

rest, received instructions, and we were told that if we could not say anything else in arising to speak to the people, we were to bear our testimonies and something would come to us. Therefore, in addressing you this afternoon I begin with bearing my testimony. My brethren and sisters, I have a testimony, and have always had it, that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true. If we take the scriptures and compare the Gospel taught therein with the Gospel taught by the Latter-day Saints, we find that they are the same; that the Gospel taught by the Savior and His disciples in former days is identical with that taught by the Latter-day Saints. Those of us who have had the privilege of preaching the Gospel in the world have had numerous testimonies given to us, which have strengthened us in the testimony that we already possessed. I believe there is not a young man who goes out into the world to preach the Gospel that does not possess a testimony, although he may say he does not have one. He may not be aware of the fact, but the testimony is there just the same; it is born in him and only needs something to bring it out. We find that our young men, some of whom may have been careless at home, when they have reached their missionary field and, perhaps, have been put in charge of some branch, or placed to preside over a conference, and are obliged to explain the principles of the Gospel and to study them, are surprised and astonished to learn that they have had a testimony of the Gospel but did not know it. I would advise the young brethren and sisters to become acquainted with this testimony before they go on their missions, because they will then be just that much further ahead, and they will be better prepared to explain the principles of the Gospel. We are told, in the 130th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, a passage that I love to quote, that "Whatever principles of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection;

"And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience

than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.

"There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated;

"And when we obtain any blessing from God it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated."

This should be an encouragement to us as Latter-day Saints—that through our obedience in this life, if we are more industrious and studious than another in seeking knowledge, we will have that much the advantage of him in the world to come. I trust that we, especially the young and rising generation, upon whose shoulders the furtherance of the kingdom of God rests, will sense and appreciate the importance of this principle, and that, through our diligence, we will advance to a high degree of perfection.

I pray that the blessings of our Heavenly Father will rest upon us. I testify to you in all soberness and humility that we are engaged in the work of God, and that, if we are faithful in the performance of our duties, He will bless us. I can testify that the law of tithing and the Word of Wisdom are true principles. I have always observed the former principle, and have also kept the Word of Wisdom; I was taught to do so by my parents, and I appreciate the blessings to be derived therefrom, for I have experienced them. May the blessings of our Heavenly Father rest upon us all, I ask it in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER REED SMOOT.

How to get out of debt—Economy a righteous principle—Admonition to save wheat.

Perhaps the greater number of the people here this afternoon were in the Tabernacle this morning, when I spoke upon the subject of keeping out of debt. Since that meeting a brother has asked me how to keep out of debt, and there may be quite a number of this congregation that would like to ask the same question. Brethren and sisters, I can tell you in a few words how to get out, and how to keep out of debt; it is in-

deed simple and is this: Stop the waste that so many people are practising, save a little every day from your earnings, and it will not be long until you are out of debt, and if you will do this you will never get into debt. I consider it is a sin in the sight of God to waste anything that He has created, either in its original state or changed by the labor of man. The old saying "Waste not, want not," is just as true today as it ever was. It is gratifying to read the history of the different nations and learn that many great men, by their personal examples and lives, demonstrated that they were enemies to waste in every form. In reading of Dante, who was the most radical against waste in his day, we find that he classifies the spendthrift in the same circle as the miser, thinking the miser would surely go to hell and the spendthrift would be his close neighbor. Dante had the Middle Age idea of hell, not knowing the limited number of crimes that will keep a man there eternally. By revelation, we know that the only crimes man will be placed in hell for is committing the unpardonable sin, knowing the Christ and then denying Him; or shedding innocent blood.

Man never will go to hell for saving means, even if miserly. No man ever lived that looked more carefully into household expenses than did George Washington, the father of our country. Many of his servants thought him penurious, and that he should give attention to greater matters, not be looking after small things and petty savings. My brethren and sisters, there are many who look upon a man that saves as stingy, and think that he is thus doing a wrong, but I assure you that is not true. I have always insisted that under all circumstances and conditions economy is necessary. You will find that it is necessary in every condition of life, whether the man be a millionaire or the humblest and poorest soul that walks the face of the earth; economy, not in dollars and cents only, but it also relates to the use of time, one of God's gifts that He will hold us all responsible for. Watch every expenditure, and see that nothing is wasted. I remember reading an inci-

