perform, is to do that which I have attempted to describe to you—to improve ourselves; to be Latter-day Saints in deed and in truth, to live our holy religion. When we arise in the morning, to examine ourselves, to see if there is anything that is in opposition to the mind and will of God within ourselves; and through the day to pursue the same course of self-examination. And at night before we retire to rest, to bow ourselves before our Father and God in secret, and pour out our souls in prayer before him, supplicating him to show unto us wherein we have done wrong during the day, wherein we have come short in thought, word or deed; and then repent of the same before we lay down to rest, and to obtain from him a forgiveness of our sins. And then, going on day after day, week after week, and year after year until the end shall come.

If we do this, the promises of God are sure, and they cannot fail.

That it may be our happy lot to attain to an exaltation with our Father, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### WASATCH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Eleventh Quarterly Conference of the Wasatch Stake of Zion, convened at 10 a. m., on Saturday, May 1st, 1880, at Heber City. Present on the stand, President Abram Hatch and his counselors, also the High Council, the Presidents of Quorums, the several Ward Bishops and their counselors, and quite a number of High Priests. The house was well filled at an early hour. After the opening exercises President Hatch said: Notwithstanding the season is backward and all are anxious to get their seed into the ground, yet let us remember that we may sow and plant, yet it is God who giveth the increase. We should try to put away every feeling of enmity toward each other, before coming together, that we may fully enjoy our meeting together, and that the Spirit of God may be with us. He then spoke of the burthens which the Bishops have to bear and the duty of the members of the wards to assist them.

The Bishops of the wards were called upon to report their wards. Bishops Rasband, Cluff, Murdock and Foreman occupied the time for the forenoon meeting, except a few minutes at the close by Elder J. M. Murdock, president of the Quorum of High Priests.

At 2 p. m., Bishop Wm. E. Nuttall and the several members of the High Council, present, occupied the time during the afternoon, with the exception of a brief address from President Hatch upon sanitary measures for the prevention of the spread of disease, diphtheria, etc.

Exhorting the Bishops to try and prevent spirituous liquors being smuggled into their wards, and also the brethren to make peace with each other before to-morrow's meeting, that we may have nothing in the way of our partaking of the sacrament.

At 10 a. m., on Sunday morning, the house was filled.

After singing and prayer, Presi-

dent Hatch spoke briefly. Read several reports and said we would attend to the unfinished business of the Conference.

Bishop David Van Wagoner reported his ward in a favorable manner, and expressed his views on co-operation and sustaining our leaders.

Judge T. H. Giles made a brief statement in regard to our water rights, highways, etc., and of the union that should exist among us.

Elder H. S. Alexander spoke of his firm belief in the work and his knowledge of the truth. Testified that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the Lord and that Brigham Young was his successor, and that the mantle of Joseph had fallen upon him.

President Hatch spoke of the necessity of our having a larger house to meet in on occasions of this kind, and the privilege granted to us by the Presidency of the Church to make use of certain kinds of tithing for one year, for the purpose of assisting to erect a suitable building. Said we were required to pay tithing and referred to the amount actually paid in in comparison with what should be paid, and the number of families reported, and number of tithing payers. Hoped the brethren would awake to their duties, pay their tithing, keep the Word of Wisdom, and in every way do the duties required of them; spoke in praise of the Relief Societies, and urged the necessity for cleanliness, indoors and out, and the use of disinfectants as a sanitary precaution; advised us to set out shade and fruit trees; also to try and become a self-sustaining people.

2 p. m.  
Singing and prayer. The Sacrament partaken of.

President Hatch read from a circular from the Twelve Apostles, in regard to forgiving debts, and giving cows and sheep to those who have none, the Church setting a noble example by forgiving one half of the tithing indebtedness, and the F. E. Fund indebtedness of the worthy poor, and making up a large portion of the cows and sheep required. Spoke of the necessity for the Bishops and their counselors being united, and the people being in accord with their Bishops, and every Bishop with his Counselors, who do not feel

to sustain the Presidency of the Stake as they sustain the Presidency of the Church, have the privilege of resigning; the High Council have the same privilege.

The General and Local Authorities of the Church were then presented to the Conference and sustained.

After a brief address from Elder Thos. Hicken, who exhorted the brethren in a kind, fatherly way to forgive one another, where hard feelings existed, to search the Scriptures, try to keep our covenants, put away our follies, and to have charity toward one another, the Conference came to a close.

Praise is justly deserved by the choir for having contributed so largely toward making the Conference agreeable and pleasant.

CHAS. SHELTON,  
Clerk of Conference.

### NOTICE.

PROBATE JUDGE'S OFFICE,  
St. George, Washington Co., U. T.  
January 28, 1880.

Notice is hereby given that I, John M. Macfarlane, Probate Judge in and for Washington County, Utah Territory, have on the third day of January, 1880, made cash entry at the U. S. Land Office at Salt Lake City, U. T., of the following described lands situated in said County, for and in behalf of the heirs and inhabitants of the town of Pine Valley, to wit:

East half of the southeast quarter of section fifteen (15) and the southwest quarter of section 14 of Township 38, South of Range 15, West of Salt Lake Base and Meridian, containing 240 acres.

And that each and every person or association of company of persons or corporation claiming to be the rightful owner of possession, occupancy or occupants or to be entitled to the occupancy or possession of such lands, or to any lot, block, share or parcel thereof, is required in person or by agent or attorney, to sign and deliver to the Clerk of the Probate Court of Washington County, Utah Territory, a statement in writing containing an accurate description of the parcel of land claimed within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice; and that all persons failing to sign and deliver said statement within the time herein specified and according to law, shall be forever barred, the right of claiming or recovering such land, or any interest or estate therein, or in any part, parcel, or share thereof, in any court of law or equity.

JOHN M. MACFARLANE,  
Probate Judge of Washington County,  
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