

of one thing, and that is that the foundation of things is slipping from under the world, and that Babylon is tottering to its downfall. In these events that are transpiring today we see the handwriting upon the wall that shall yet develop into and bring forcibly to us these events that have been prophesied in the past, which shall come to pass while yet this generation shall live. A few weeks ago an insignificant quarrel between one of the mighty nations of the old world and one of the interior powers caused all the world to stand still and almost hold its breath, because of the fear that that little spark would ignite the magazine upon which the world stood. Only a few months ago our land was at the very zenith of prosperity. There were peace and plenty. Everything was moving forward, apparently, with banners flying and with the music keeping step to the onward progress of the world. How short a time did it take to bring about a very different state of affairs! How remarkably sudden was the change! Could it be otherwise? We stand today in Salt Lake City and we talk over the telephone wire to a man a hundred miles away and we recognize his voice. We go to the telegraph office in the morning and we send a cablegram to Liverpool, England, and before the going down of the sun we receive a reply. We start from Salt Lake City today and we land in the old world in as short a time as it took us a few years ago to go from here to the Missouri river. We read in tonight's paper of events that transpired this morning in the furthestmost parts of the earth. This all demonstrates that the world is moving very rapidly. It does not take years and years to bring about a crisis, financially, politically, socially, or otherwise. They invade our homes before we know it. The watchmen upon the towers in the financial world gave us to understand that it was only a flurry, and that it would be over in a week or two. Well, it may be that it will not last as long as some anticipate; but are we prepared for that which will follow after? Are we in a position to meet the next wave that shall come, let its character be what it will? I believe the Latter-day Saints are in a better position to meet it than the balance of the world; but are we in the position that the Lord desires us to be in? We have been told ever since the location of the Latter-day Saints in these valleys of the mountains that there shall come into our midst not alone a famine for money, but a so a famine for bread. I know that it is easy enough for us to argue that we have a bounteous harvest, that grain throughout the entire country is cheaper today than ever, that it is a drug on the market, and that there is no sale for it. Possibly therein lies the great danger. But abundant as the harvests are, as easily as they can be transported from one portion of the land to the other, as numerous and as perfect as the appliances are which exist for the supply of the human family with food, the echo has scarcely died out in our ears of the clamor of the hungry mob in one of our neighboring cities for bread, when the municipal and state authorities had to establish places where they could get food to prevent them from looting the city;

and yet within a few hours' ride of Denver there were thousands and thousands of bushels of grain and all the necessaries of life! How easily these things can come upon us! Are we prepared for them? There is an official appointed by the municipality of the city of New York whose duty it is to compile statistics of the food supply of that city, and he startled the people a short time ago by notifying them through his statistics that if the lines of communication that carry the supplies into that city were discontinued and no food carried within the boundaries of New York, it would require just four days to use up all the food that they had. Certainly not much preparation for a time of scarcity! Although it would seem incredible that such an event should transpire in the midst of such bounteous harvests as we have at the present time, I believe it behooves the Latter-day Saints to act wisely and prudently, and look forward for such a time, and be prepared for it.

In this connection we may read in the daily papers of the thousands of men who have been thrown out of employment in our midst. Our streets, it is scarcely an exaggeration to say, are thronged with them, and their numbers are increasing day by day. The season of labor where our working men provide themselves with food for the coming winter has almost gone by. The result will be that when winter comes there will be hundreds of people in our midst, as there will be in all this broad land, who will have made no provision for their families. Now, it behooves every wise and thoughtful citizen to give employment to every man that he possibly can, that those whom he thus employ may be able to provide themselves with food and shelter. It also behooves the laboring people to act wisely and prudently. They should be satisfied with such wages as men can pay in the present depressed condition of business, and not say they will not engage in work unless they can get the work and the price that suit them. That is a grave mistake to make, and will bring trouble to the hearthstones of those who indulge in it. Those who can furnish employment should do so as far as possible; those who desire employment should be satisfied with the wages that the employer can afford to pay. The fact is, the great majority of men engaged in business at the present time can scarcely afford to pay any wages. Those of us who have lived here for a quarter of a century can remember very distinctly when it was the most prosperous time of all times for the laboring man, and that was when there was absolutely no money in circulation. The laboring man received something that he could not carry up the street on Saturday night and spend, and then go home penniless. I do not think it is an exaggeration when I say that nine-tenths of the laboring people of this city that own their own homes obtained those homes with scarcely the expenditure of one dollar in money. It was done by labor. They were paid in that which built the house, planted the trees, constructed the fence, furnished the house, and provided the wife with something to obtain food for the table.

There were no dollars and cents in it. But in the past few years it has been all money. We may have to turn to the primitive times, and come back to the business of barter and trade; and should we be compelled to do so it would be a godsend to the laboring people, in my opinion.

Now, if we can understand that this experience is for our good and benefit, and utilize the things by which we are surrounded, we shall be blessed and prospered, and our way will open before us. It is not a time when we can afford to be selfish, or narrow-minded, and ask the Lord to bless us and our family alone. "The liberal man deviseth liberal things, and by his liberality shall be stand." I guarantee that you will never find upon the streets of Salt Lake a man who is providing labor for the people complain that he or his family is suffering for food. Why? Because he is on a broader basis than that. But you will find that the one who is alarmed in regard to his own house suffering for food is contracted, has become narrow in his views, and does not reach out among his fellow men to labor for their good. There is no necessity for any individual in this city, or in this land, to suffer for food. Yet I doubt not there are men, women and children to say that lack food in Salt Lake City. Those whom God has blessed with wisdom to provide for themselves and for others should exercise that wisdom, and not bury their talent, that there may be no increase to it. They should provide the working people with labor, that they may care for themselves, and that our streets may not be thronged this coming winter with people unable to obtain employment, and without food, or raiment, or shelter. This is the part of wisdom; it is self-protection to the body of society.

Then, again, there exists in our midst a very numerous population of young men who have been reared and trained in Salt Lake City and adjoining cities. Many of them have fitted themselves for the professions. In the professions I believe it is understood that there is room at the top of the ladder, but the bottom and the middle are overcrowded. We have a large number of men who have fitted themselves for various professions for which there is no demand, and they find themselves, to a certain extent, useless. Let me say to my young friends that there are thousands of acres of untilled land today that only require your labor and care to make it fruitful and productive, and you thereby will become a benefactor to your kind in building up your country and causing two blades of grass to grow where there was but one before, and in providing something that will enable you to become independent, instead of dependent on others; that by the labor of your hand and by the sweat of your brow you may be enabled to work out temporal salvation for yourself and those who look to you for success and support, instead of helplessly drifting hither and yonder under the influences that exist in all these large cities. I recognize the fact that among our young men there is a disposition to find something easy to do, at very high wages; something that does not require a very great amount of exertion.