dent in the life of Carlyle, the man who said he overcame the two jailors of the human family—"low birth and an iron fortune,"—proving that he was indeed an economist. One day he was crossing a street in one of the large cities of Scotland, with a companion, and stooping down picked something from the mud. He stepped to the sidewalk, and brushed the mud from a piece of bread, laid it on the curb, remarking to his friend that it might do a dog or bird some good. I want to say, my brethren and sisters, that the great Scotchman was an enemy to waste, and his life was an example of economy. He was taught by his mother never to waste a crumb of bread, said he, "mother impressed me with the fact that bread was to man what the mind is to the soul." I am indeed thankful that the mother who gave me birth taught me that principle, and I earnestly wish that every Latter-day Saint had it impressed upon them so they will practise economy in their lives. Not long ago I was in one of the stakes of Zion, and a young man complained to me how hard it was to get along financially. He asked me to go home with him to dinner. I did so. On going to the back of his residence after dinner, I found enough good food thrown into a swill-barrel to feed another family; and yet he was wondering why he could not make ends meet.

In the early days of Utah, the voice of President Brigham Young rang out warning the people to be saving, and not waste anything that God in His goodness had given them. I say the same to you, with all my heart; and I wish our people would stop and think about it, and use the intellect that God has given them. I tell you, if they would do this there would be less suffering from poverty among us. I was in the north a couple of weeks ago, and saw trainloads of wheat being shipped from the state. What does this mean? It means, if not stopped, that a great portion of the amount of wheat being shipped at the present time may have to be brought back into Utah, and the people thus have to pay freight charges going out and coming in, and a middleman's profit besides. Farmers

of Utah, is this the way to do? Why, no! How often have we heard the Prophets of the Church, in times past, tell the people to store their wheat. Just as sure as we live the time will come when we will wish we had followed that advice, and stored at least enough to last us from one harvest to another. Brethren and sisters, for your own sakes, save enough wheat and keep it on hand so that we can have bread stuff in case of any unforeseen contingency that may arise.

Suppose a great strike had occurred on all the railroads of the United States last year, every wheel tied up, and every avenue for carrying freight to this intermountain country had been stopped, either by strike or through any other cause, in what condition would we have been? Do you know that flour and wheat were shipped last year into Sanpete county, once called the granary of Utah? Do you think that such a thing could have happened if the Saints were following the advice of the Prophets of God? No, never! I ask the people to remember this, for I tell you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you will see the wisdom of it some day. God wants His people to be prepared for the coming judgments. Peace be to you all, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER ABRAHAM O. WOODRUFF,

Blessings in disguise—Do good to all mankind.—
 Forbearance to the ignorant and wayward.

My beloved brethren and sisters, I tried to handle a subject this morning in five minutes, and there are about two minutes left this afternoon. I wish to say just a few words, and I will try to get through in time for us to get out of here by 4 o'clock. I not only believe in beginning our meetings on time, but in quitting on time as well.

Many sections of the country where our people are located have been suffering greatly through drouth during the past few years. I have thought over this condition a great deal, and have come to the conclusion that, for my part, I feel to thank God for the drouth as well as for the many blessings which He sends to us that are not in disguise. If it had not been for the grasshoppers,

crickets and drouth in early days the Latter-day Saints would have been crowded out of their strongholds and places by those who would have desired to locate in our communities. Now, I can see the hand of God even in these trials, which come to us as blessings in disguise. Those Latter-day Saints who have faith in God will outwear the drouth and live to see their lands become fruitful, while those who are weak-kneed, who possess little faith, will be driven out by the drouth. Only those who are true to God and determined, through their faithfulness, to call down His blessings upon them, will be there to see conditions change and their land become fruitful again; for it will become fruitful again just as sure as the Lord lives.

Now, our mission, brethren and sisters, is to all mankind. We have heard much good instruction during this conference, and it will be of great benefit to us if we will put it into practice. Let us not be selfish and feel that it is our duty to devote our life and time to our immediate family circle and our friends and favorites only. We, as Saints of God, who have received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, must be broad enough to let our life extend to all mankind. It does not lessen that which we have to bestow upon our family and loved ones to extend a hand to all mankind, to those who are not of our faith; for there are many honorable men and women who have not been able to see as you and I see. There is a place for every one. There is a place for the young people who have been born of Latter-day Saint parentage who have no testimony of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a mistake, when we see young men and young women who do not have a testimony of the truth, to point them out and say, or feel, that they have committed some moral evil and, as a consequence, have no testimony that this is the work of God. Those who possess a testimony of the truth have reason to be thankful indeed, for what a glorious thing it is, and how unhappy and uneasy are those who do not possess such a testimony and who are in doubt regarding the Gospel and the existence