

Church, and that he had associated with him other two Presidents—a presiding quorum of High Priests—and that either of these in the absence of the others was perfectly competent to give forth the word of God to the Latter-day Saints. And I have always looked upon my brethren of the Apostles, from President Snow to Elder Abraham H. Cannon, the last of the Apostles, as being perfectly competent to give forth the word of the Lord to the Latter-day Saints, to teach them, to counsel them, and to instruct them in the ways of life, while the Lord inspires them to do so. I felt yesterday that the word of God was given to us through President Cannon just as perfectly as though it had been through President Wilford Woodruff. And President Woodruff said so. He knew it as well as we knew it. You Latter-day Saints who heard his voice understood it, and felt the spirit with which he spoke. It was so in regard to what President Jos. F. Smith said; and it is so with the word of the Lord given through the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ; for they are anointed with the same power and authority, and you sustain them as prophets, as seers, and as revelators; and they are competent, when the spirit of God is upon them, to bear testimony, and to instruct, and to admonish, and to warn, and to counsel, and to direct the Latter-day Saints. That is the nature of the authority and power that is conferred upon them, and it ought to be respected just as we respect each other; and as we respect each other, so I think the people will respect us and honor the Priesthood and authority which we bear. These men are called to labor in all the world, with all the churches and all the people, to teach, to instruct and to set good examples. I hold that these chief brethren in these quorums and these Seventies, are expected to set good examples in their lives, in their families, in their neighborhoods, in business, and in all their ways, and to be filled with the light of revelation and the word of the Lord on all occasions, to speak forth those counsels that the people require, so that the people may be warned of dangers and evils, just as we have been warned of the danger of the people going into trouble. Some of the brethren have expressed some fears. Now I want to say that I have but very few fears. I have great confidence in these Latter-day Saints that have had a long experience, from the early days of the Church. We are mixed up now. We have a few brethren that have been here from the very beginning. Then we have some that came in the next stage, and a few later, and some still later; and the Latter-day Saints are so thoroughly proven that what turned men from the Church and made them enemies to the Presidency of the Church in the days of the Prophet Joseph will not do it today. They have too good sense, and have been too thoroughly taught and schooled. We have the same feelings and spirit sometimes that men had in former times; but when in our sober sense, and when we exercise a little reason and judgment, the knowledge of

the truth is so grounded in our hearts that we cannot be shaken. We will discard politics, we will discard everything that would make us bitter towards our brethren and divide us in the spirit of the Gospel. We are expected to be one in the spirit of the Gospel and in the labors of the Gospel; and where division on party lines is necessary and occurs, it ought never to make one particle of bitterness between brethren. And I want to say to all Israel that if you feel that kind of bitterness in your heart toward a brother, and lack the spirit of forgiveness, you are in error, because we cannot allow bitterness in our hearts toward our brethren; in fact, bitterness ought not to be in our hearts toward any person. If the world be pitted against us and feel opposed to us in their sentiments and feelings, and in their religious and political organizations, why should we not be friendly to ourselves? We ought to be. Therefore, judge yourselves. No man need to be judged by anyone else. Let every man judge himself in regard to the feelings in his own heart. We need not become excited. We need not become over anxious, or troubled, in regard to the Kingdom; for the Kingdom is the Lord's, and He will maintain it, whether you and I are faithful or not. And it is increasing year by year. Though we may not seem quite so fervent; we may not feel as anxious in regard to the sacrament as we ought; we may not be quite as careful in regard to our tithing, the word of wisdom, etc., yet you will find that the Spirit of the Lord is working among the Latter-day Saints, and it is telling upon their hearts, and it seems to inoculate their systems and their blood, and they have the spirit of the Gospel more or less in them, and they become so established and firm that they will not altogether let go of the faith. They may have seasons of carelessness and indifference, and they may be overtaken with anger sometimes and be profane and vulgar; but I tell you that the Lord is working, and He does put His spirit in the families of the Saints, and in the meetings and gatherings of the Saints, until the Latter-day Saints are becoming so strongly impregnated with the Spirit of the Lord and with the doctrines of the Gospel that they are not apostatizing as they used to do in great numbers. The Presidency here do not fear the Apostles turning against them. They do not fear their joining with the ranks of the enemy, as was the case in the days of the Prophet Joseph. Have we any fears in regard to these Seventies? Have we any fears in regard to these Presidents of Stakes? We never think of one of them turning away, leaving the Gospel, and joining hands with the enemy. The revelation of plural marriage, no doubt, tried the hearts of a great many people. The Manifesto tried a great many people. But not many have left the Church on account of it. The evidence of the brethren before the Master in Chancery tried some of the people, and politics tries the people; and I tell you that everything that comes along will try some of the people. But I say that we are today a tried and proven people so far that there will not be the apos-

tacy, in proportion to our numbers, that was witnessed in the beginning of the Church. Some will apostatize, no doubt, and lose the faith, and die in that condition. But I tell you the very best and choicest, the most independent spirits that could be found in the earth, have been gathered—the choicest of families, and of cities, and of nations; those that were not afraid to have their names cast out as evil. These are the ones that have been gathered in this remarkable gathering, the like of which cannot be found anywhere else. No other people gather together as we do. And the Lord has tried and proven us. Not only this, but the strength of the trials that we have endured, and the faith and power that we have, tinctures our children, and they will walk measurably in our footsteps, though some of them may be lost.

I pray God to bless this Conference. My heart is full of rejoicing. I love my brethren. Oh! I feel to say God bless them. God bless President Woodruff and his counselors. God bless Brother Lorenzo Snow, and Brother Franklin D. Richards—these aged men. God bless these young men, who need a blessing more than the older ones do, because we lack the experience, and we need to be proven and tried yet as they have been. God grant that we may be as faithful as they have been. God bless Israel. God bless this First quorum of Seventies. God bless Brother Jacob Gates, who now lies near his death, apparently, and preserve his life as long as it shall please the Lord that he shall live—a man full of faith and integrity. God bless these Presidents of Seventies. I love every one of them. There is not one without weaknesses, but their weaknesses are about the same as mine, and I sympathize with them. God bless the Bishops, who, of all men in the Church, have heavy loads to carry and are the servants of everybody. God bless the Bishops of the big wards and the little wards, and all Counselors, and all men in Israel who are laboring or the building up of God's Kingdom. May we tomorrow, with the favor of heaven, place the capstone on that Temple. Oh, what a day! I was here when the cornerstones were laid. I was about thirteen years old. I thank God I had that privilege, and I want to see this tomorrow; and then I want to live to see the building dedicated and the people have the privilege of going in, tens of thousands of them, to perform their labors for the dead. God bless Israel and all the interests of Zion, at home and abroad, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### SOME USEFUL HINTS.

THE following is from the New York Recorder:

Every mother of little children should be to a certain extent, her own family physician. A woman possessed of an average share of common sense can hardly nurse one or more children through the disorders incident to babyhood and childhood without acquiring a good stock of information as to how to treat attacks of slight indisposition. Her domestic practice should, however, be restricted to the