

alone; avoid everything that is evil; remember that you have a law to obey and never break it. Keep the law of purity and chastity.

I pray God to help you to comprehend your positions, duties and labors. I am sometimes asked why does not God preserve His Saints from persecution and temptation? God has His own way to deal with men. In no age has He kept His people from contact with persecution and temptation. We have to meet these things; therefore prepare yourselves for them.

I ask God to bless you all, to guide you and preserve you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

On the conclusion of the address by the General Superintendent,

ELDER RICHARD W. YOUNG

delivered a lecture on "America," of which the following is a synopsis:

The speaker said in substance that he had been appointed to address the congregation on America; that the subject was so comprehensive that there was time to do no more than touch upon a few of the many topics suggested by the comprehensive theme; that geographically, scientifically, religiously, and in various other aspects the subject presented material for many lectures; that, therefore, he would devote his attention to those features of the history and government of America most fraught with instruction in our present circumstances. The United States are generally spoken of as America, and its people as Americans. It is the land of chief moment in our own history and in the history of numerous other peoples; it was here that ancient feuds twice resulted in the extermination of a nation; that records important historically and thrice important religiously had been hidden away; that a Prophecy, among the greatest of the earth's history, had been raised up to re-establish Christianity in its primitive purity and power; that this is the land of the Gospel's destiny, as God lives and speaks not idle words. The dim past, the beautiful present, the glorious future of America interests and concerns no people so much as the Latter-day Saints.

The Latter-day Saints are said to be presumptuous in religious affairs; they are perhaps open to the same criticism in political matters, for this alone they have a peculiar interest in the Constitution of the country; believing that it was ordained of God, largely on their account. George Washington voiced the sentiments of this people when he tendered homage to the author of every public and private good for his manifest agency in accomplishing the liberty of America. It may be treason, or it may be said to be such, but the "Mormons" believe themselves to be just a little bit more nearly related to the Constitution than any other citizens of the country; this is proven by the views set forth in our sacred writings regarding the object of establishing this government. Yet, we are not selfish enough to claim that this was accomplished solely for our good. We understand it is the nature of

our religion, that all mankind are included within the love, the mercy and the beneficence of God. The Gospel is the most perfect law of liberty; the teachings of Christ have undoubtedly exercised a powerful influence in civilizing and freeing the nations of Christianity, and, if carried to their legitimate results, would secure a perfect rule of liberty. Christ taught peace on earth and good-will to men, together with every virtue that could adorn the subject or grace the monarch. "What must have been the result of the practical adoption of that one injunction that 'All things whatsoever ye would that man should do to you do ye even unto them?'" Monarchs would not plunge their subjects into war, rob them of their property, endanger their lives, their liberties and their property, to satisfy vain ambition, to enrich their palaces and further their nefarious schemes for power. The declaration of 1776, that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, are the basis principles of the Constitution, and are in perfect harmony with the Gospel of Christ. To appreciate the value of the blessings of freedom, a native-born American must study other times and other countries.

England, though remarkably free, presents the barriers of royalty, nobility and aristocracy to the progress of freedom. In Russia the word of the Czar is supreme; in Turkey an Ottoman prince is omnipotent. Germany, Austria, Italy and others of the European nations sacrifice the liberty of the subject to ambition. Here it is different: there are no barriers in the path of liberty; our earnings are not swept into the coffers of monarchy. It has been the ruling idea that the masses were unable to govern themselves; the false idea was justified by history and encouraged by professed emulators of Christ. But in the birth of freedom here, monarchical ideas were to receive a severe shock. "Hewn from the proposition that governments drew their just powers from the consent of the governed; framed by men who received their inspiration from the Almighty, the Constitution was launched, a century ago, upon a voyage which, hitherto singularly free from tempests and breakers, bids fair to continue on until the Lord shall claim his right to rule."

The success of the Government is found in no one feature, but in a blending of the whole. In his relations with his fellow citizens of the state, a citizen is governed by the statutes of the state; he is respected in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property; he casts his vote for a Governor and exercises a voice in the selection of the legislature and directly or indirectly in the choice of the judiciary. He may speak, write and vote to retain good or reject bad men and measures, or even to modify the Constitution; he may shape his life in accordance with his deserves, the only limitation being that he should not infringe upon the rights of others. But the citizen of a State may be brought into relation with

foreigners or with other citizens of other states. In these respects he is subject to the Constitution of the United States and the laws made thereunder. The general welfare and common defense of the United States demands that there should somewhere be authority to regulate foreign and inter-state commerce; to coin money, to establish a postal system, to raise armies and navies and so forth. These powers are vested in Congress and the President and the federal judiciary.

But all powers not delegated to the United States in the Constitution are reserved to the states and to people. There is no clash in this double system; one attends to national, the other to state interests. The citizens of the states have the voice in the election of the chief executive and the members of the two houses of Congress. The success of the government depends as much upon a wise system of checks and balances provided for in the Constitution as upon any feature of the government. The State and the United States are limited in their authority over the citizen. The Senate and the House of Representatives are mutual checks, the one upon the other, and the President is a check upon both, while in the courts are ultimately vested the authority to determine all constitutional and other questions. The Supreme Court of the United States is the most august and the most powerful tribunal on the globe. The United States is limited in its powers; the State in its and the city and county in theirs—thus securing to the individual the largest measure of power. The Territories occupy an anomalous position and do not seem to be within the contemplation of the Constitution, but it is certainly outrageous that a government, itself the creature of a revolution, fought to secure the right of local self-legislation, should itself deny that right.

The troubles of the past the government has happily survived. But thoughtful minds fancy they detect symptoms of weakness and perhaps of dissolution in our rapidly increasing and unassimilated foreign population; in the growth of anarchism and communism, the outgrowth of European despotism; in the indifference of the better class of citizens to the conduct of the government; in the growth of wealth and the spread of corruption. Extracts from the centennial sermon of Bishop Potter, of New York, were read. The work of man is like himself, finite, perishable and fleeting. His structures crumble into ruins, the proudest governments ever erected have grown into power and sunk into decadence. Will it be so with the Constitution of the United States? Will that instrument succumb to corruption and iniquity? Being the workmanship of God, it will not; its principles are infinite and imperishable. Such is the belief of the Latter-day Saints. We, young men of the Latter-day Saints, may say, as said Lincoln on the field of Gettysburg, that it is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated