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REMARKS

*Mad. 'y Apostle Heber J. Grant, at the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on
Sunday, Nov. 6, 1892.*

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

It is always a source of satisfaction and pleasure to me to meet with the Latter-day Saints. I did not expect to be called upon to speak to you today, as I had the opportunity of doing so last Sunday; but in standing before you I desire, as I always do while addressing the Saints, that I may have the benefit of your faith and prayers, that the good Spirit may be present with us, and that we may be mutually benefited and strengthened in our most holy faith through having met together today. Some of the people, I know, think it is almost a set phrase with the speakers to call for the faith and prayers of the Saints, but I wish to say that I think there is altogether too much of a neglect on the part of the people in supplicating the Lord to bless and inspire those who may speak. On occasions of this kind we are guilty, as a rule, of not concentrating our thoughts and our feelings upon the speaker and desiring earnestly and prayerfully that he may be blessed of the Lord. I plead guilty myself to occasionally forgetting, while my brethren are speaking, to pray to the Lord to bless them by His Holy Spirit. I know from experience that no Elder stands up to address the Saints, if he has a sincere desire to benefit them, without earnestly desiring the faith and prayers of the people. I knew that if I were to consult my own feelings, I would prefer to keep my seat instead of addressing the people. Those of you who have been called upon to speak to the Saints can fully appreciate this feeling, because you have no doubt experienced it. There is a dread and a timidity that follow all of us when we stand up before the people to proclaim unto them the plan of life and salvation. I suppose it is well that such is the case, because we realize our own dependence, our own weakness, and our own inability to instruct those that we speak to without the aid of the Holy Spirit. This fear that follows me on all occasions while addressing the Saints is something that I do not experience in the ordinary affairs of life. To stand up before the people and speak to them upon business matters, or, as I have done in

years gone by, make political speeches in the interests of the People's Party, has not worried me at all. That timidity and dread which accompanies me in speaking to the people about their duties and upon the Gospel did not come to me on these other occasions. I understood the subject that I expected to handle, I knew exactly the points that I desired to make, and I got up and pitched into my work, as it were, without hesitation. I am thankful myself that this spirit of timidity has always attended me in my public speaking to the Latter-day Saints, because I never want to be in a position where I do not feel a desire that the light and the inspiration of God may abide with me in speaking to the people. I know I cannot comprehend that which is for the best good of the people, but through the voice of inspiration. In response to the prayers of the assembled Saints, I do know that God will bless me and others that stand before you from time to time to proclaim unto you the duties and the obligations that you owe to your Maker.

I wish to say that in preaching to the Latter-day Saints concerning the duties devolving upon them as members of the Church of Christ, all that I say to them I proclaim to myself. While proclaiming to the Latter-day Saints the obligations resting upon them, I have been admonished to more strongly desire the onward advancement of God's kingdom than I have sometimes in listening to my brethren and sisters speak. Why? Because of the spirit that has been given to me, and because of feeling my own dependence upon God, and being blessed of Him in teaching the Saints. The blessings of the Spirit that have come to me have strengthened my determination to press forward to the best of my ability in discharging the duties that rest upon me as one of the members of the Church of Christ. We are all differently possessed of talents and ability. God has given to some great talent in writing in defense of the people. He has given others talent in standing up and proclaiming the Gospel. He has given to others talents in attending to the daily duties devolving upon us as members of the Church. If all of us, to the full extent of the talents that God has given us, shall discharge every obligation resting upon us in this life, then when we shall have finished our work here we will have a joyful entering into the

presence of God. The welcome that we shall receive will be a cordial one, and we will be satisfied and contented with the labors that we have performed. But if, on the other hand, we have been endowed by our heavenly Father with gifts and graces, and we have been negligent and indifferent and have not labored with all the ability that we possessed, there will be a constant source of regret. We never neglect our duties without there comes to us a punishment of conscience. There is a joy, a happiness, a peace and a satisfaction that come to the human heart through the fulfillment of the duties devolving upon us that bring a great deal of comfort. If a man has the assurance within his own heart that he is worthy, and that he is laboring to the best of his ability to do good, he can stand up under the condemnation, the criticism and the censure of those by whom he is surrounded. But if a man does not know within himself that his conscience is void of offense, if he has not a testimony of the Gospel within him, if he is not anxious to labor for the spread of righteousness, he is not happy, he is not satisfied, although perchance he may have the praise, the commendation and the support of all his associates and of the community in which he lives. Far better, my friends, that we shall be able to so order our lives that we will have consciences void of offense; that we can supplicate our Heavenly Father to guide and direct us in all the walks of life, and can feel that we are blessed of the Lord, than it is for us to have the praise and approval of the community in which we live. The reward of a man's conscience is far better than the praise of those who cannot read his heart. I know that some of the labors that I have endeavored to accomplish have brought upon me the criticism of the Latter-day Saints; yet, knowing that these labors were in the interest of the Church of God, I was willing, rather than to step aside and not try to accomplish that which I felt assured was for the good of the community, to stand up under the criticism many times of some of my dearest friends.

We have come upon the earth for the purpose of gaining an experience. We have been placed upon this earth because of our faithfulness in having kept our first estate. The labors that we performed in the sphere that we left before we came here have had