

in the name of Israel's God it is one of the criminal things that are going on in this land. The devil is breathing in the hearts of our young people, and the very air is stagnated in some of our larger cities with the spirit of immorality, and no greater sin can find its way in the hearts of our young people. I tell you, it is your duty and it is my duty to go out as missionaries; not to preach these things from the pulpit, not to talk to our sons and daughters publicly, but privately, and point out to them in a proper way, the great and abominable evil of secret sin. Some of you in your far-off districts are not burdened with what we call civilization and the things of the world; but you are menaced, and the greatest danger that menaces you today is immorality, and secret sin. You know how we guard our missionaries. The Elders yesterday pled with a number of missionaries till tears came to my eyes. Oh, brethren, avoid wine and women as you would the gates of hell. Don't allow any woman to take your honor. Don't allow any woman to take your arm. Keep them at arm's length; and as you expect to honorably fulfill your mission and have the Spirit of God burning in your hearts, see to it that there are no courtships, that there are no arrangements made of any kind to enter into matrimony; but come home clean and pure and sweet before the Lord." As one missionary said, when he returned home from his first mission, he was about to step over his mother's threshold and his mother said, "Hold on, my son, have you come back to me as pure and as good as when you left?" He was able to say, "Mother, I am pure, I am clean and sweet before the Lord;" and she threw her arms open and took her son in her embrace.

Brethren and sisters, are we going to fortify the youth of Israel and the daughters of Zion, that they can withstand these men who seem to think it is their special mission and that they are justified in coming among our people and ruining our daughters and leading away our young men? God bless you. Amen.

ELDER RULON S. WELLS.

Every gift and endowment brings responsibility—
The use and abuse of wealth.

My brethren and sisters, I trust that I may enjoy the Spirit of the Lord while I shall stand before you this morning. I feel to rejoice in the privilege that I have in bearing my testimony before so large a congregation. I wish to endorse with all my heart the remarks that have been made by my brethren who have preceded me. I rejoice in the progress that has been made in the work of the Lord, in the growth of Zion, and in the extending of her borders. I rejoice in the advancement that is being made by the people of God.

While the brethren were speaking this morning upon the responsibility of the Seventies in being the special witnesses of our Lord in the nations of the earth, I thought what a great thing it would be if all the people, and particularly all those who hold the Priesthood, would only realize the responsibility that rests upon them as individuals, and if each man would feel that he, for one, was determined to discharge himself of that responsibility. When a man is ordained to the Priesthood, it matters not to what office, with that ordination comes a responsibility; and it were better for him that he never had received that ordination, unless he magnifies the calling whereunto he has been called. If a man is blessed with wealth and with the good things of this world, with that comes responsibility; and it were better for him that he had remained in poverty all his days than to possess riches and not give a proper account of his stewardship. Every man who has been endowed with a gift, whether it be the gift of intelligence, the gift of oratory, the gift of song, or any other gift, with that endowment comes responsibility, and he will be held accountable for every gift and talent that has been placed within his reach. And to whom much is given, from him much will be required. While visiting one of the wards not very far from Salt Lake City I heard of a

young man who had been appointed a Teacher upon one of the blocks, and he was complaining. He said he could not afford to go out teaching every month, because every time he went it cost him \$1.50. I thought then, how little that man appreciated the responsibility that had been placed upon him. He actually begrudged \$1.50 worth of his time in magnifying the Priesthood to which he had been ordained by the authority of our Heavenly Father! There should be in every man a burning desire to fulfil the obligations that are placed upon him. Every man should seek to enjoy the spirit of his calling. If he be a Seventy, he should enjoy the missionary spirit. If he be a Teacher, he should enjoy the spirit of going out among the people and teaching them their duties, and seeing that there is no iniquity in the Church. Once a young man was being interrogated as to his being in a position to fulfil a foreign mission, and he told the brethren who were making the investigation that he was in debt, and on that account he was excused for the time being. As the young man went out, he made the remark, "I got out of that pretty slick. I told the brethren I was in debt; and what is more, I propose to be always in debt." I am happy to say there are only a few cases of this kind, but there was a young man, holding the Priesthood of a Seventy, who did not enjoy the spirit of his calling. I want to say that it were better for him, unless he repents of that feeling, that a millstone were hung around his neck and he were sunk to the bottom of the sea. Every man that has been called as a Seventy should enjoy the spirit of a missionary. He may not be called at the present time to go into the nations. He does not need to go and ask for an appointment in the missionary field. But there should be a desire in his heart to lift up his voice and cry repentance unto this generation. If he does not have that feeling in his heart, he does not enjoy the spirit of his calling. We ought not to be glad to get out of the opportunity of going into the world to proclaim the Gospel message unto those who know not God.

