

And we are misled sometimes by our own feeling because of our inability to distinguish between the voice of the spirit of God and the suggestions of our own spirit. There is a still, small voice in the heart of every human being. There is an influence comes with ever son and daughter of Adam that is born into the world. What! Outside of the latter-day Saints? Certainly, I told you in the beginning that we are all the children of God. There is an influence born with every person that to a certain extent is a spirit of revelation. Hence you will frequently find it the case—probably some of you adults have experienced it, when you joined the Church, that this influence told you what proved to be true. Brother Woodruff, here, I have heard him tell, in his experience, how he was led before he joined the Church by this influence, how it operated upon his mind until it was brought in contact with the truth. I have heard a number of others relate the same thing; and if they received the truth, this influence increased with them, but if they rejected the truth, if they refused to receive the testimony of the servants of God, the light that was in them became darkness and as the Savior said, how great is that darkness. I proclaim as a truth, that when a man or a woman enters into this Church and is baptized, repents of his or her sins, humbles herself and himself to the depth of humility before the Lord, determined with His will to forsake their sins, to let them away from them, to say, when a man or a woman comes to the Lord in that spirit and says so that the Holy Ghost will rest upon them, that there will be no event of any importance from that time forward but what they will have some intimation respecting it, some premonition, and they will walk in the light, some to a greater extent than others, because some are more gifted than others, some live in such a manner as to have this developed within them to a greater extent. But if they continue to cultivate this spirit, to live in the light of it, it will become a principle of unfailing revelation to them.

Is this your privilege? Certainly it is. It is also the privilege of children, boys and girls, young men and young women, middle aged and aged to enjoy this. It is not confined to any one in particular, to any sex, to any particular position in life, but it is extended to all. It is the design of God that it should be so. But it is dim within us because of the generations of unbelief and wickedness of heart which have existed. We have inherited a great amount of unbelief from our fathers; this has come down to us. The heavens have been as brass over the heads of the people, and there has been a spirit of unbelief that has excluded the revelations of Jesus and the manifestations of the Spirit of God.

Fifty years ago this Church was organized. There are men and women who have been fifty years in the Church, some who have been thirty years, a great many thirty years, a still greater number twenty years. Is it not time, then, after all we have heard, and all we know concerning these things, that some of this unbelief should disappear and that that love exhibited which draws us nearer to God and places us in closer communion with Him? Is it not time that this should be the case with our children? Why, it seems to me so, and I have no doubt it is so. And yet there is much room for improvement in these things.

There is one thing above all others that strikes me with astonishment when I think about it among our people. A great many years ago the Lord gave what is called the Word of Wisdom to us as a people. It is a thing I very rarely allude to. I never drank tea or coffee in my life, I never drank liquor, I never used tobacco, and I have endeavored to keep the Word of Wisdom. It is no credit to me, my parents instilled it into me. I never allude to it in public speaking. I never allude to it in my family. I have set the example and allowed them to follow it, and they have done so, most of them. But when I think about it, when I see our people, after what God has said upon this subject, after the plain manner in which He has spoken to us and told us what would be the result of the observance of certain laws, deliberately day after day flying in the face of the counsel that God has given unto us in that Word of Wisdom, I get exceedingly amazed and

I wonder how it is that God bears with us. It is a grievous thing to trifle with that promise and with the many promises that are connected with the Word of Wisdom. We see young men learning to drink liquor to smoke and chew tobacco, and acquiring this habit and the other habit that is expressly forbidden, or at least that counsel is given respecting, which ought to be more binding because it comes with an appeal to us—it appeals to our sense of right that a commandment does not, because a commandment comes with strict injunctions that leaves no alternative but to obey; but this is a word of counsel by a kind father, and He tells us that if we shall observe it, we shall have health, the destroyer shall not have power over us nor over our families, and that we shall have treasures of knowledge and wisdom given to us. Supposing here are a good many young men that belong to this Church, some of whom are very eager for knowledge—reading books, studying, going to the University, imagining that is the most direct and easy way to obtain it, and at the same time these same young men, members of the Church, drinking their tea and coffee and smoking their cigarettes. Does it not seem like a great inconsistency for men and women to do these things? I proclaim to you Latter-day Saints that the Word of Wisdom is the word of God, that those who obey it will receive every blessing that is promised in the revelation, that they will have health, and that they will have power and blessings which they cannot conceive of until they try it. It is a simple thing, yet it shows how neglectful we are as a people. I believe the time is not far distant when we shall have to be very different to what we are in these respects. I will tell you what I have sometimes thought: that the Lord is going to deal with us as He did with the Israelites. They hardened their hearts against the Lord, became careless and disobedient, and finally the Lord in His wrath decreed that none of them, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua, should enter the promised land. The words that are used are very expressive. Their carcasses were to fall in the wilderness, all over a certain age. But the Lord spared the little ones. He raised up a new generation and led them to the promised land. We have the same promise that some will be left to go back to the promised land, and I feel satisfied it will be fulfilled. But would it not be better for us all to exercise faith and do right, that we might all receive the fulfillment of this promise? Certainly. There were times in our lives when we felt that we would do anything for the sake of the spirit we had received. Is there any person in this Church in this room to-night who has not seen the time in his or her life—if they have had any experience—when they would sacrifice anything to be in possession of the Spirit of God. Every one who has joined this Church of any age and experience knows this to be the case. There is a sweetness to be experienced in receiving the Spirit of God that is preferable to everything else in life. Every one should be in possession of this spirit. If you do not have it, let me say to you, do not rest till you get it. I do not believe in the sectarian style of doing things, neither do you; but there are some things exceedingly necessary for all to do whether they belong to this Church or not, and that is to look at their lives and examine and see wherein they have come short, and repent and humble themselves before the Lord and get a renewal of His Holy Spirit. Of course people who do not belong to this Church are not likely to take this course; yet in the sectarian world they feel the necessity of revival. As a people we should live day by day so as to have the spirit of God resting upon us.

I have great pleasure in testifying to you of my own experience in these matters. I have been away now for some eight or ten years, more than half of my time from the Church; alone, so to speak; I have not had the advantages of other Elders, because they are visiting among the various branches. I therefore can appreciate these things which I perhaps would not appreciate if I had been constantly in the society of the Saints. I sometimes regret this; I feel that I have not the advantages my brethren have; but I have no doubt the Lord makes up for it in other ways. I have proved to my entire satisfaction, that God is willing to reveal Himself to His servants under all circumstances, to make His mind and will plain to

