

present. The hand of the Lord has been with this people and with the Elders of Israel, and will continue to be. The Lord is in earnest, in fulfillment of His promises from the creation of the world down to this day, with regard to His dispensations to man. I hope and trust that while we dwell in the flesh we all may realize and understand this. It is a great blessing to receive the Gospel of Christ, to receive the Holy Priesthood, and to be called to labor in the Priesthood for the salvation of the children of men. This labor is upon us and will remain upon us until the coming of the Son of Man in the clouds of heaven, to reward every man according to the deeds done in the body.

I pray God to bless you and to pour out His Spirit upon us all, that while we are assembled together in this capacity we may have union of heart and spirit, and the Spirit of God resting upon us, to dictate and direct us in our labors. Amen.

ELDER ANTHON H. LUND.

Missionary Work Effective.—Good Effect of Conferences.—Object of the Saints to Build up Zion

I am pleased to have the privilege this morning of meeting with you, my brethren and sisters, and of hearing our President address us. I am glad that he is with us and able to talk so that we can all hear him. This has been our Jubilee year—fifty years since we arrived in these mountains; and we have all reflected more or less upon the history of Zion since the people arrived here when this region was a wilderness. We have made comparisons between today and then, and all have, no doubt, felt to thank the Lord that He has so richly blessed His people, and though they have gone through times of trial, yet they have seen His overruling providences in their behalf. Zion has prospered; the people have been blessed, both temporally and spiritually; and while they have tried to build up Zion at home, they have not forgotten the great duty resting upon them of sending men to the different nations to preach the Gospel. And the Lord has been with them, so that they have been able to bring thou-

sands into the fold of Christ. The best of reports are coming to us from the different missions, showing that the Lord is still with His servants, and that their efforts are crowned with more success than has attended their labors for many years past. This makes us rejoice, seeing the work of God prospering.

We have come together this morning to attend our Conference. I have often thought what a great blessing to the Saints are these conferences, bringing them together from the different parts of Zion, to where they can renew their old acquaintances, and where they can meet together under the spirit and influence of the Lord, and listen to instructions given them which are calculated for their best good. These are times of refreshing unto the Saints. And this is not something which has been evolved out of the system that God has revealed; but it was at first ordained and appointed unto the Saints to come together on these occasions. There is this difference between the work of God and the work of man—the work of God has a perfect Author, what He commands is not an experimental thing, but is something that was seen beforehand. The consequences were known before the law was given. By studying the word of God as given through His prophets, we find that He knew as well thousands of years ago what was for the best good of His people as today, and that when the prophets spoke of Zion they saw it, understood how it should be built, and could foretell the Lord's dealings with His people.

We have come to this country to build up a Zion unto our God. I hope that we have not forgotten the object of our coming. I hope that we can be classed among the laborers in Zion. The Lord has declared that the laborer in Zion shall work for Zion, and he adds, "if they labor for money, they shall perish." I believe it is the Prophet Nephi who wrote these words. He wrote them in a chapter that is devoted to our time. After having described what should come to pass between his day and the present period of time, he speaks of the com-

ing forth of the Book of Mormon and of Zion. I have often thought how strange it is that men cannot see the internal evidence which the Book of Mormon contains of its truth, when they can read passages so plain.

The idea of building up a Zion was not a common idea among the different denominations that Joseph Smith was acquainted with. Men have thought that Mormonism is a system made up of other religions. We deny this. We hold that it is given of God; that it is the same Gospel, the everlasting Gospel, as given in former days to the people, and again restored today. When you examine the Gospel as restored through the Prophet Joseph, you find that it has many characteristics which are not found among other denominations or religions. The idea of gathering was not believed in by any of the religious people then; but in the Book of Mormon, published before this Church was organized, we are plainly told that there should be a gathering; that the people should be gathered from the different nations of the earth.

The Prophet Nephi, in speaking of Zion, gives us characteristics that should be found in the Zion of the latter days. Among them was that there should not be priestcraft; and he defines priestcraft as preaching for gain and for influence among the people. This the Lord forbids. He says that the people should work for Zion. That should be the object of their coming together, the one aim and purpose of their lives—to work for Zion, and not to make anything else the object of their lives. If they make money their object, He says they shall perish. How often have we seen this fulfilled! Those who have forgotten why the Lord called them from their homes and gathered them here, and who have made money their sole object, have perished spiritually; they have lost the faith which was once so strong in their breasts that they were able to leave everything that was dear unto them and gather here. We want to take this lesson to heart. We want to be laborers in Zion, and work for the

cause of Zion, and not for other objects—that is, not to make them the only objects of our lives. It is not forbidden us to work for money. We have to do this, to make our living; but the Prophet meant that we must not make it the sole aim of our lives, to enrich ourselves and gain wealth. The love of money is the root of all evil, has been said, and said truly. Not the money itself; for rightly used, I believe it is a blessing. But I am afraid that many are not willing to use this blessing aright. We certainly should not make it the one thing that we seek. We want to place our labors where they can do the most good for the upbuilding of Zion upon the earth. If we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, these other things, He has promised, shall be added. We have found the kingdom of God; but we want also His righteousness. That means that we do right in all things between man and man, and that we do not forget to do right towards our Heavenly Father, and also towards ourselves.

The Lord has asked us to do certain things. We will find that they are for our own good. These commandments have been given by a kind Father to His children. He has seen our conditions and our circumstances, and what He has ordained has been calculated for our greatest benefit. When such is the case, we should all feel that we want to keep His commandments. We want to benefit ourselves. In fact, this feeling is so strong with us that often we forget what is righteousness, on account of our selfishness. But if we will work truly for our own benefit, then we will keep the laws of God, we will seek His righteousness, we will try to build up His Zion upon the earth, and we will listen to the counsels which He gives us through His servants. If we do this, the greatest amount of happiness will be ours, and we will be able to do our share towards carrying out God's purposes on the earth.

May God bless His Saints. May His kingdom prosper. May His servants be blessed in their labors. This is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.