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tember 7th, 1895, by*

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

How little we knew when we were born; how little we knew when we were boys and girls; and when we arrived to manhood and the Spirit of God led us to have faith in the revelations of God, and not to join the sectarian world, still how little we knew what lay before us and the purposes of God concerning us. I can bear testimony to the truth of the discourse we listened to this forenoon. We live in a very important day and generation. We live in the midst of important works of God, and we little knew in early youth and manhood that we ourselves had been preserved in the spirit world for seven thousand years, to stand in the flesh in the last days, to be called of God to labor in His vineyard and to build up His Church. Nevertheless, these are truths. The Lord has never set His hand in any age of the world to perform a work unless He has prepared an element to carry out that work. That is our condition as Latter-day Saints. In my youth I attended Sabbath school under Dr. Porter, a great minister; but the very moment I began to read the scriptures and learn what was in them, that very moment there was a spirit told me that that Church and Gospel that I read of in the New Testament were not on the earth. I never heard a minister acknowledge the necessity of the works that followed the teachings of the Savior and His Apostles. Nothing would make them angry quicker than to tell them that these were the works of God and would be again established on the earth. The clergy would be immediately stirred up if they heard of any one advocating these things—a thing which I frequently did in my early manhood. I felt that I could not join any church unless I could find one that taught those principles which I read of in the New Testament—a church that enjoyed the same gifts and blessings that the Savior and His Apostles possessed. That was not alone my condition, but it was the condition of many men who lived in those days. As I have said, God had an element prepared, who had been ordained of Him to stand in the flesh in the commencement of His Church on the earth in this dispensation; and this element the Lord has gathered together in order to build up Zion, to warn the world and to prepare for the

coming of the Son of Man. Brother George Q. Cannon spoke this forenoon on the subject of revelation. When the Church was organized nobody professed to have revelation; it was not believed in. They had the Bible, and they did not want any more revelation. But I will say to ye men of Israel, the Lord never had a church in any age of the world that he did not give revelation to, and never will have. This Church could not live twenty-four hours without revelation. It belongs to the Priesthood and to the Gospel of Christ.

Brother Cannon spoke about the temptation of the evil one. There never was a people on the earth whom the devil was more anxious to tempt and to destroy than those who bear the Holy Priesthood. If anybody supposes that the First Presidency and the Apostles and leading men of Israel are not tempted, they are mistaken. If Jesus Christ was tempted of the devil for forty days and nights, do you suppose he would pass by these apostles and prophets? We are all of us tempted and tried day by day. There is no people that the arch enemy, Lucifer, is more at war against than these Latter-day Saints dwelling in the valleys of the mountains. We all have to fight against this power, and shall have to until He comes whose right it is to reign, with the keys of death and hell, and binds Satan and sets a seal upon him. In my reflections sometimes I feel that the Latter-day Saints do not comprehend our position, and the danger we are in through being continually tempted and tried; for there is a power constantly laboring with us to draw us away from our duties and from the commandments of the Lord. The God of heaven holds me responsible as the President of this Church, holding the keys of the Gospel of Christ, while I dwell in the flesh. Can I live without revelation? Can my counselors and these Apostles live without revelation? They would not be fit to lead this Church one day without the revelations of God. I am somewhat acquainted with the Lord; I am somewhat acquainted with His ways and with His Spirit; and I know that God himself, His Son Jesus Christ, and all the powers of the eternal and everlasting Priesthood are exercised over carrying out the great purposes of God upon the earth. These revelations in the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants have got to be fulfilled, and without we yield ourselves as Elders of Israel to this work we do not magnify our calling before the Lord. We have revealed to us in the Bible the promises that were made to Joseph, who was separated from his brethren, and to Ephraim and Manasseh. Their blessings were to prevail to the utmost

bounds of the everlasting hills. We today are in that very country. We have been led here by the power of God, and that, too, by men who were governed and controlled by revelation. Now, if there is anything on earth the devil wants, it is to hedge up the way for the fulfillment of these revelations and prophecies. It is in the hands of this people to carry out these purposes of God as revealed unto us. Will we do it? Yes, we will do it. Why? Because the Lord's word will always be fulfilled. All that has been said with regard to gathering the people to Zion and what was to transpire in Zion has been fulfilled so far, and not one word will fail. I want the Latter-day Saints to understand this. You are here upon a mission. So am I. So was Joseph Smith. Every one that has been born into this Church had the privilege of coming here and receiving the blessings of this Church and of the Temples of our God. If we do not receive them, it is our fault, and not the Lord's.

I have been strongly exercised in my mind in looking at the signs of the times and what is taking place in the earth. I think of what the Savior said to the Pharisees: "Ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" So I feel to say to the Latter-day Saints, Can we not discern the signs of the times? When I look at the wickedness of men and the terrible power the devil has among the children of men I feel as though it should stir us up to righteousness and to the work of the Lord. I have referred to the fact that I was twenty years of age before there was a murder committed in the New England States. A man killed his wife in New Haven, Connecticut, and it shocked all New England. Old men and women and young men and maidens wept over the idea of a murder being committed in the New England States. How is it today? It takes columns of every newspaper published to record the murders and suicides that are committed each twenty-four hours. People are killing themselves to pay their debts, or for some other reason. And this is increasing all the time. Now, my brethren and sisters, this terrible rush to death that is in the world means something. What is the meaning of it all? Why, the Lord said to Joseph Smith sixty-three years ago:

Behold verily I say unto you, the angels are crying unto the Lord day and night, who are ready and waiting to be sent forth to reap down the fields;

But the Lord saith unto them, pluck not up the tares while the blade is yet tender, (for verily your faith is weak,) lest you destroy the wheat also.

Therefore let the wheat and tares grow together till the harvest is fully ripe, then ye shall first gather out the wheat from among the tares, and