them, and I have had to live in that way while I have been gone. Circumstances have sometimes been of such a nature that I could not see what to do by my own wisdom; but I have never yet—and I do not say this from vanity at all, I say it to encourage you; I do not say it because I consider myself blessed above you, but I say it because it is your privilege and because I would like to stir you up to faith that you may receive those blessings of God—I say there never has been a moment when I have been absent but what I have had shown to me what to do, what steps to take, what to say and what not to say. It gives me great joy to bear testimony to these things; and if there is one thing that I feel more thankful for than another, it is that God has restored His Church, and that I have the privilege of being a member of it. When Brother Erastus Snow was speaking to-day, and when Brother Woodruff was speaking yesterday I could scarcely control myself. You heard how the Lord led the brethren across these plains, and how when President Young saw this valley he said to Brother Woodruff, and afterwards to the brethren of the camp: "Here is the place." Was there any doubt in his mind? No; the Lord had revealed the place to him, he knew for himself. I remember on one occasion telling President Young, the first year we were here—I was then quite a boy—that if we could only get bread and water I should feel satisfied if we could only have peace. Well, we had peace. We were not harassed; indeed a more peaceful time than we had when we came into these valleys never was enjoyed by any people on the face of the earth. President Young knew what the Lord would do. The Lord had revealed it to him and described many things that have not yet occurred. Is not this precious?—to have the word of the Lord, to know we are led by the inspiration of the Almighty. It is one of the greatest blessings that a people can enjoy. Ever since the Church was organized, we have been led by revelation. And who has been misled by it? People have always prospered who have listened to the voice of the Shepherd. It was so in the days of Joseph, it was so in the days of President Young, it is so to-day under President Taylor, and it will be so to the end. The Lord has stretched forth His hand to accomplish His purposes, and it will not be withdrawn until all is fulfilled. We shall not be destitute of the voice of revelation. We may do a great many things contrary to the mind and will of God, for which He will chastise us and scourge us, if necessary; but He will not withdraw His Priesthood from us, and His voice will not cease to be heard; it will be given unto those of His servants who live for it, and they will know the mind and will of God for this people. Persecution may go on. People may say we have not the gifts; but the Lord will not leave us; He has not left us; He will make of this people a great nation; and there is no power upon the face of the earth that can arrest the progress of "Mormonism," as it is called by the world, but which is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It will grow, increase and spread abroad as the Prophet Daniel saw it, until it fills the whole earth. Some of you may get discouraged and say the Lord delayeth His coming, and begin to get weak in faith because of drunkenness and gambling in our midst, and say Zion is not going to be redeemed because our enemies have got such power. But will that prevent the redemption of Zion? No. The Lord is bringing us through these circumstances. There was a time when we were driven by mobs, and our faith was tried in various ways. It is necessary that there should still be trials to test the faith of this people. There are no mobs now, we do not have our houses burnt down now, or our cattle shot down. But shall we be without trials? No. Why? Because it is necessary—at least I accept it as necessary in the providence of God—that there should be liquor saloons, etc., so that Latter-day Saints who make so many professions can, if they want to drink beer and get drunk, or go in and play billiards and gamble, or go to other places that are worse—can do so. "But," says one, "I thought in coming to Zion I was coming to a place of purity where none of these things existed." If that had been the case how would you have been tried? It is necessary you should be tried for a while in order to develop your strength. We have to be brought in contact with the

world, and we have to show the world that there is something connected with our religion that is enduring. Yet all these things have been a source of strength to us. Why, says one, how can that be? Well, now, I am in a position to know the feeling towards us. Our enemies have been trying to get legislation against us. But some say, "what is the use of legislating against the Mormons? If you will only let them alone it will come all right. The Catholics, the Episcopalians, the Methodists, the Baptists, the infidels, have their meeting houses, school houses, and newspapers, and have brothels, gambling houses, drinking saloons, and milliner's shops, and you cannot imagine what a great work these things are doing among the Mormons! The young people are growing up and they do not want more wives than one. Why, it is as much as they can do to keep one. The girls want fine millinery, fine dresses, fine furniture. What is the use of resorting to unjust legislation when these things are going on. When they get rid of their polygamy they will be a good people." I have sometimes thought that in the providence of God He suffers such things. At the same time it is operating upon our own people. Our young men are led on to smoke, to drink and to do wrong. At the same time, trials are necessary; we must be tested, and when we emerge from these trials we will feel better and stronger. Has the Lord forgotten Zion? Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can you mothers forget your nursing babies? When you do, which is not very likely, then the Lord may forget Zion. His eye is upon Zion. His hand is over this people. His hand has overruled all things for the good of this people and their salvation. Will Zion be redeemed? Yes. Will you be redeemed? That is for you to say. Will I be redeemed? That is for me to say. We need have no fear about the welfare of this work; we need not tremble and think there is danger. Congress may pass laws, attempts may be made to overthrow this work; but we need have no fears: Zion will be redeemed. Many will fall by the wayside, many will lose their faith, many will be led away by false and seducing spirits; but there will be those who will be saved and exalted, and all of us who are here to-night have this privilege if we will accept of it; we can be saved each of us and crowned with glory in the presence of God and the Lamb. There is no provision to exclude us; we are not predestined for damnation; we are predestined to be saved if we will accept of the salvation offered. Therefore, in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, if we are not saved we cannot look up and charge God with having done anything to prevent us, we will have no one to blame but ourselves and that will be our hell.