If I were to be asked what it is that arouses in men and women the greatest amount of energy, and that causes all this activity that we see in the world, my answer would be, it is money. Men and women are struggling after the riches of this world. They will work from early morn until late at night, they will wear out their bodies, in trying to obtain money. Not only will they do that, but they will lie, they will cheat, they will steal, they will kill for money! It is the desire for riches that is calling out the greatest amount of energy from men and women in the world today. But among Latter-day Saints the thing that ought to call out the best life forces that we have, the greatest amount of energy and activity, is to do the will of the Father. Once, a missionary, who was the son of a wealthy man, said to me, "Brother Wells, the Bible says that money is the root of all evil, but give me a little of the root." I talked to the young man for a few moments, and contradicted the statement. I told him that money was not the root of all evil, and that the Bible did not say it was; that money is a great blessing, when people know how to utilize it, and can be made the means of accomplishing great good. Temples can be erected for the worship of the Most High, buildings like this Tabernacle can be constructed, the poor can be fed, and suffering can be alleviated, through the application of money. Money itself, I said, was a blessing in the hands of those who knew how to use it. The Bible did not say that money was the root of all evil, but it did say that the love of money was the root of all evil. When men give their hearts to gold, and worship mammon rather than God, then it is that it becomes the root of all evil, and leads men and women away from the paths of truth and righteousness into the paths of evil.

May the Lord bless the Latter-day Saints; may He fill us with an ambition to magnify our callings and to discharge ourselves of the responsibility that rests upon us. If we are wealthy, may He put it into our hearts to do something for the progress of His work here upon the earth and for the establishment of the kingdom of God. May

He fill us with the desire in our hearts that when we leave this sphere of action, we may not leave immense fortunes for our families to apostatize over, but may He put it into the hearts of our well-to-do brethren and sisters to endow the Institutions of Zion. May God bless us. Amen.

The choir sang:

Guide us, O Thou great Jehovah,
Guide us to the promised land.

Benediction by Elder Lewis W. Shurtliff.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 P. M.

The choir and congregation sang:

Redeemer of Israel,
Our only delight,
On whom for a blessing we call.
Our shadow by day
And our pillar by night,
Our King, our Deliverer, our all.

Prayer by Elder Anthony Ivins.

The choir sang:

Though deep'ning trials throng your way,

Press on, press on, ye Saints of God!
Ere long the resurrection day
Will spread its light and truth
abroad.

ELDER B. H. ROBERTS.

Futility of opposition to hinder progress of the Church—Prospective gathering of the Jews—Expansive character of the work of God.

My brethren and sisters, I rejoice this morning in being present at this conference, and was happy in the reflection that the attendance upon the opening session was the largest I had ever witnessed. I was also happy in the testimony of President Smith concerning the spiritual condition of the Saints of God. It is indeed a glorious truth, when it can be said that the Latter-day Saints are in a better condition spiritually, morally and financially than they have ever been in before. I rejoiced to think that, notwithstanding all the efforts that have been made to retard the progress of God's work, it is larger, more prosperous, better established in the earth now than at any former period of its existence.

This afternoon, when the choir sang this beautiful hymn they have just

closed, I almost regretted that the desire for brevity would not permit them to go on with at least one or two of the other verses; for this song of Zion seems particularly adapted to the present condition of the Saints and the spirit of this conference. Listen to two or three of the other verses of this hymn:

What though our rights have been assailed?

What though by foes we've been despoiled?

Jehovah's promise has not failed,
Jehovah's purpose is not foiled.

His work is moving on apace,
And great events are rolling forth;
The kingdom of the latter days—
The "little stone"—must fill the earth.

Though Satan rage, 'tis all in vain;
The words the ancient Prophets spoke,
Sure as the throne of God remain,
Nor men nor devils can revoke.

I say that I am happy in the reflection that the work of God, notwithstanding all the storms of opposition it has met, moves on apace in the earth, with a force that is irresistible; and I cannot help but rejoice just a little—the brethren must excuse me if there is just a little worldliness in my makeup, enough at least to rejoice in the failure of those who have assailed the work of God. Truly, it must be just a little humiliating to them when they see all their purposes thwarted, and every storm they start passes over the Saints only to leave them the stronger and the more confirmed in their faith. I cannot help but exult just a little at this condition of things.

I rejoiced in the testimony of the brethren when they declared that the work of God was more prosperous in the foreign missions than it had ever been before, and that new doors were being opened for the proclamation of the Gospel. All these reflections made this forenoon a happy day to me, and I rejoiced in the glorious work of God and in the contemplation of its greatness and its stability, and especially since I received renewed assurances that it would remain in the earth until all that has been decreed concerning it will be realized.

But these reflections, brought to my mind by the remarks of the brethren,