

We need good buildings that are adapted to the wants of the children. We need means with which to erect these and to endow them.

This brings me to another subject. The General Board of Education have appealed twice, I think, to the Council of the First Presidency and Twelve for funds, that the board might have means with which to aid the struggling institutions that exist throughout the country. It has been with some degree of reluctance, considering the great desire on the part of every member of the Council to see education promoted, that what has been needed has been supplied, for the reason that the calls upon the Church are so numerous and of so varied a character that there has been a fear that we might be embarrassed and not be able to meet the obligations that we are taking upon ourselves. Those of you who have kept abreast of the news of the day know pretty well concerning our situation as a Church. Some have said—and it flew in my face while I was talking this afternoon, what I had heard that other folks had said about our property—“Why didn't we devote this property that has been confiscated in this direction and the other direction, instead of letting it be seized?” I know there is room, under all circumstances, for people to find fault. But I can say for President Taylor that while he lived he was determined that if this nation wished to put itself on record by taking our property, he was going to give them the opportunity to do so; and I do not know but it is just as good a test as anything; it makes history, and I do not think we shall be any poorer for it. I feel, however, that one lesson of this kind is sufficient. I think that hereafter, instead of allowing any property to accumulate that is going to be in danger of being seized, we had better spend it in schools, in charitable institutions, in works of benevolence, or in any direction that may be necessary, either in putting means into factories and other operations that will give employment to the poor or in rearing other institutions that shall be a benefit to the whole people. I would rather see our means go in this direction than to have it appropriated again by our enemies. One mobbing is enough. If the Lord is satisfied with it, I think it is sufficient for the rest of us.

The fact is, no matter if all that we give as tithing were to be taken, the obligation to pay our tithing still remains upon us. When we were driven out of Missouri into Illinois and the people were stripped of their property, the obligation still rested upon the people, though they knew they might be driven again, to go and build Nauvoo and rear a temple there. Many people might have said, “What folly it is for you to build that temple when you know that your enemies are going to drive you out.” In fact, every one that was well advised knew that the time was near at hand when we should abandon that city and that temple. Yet the Latter-day Saints worked as they never had before on

any public building, to build the temple sufficient to fulfill the commandments of God. In like manner, if we knew (though I do not think we do know; I do not) that our tithing was going to be taken again, I do not think it would release us from the obligation to pay our tithing, and to pay it honestly and truthfully; and not only to pay our tithing, but to pay a surplus if we can. A man should not be content to pay his tithing alone. That is but a small thing. He should do more than this, if he is able, and if he wants to prepare himself for those things that await us, and for that law the carrying out of which is in the future, but which God has revealed unto us in plainness. I know those of us who have large families, it makes our heads ache sometimes to know how we are going to provide for them and what we shall do in this direction and in the other. I know that these are great and serious burdens that rest upon us all, to a greater or less extent. But if we have our hearts set upon doing what is right, the Lord is able to multiply our increase and our basket and store. I can testify to you this night that He is able to do this. I know it by personal experience. He will increase us if we are liberal. The liberal man, as the prophet has said, deviseth liberal things, and by his liberality he shall stand. So it shall be in earthly things. If we are liberal, if we are wise stewards in the management of earthly things, and are liberal with the Lord, how easy it is for Him to turn things into our way and to increase our substance in a manner that is unexpected to us. I know that He can do this, and you all know it just as well as I do. Many times when we have been out in the world we did not know how to get a little something, probably a garment, or a pair of shoes, or some other article of dress that we needed; we were among poor people, and I suppose some of us have felt like that lord of whom we read in the scriptures, who, when the Prophet Elisha declared that on the morrow a measure of fine flour should be sold for a shekel, said, “Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?” He did not know how such a thing could be unless God did open the windows of heaven. But it was fulfilled, though he did not live to partake of it, because he was trampled upon and died. God is able in marvelous ways to turn things in our way. If we look after the good of our fellows, if we have our hearts as broad as we can make them for the work of God, and think about it instead of aggrandizing ourselves and letting our thoughts dwell upon our own interests, God will, just as sure as we live, pour out blessings upon us and increase our substance and give us means; for He can do so with safety when we are in that condition; but He loves us too well to do this under our present circumstances. I heard the Prophet Joseph say that he knew where there was any amount of gold, and he said the time would come when the Latter-day Saints would

have all the gold they wanted, whenever they got in that condition that they would not set their affections upon it.

Now we are likely to be tempted, and some are, with an abundance of means. I suppose some of the Latter-day Saints would say, I would like to be tried a little in that direction. But there is danger in this feeling; there is danger of luxury and of pride. God has revealed a plan, however, that will save us from this danger if we will adopt it. If we will follow His counsel, we will be saved from the evils that have tamed the world and that would dam this Church if they should be allowed to exist in it. I cannot look forward to the triumph of Zion under the present system that prevails in the financial world, with the methods which abound of making money and of living. Such a system has been the ruin of every people who have lived under it. There is no nation can stand it; no church can stand it. We cannot stand the increase of wealth among us while we remain in our present condition, making money for ourselves and our families only, as is the custom in the world from which we are gathered. We would become proud and the power of God would leave us. This Church is founded to make a people that shall be equal before the Lord—equal in temporal things. Not that we shall all have the same number of horses and cattle, etc.; not at all. One man cannot do as much as another man. One man wants more to eat and more to drink than another man, and he wants a longer bedstead, a longer coat, and a larger hat. We are not alike; our wants are not alike. But the Lord has explained how we can be equal. He says if we are not equal in earthly things, how can we be equal in heavenly things? Shall we each have a house of the same size, or families of the same size, or the same number of horses and cows, or the same quantity of land? No; we shall have according to our wants and our needs, and every man will have an equal claim. The Lord says that this is equality, every man having an equal claim on the bounties of God and on that which He has to give to us; no one having in excess of another beyond his ability to use it to advantage. There will be some who will have the faculty of managing. You give some men a hundred thousand dollars and they will manage that as easily as other men will a hundred dollars; and shall a man who can manage so large an amount be deprived of doing it? No; God does not design to mar us; but every man that has talent shall have the opportunity of using his talent—not, however, for his individual aggrandizement, but for the benefit of God's Kingdom and for the salvation of his fellowmen.

It was for this purpose that the Gospel was revealed in our day—to save us from these dreadful evils that are now threatening our Republic. Our nation is menaced with evils that, unless they are checked, will overthrow it. The increase of enormous wealth among the few