I pray the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ, that we may all be saved and exalted in the celestial kingdom. Let us live our religion, this precious and holy religion, and let me say to you that if you have not had the happiness of it lately, get the happiness that it produces, and you will not exchange it for anything else in the world. It ought to be a pearl of great price to all of us, and we ought to cherish it more than we do our lives. Amen.

### Correspondence.

#### Georgia Mission.

ROME, May 15, 1881.

*Editor Deseret News:*

As I have been chosen to act as President of this Conference, I will here give you a report of the progress of the Latter-day work in this empire State of the South, where innocent blood cries from the ground for vengeance upon all those who will not repent and turn from their wicked ways.

At the April Conference, 1880, I was called to go on a mission to the Southern States, so I left my home and family in Provo, and took train for this conference, where I found branches of Saints 3, Traveling Elders 6, local Elders 6, Priests and Teachers 3, members 48. Total of officers and members, 54.

During the last year we have organized branches 3, received Traveling Elders 10, ordained local Elders 7, ordained Priests and Teachers 3, baptized 60, children blessed 8; making a total of 133 souls who have espoused and helped to spread the principles of the true Gospel in this

State during the last year. Out of this number 9 have emigrated to Colorado, 2 deaths have occurred and 9 Traveling Elders have been released and transferred to other States.

At present we have 11 Traveling Elders who are laboring in different parts of this State. J. B. Keeler and J. Carter are in White County, where they are meeting with much success in preaching, distributing tracts and baptizing.

Elder W. H. Adams, of Fannin Co., has just been joined by Elders S. E. Metcalf and J. Goff, from Zion. They report several baptisms and much interest taken and prospects good for many coming into the fold during this summer.

Elders M. F. Cowley and J. W. Taylor are traveling in Clayton and other counties in south-west Georgia, where they have opened some new fields, and baptized some few.

Elders W. J. Packer and S. Bills are laboring in Haralson and other counties, south, where they are now canvassing the lower counties and making connection with Taylor and Cowley, and opening up the gospel to many who have sent word that they would like to hear our peculiar doctrine preached. This will give us a large field, for our members are scattered through north, middle and south-west Georgia. I have just been joined Elder Geo. C. Parkinson of Franklin. He is feeling well and looking hale and hearty. I have been traveling alone in Floyd, Polk, Haralson, and surrounding counties. I have met with much success in getting places to preach in and people to listen to me, for nearly all are anxious to see an Elder and to hear of the peculiar people called "Mormons."

At present we have six branches organized in the State, and our nine local Elders preside over these branches; holding meetings, Sunday Schools, and preaching and teaching, and help other Elders to spread forth the true principles of the gospel in the different districts where they reside. Our 104 members are scattered through nearly all the counties in north-west Georgia. They are mostly heads of families, and have many children, which will add many to Zion's cause when their parents emigrate, which nearly all want to as soon as they embrace the gospel. But many are poor and have not the means to pay their railroad fare, and others that have property and homes cannot sell them, so they stay here and furnish homes for the Elders and assist in carrying the gospel to all parts, even unto the backwoods. We have quite a large branch of Saints in Haralson county, and we have built a meeting house there, and we will hold our annual conference there July 22, 23 and 24. President John Morgan will meet with us and we will celebrate the 24th in Georgia.

The NEWS is a welcome and reliable informer of the progress of Zion's cause, both to the Elders and Saints. So ever praying for Zion's progress, I remain yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT.

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#### Meeting of the Payson Bee Keepers' Association.

PAYSON, May 26, 1881.

*Editor Deseret News:*

After the usual opening exercises, roll was called and 12 members present.

The Vice-President spoke on the subject of "Queen Rearing," and said that the best way to raise queens was to take the old queen away from a full stock, and let them build a lot of queen cells; then select your cells from them to put in your nucleus stock. The queen will be longer lived than by dividing. He said a queen that will fertilize within from four to six days after being hatched, is more prolific and longer lived than those that do not fertilize so young.

Good remarks on bee culture were made by some of the members.

Two members were received into the Association.

Meeting adjourned for two weeks.

P. M. GRIGG,  
President.

G. G. SIMONS,  
Cor. Secretary.

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