

and apparently proud of this fact. It struts about the yard and spreads its tail to the utmost extension to catch every sunbeam possible, that it may reflect all the glory of which it is capable; and yet, in the height of its pride, as it struts about, if it happens to glance down at its feet, bare, scaled, black and ugly, its pride vanishes and it feels ashamed because of its ugly, black feet. So with us. We may be proud without limit of the Church which God has founded—but whether we may be as proud of our own personal conduct within the Church is a question that may present a different aspect. If we will think of it from this standpoint, I believe that we too will draw in our feathers as the peacock does; and see but little occasion for self glorification. I speak in this way because of my connection with the quorums of the Seventy, and the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations. When I contemplate these institutions, and think what might come of them, and then think of what they are, and how we fail to reach the high levels of excellence upon which we might be moving, it seems to me that a little wholesome reproof for the mental laziness that obtains among us is quite seasonable. I am not so very proud of the status of our Seventies quorums. It seems to me that if our Seventies and all the quorums of the Priesthood could view the Gospel of Jesus Christ in some of its grander aspects, they would find in it an incentive that would prompt them to more vigorous study of the doctrines of the Church until they would make those great truths which God has revealed more perfectly their own, before going out into the nations of the earth to teach them. This is important, brethren, because if we are going to master this world, we must master it through our ideas, through the truths that God has given us; and we may not master the world even with that truth if we ourselves remain ignorant of it and its relations. And so, my brethren, the thing I would urge upon you, especially upon you who hold the priesthood,

whether you are operating in Mutual Improvement Associations or in the quorums of the holy priesthood—my admonition to you is that you go more earnestly about acquiring a knowledge of these great truths revealed to us, that when the opportunity comes to you to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ among the nations of the earth, you may be effective witnesses; that you may have something of which you can testify to some purpose; that you may give an intelligent reason for the hope that is within you. If there is one thing more than another to be reproved in Israel today, it is a lack of mental activity and earnest inquiry concerning the great things that the Lord has revealed to His people in this dispensation of the fullness of times. Now, don't regard me as an extremist in these things. It is necessary sometimes to contemplate things in their extremes, in order that you may beget even a reasonable amount of activity among the people in any given direction; and I present these thoughts to you, in the hope that you will be admonished by them to a more earnest effort to acquire an understanding of the great things that the Lord has so graciously committed to our keeping; and through which He expects that we, through an intelligent proclamation of them shall master the world. May the Lord bless you, is my prayer. Amen.

ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG.

My beloved brethren and sisters, I have listened with very much satisfaction to the testimonies of my brethren, and have felt a thrill of divinity in their remarks. If I shall be favored with the Spirit of the Lord as they have been, I shall also be able to say something that may bring joy to my heart and to yours. Brother Roberts alluded to the condition of the Prophet Joseph when he besought the Lord with a full desire to know His mind and will, to be inspired with intelligence, light and knowledge, and his petition was answered in full measure. The personal manifestation of Divinity, the

Father and the Son, was a fulfillment of the promise that He would give liberally to those that seek Him with full purpose of heart. The divine personality of those heavenly beings came within the direct view and comprehension of this humble youth, and from them he received a message of eternal truth, yea, an inspiration, and his joy was great, and his heart full of satisfaction in contemplating this wonderful manifestation. How truly great it was he did not fully realize at the time, but in his humility he was prepared to receive further light and knowledge.

Three years passed away, we are informed in the history of this mighty event, and the Prophet was again inspired to seek the Lord with fervency, that his heart might be prepared for greater light, that the will of the Lord concerning himself and his future life, might be made known unto him. The Lord was again ready to answer that humble prayer, and He sent His servant, the Angel Moroni, to communicate with him, to inform him of certain mighty events that were to transpire in the near future pertaining to the welfare of the human family. This messenger also informed him of the existence of a sacred record, which record was engraven indelibly upon metallic plates, whose lustre had never been dimmed, whose beautiful characters had never been erased nor corroded by the elements or time, and had received perfect care which had preserved it with all its sacred Gospel principles. This heavenly being also gave him to understand that he would be an instrument in the hands of the Lord of revealing this great mystery for the benefit of his fellowmen, that he should have power to translate the record by the gift of God. The messenger also informed him that Elijah the Prophet should, at some future time, commit to him the keys that would unlock the prison house of the dead, and he should have power to minister for their redemption; for the keys that Elijah should bring would turn the hearts of the children to their

fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to their children, that when the Lord should come in His glory that He should find faith upon the earth, and the earth should not be smitten with a curse of unbelief. The young man was informed that he was to meet the messenger at the place where the records were concealed, once a year for the four succeeding years, to receive further instructions in regard to their translation, and to be reminded of the promises of the Lord unto him. When the four years had expired, the Angel Moroni delivered the plates to Joseph, and the record was afterward duly translated for the benefit of the human family.

In the early history of the Church, Kirtland and the region round about became a Stake of Zion, and the Lord gave a revelation requiring the Saints to build a Temple at that place. If you will refer to the history of the Church, you will find that the people actually did accomplish that great work. It was a stupendous work for them to undertake, the building of a house of such magnitude, in the days of their poverty and distress. President Heber C. Kimball records in his journal as follows

"The work that we did in the day time on the Temple walls, we stood guard over at night with our fire locks in our hands to prevent them from being torn down by our enemies, and yet amidst all this and the poverty of the Saints, and the fewness of their numbers, they accomplished this work, they finished this house and dedicated it to the Lord, and He accepted of that house."

I refer you now to the 110th section of the Book of Covenants:

"The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened. We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit before us. His eyes were as a flame of fire . . . and His voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah saying, I am the first and the last; I am He who liveth; I am He who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father

. . . for behold, I have accepted this house and my name shall be here."

What a glorious testimony. What a marvelous finale this was to the services of the dedication of that house. The Saints had faith, they believed He would accept of their labors, but when He proclaimed before the Prophet and Oliver Cowdery that He had accepted that house, and that His name was to be inscribed thereon, how sublime must have been their feelings, and how great their joy when they were told of that wonderful manifestation, and heard those words of divine acceptance which had fallen from the lips of the Redeemer of the World.

Now if you will again refer to the revelation you will find the following:

"After this vision had closed another great and glorious vision burst upon us, for Elijah the Prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us and said, Behold, the time is fully come which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi, testifying that he, Elijah, should be sent before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be stricken with a curse. Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands, and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors."

There was no baptismal font in the Kirtland temple, for the keys pertaining to the ordinances for the redemption of the dead were not committed to the Prophet until after that Temple was completed and dedicated. From that time until the present there has been a baptismal font placed in each Temple builded by the Latter-day Saints, in order that sacred ordinances might be performed for the living and for the dead.

My brethren and sisters, "Mormonism" is the Gospel of peace, life and salvation. It has never been a Gospel of war or contention. Contention does not belong to the Spirit of the Gospel or the faith of the Saints; but evil and

temptation exist in the world, and wherever it is manifest it is for the purpose of overthrowing the good, and this evil power has been fighting against the Latter-day Saints from the beginning, seeking to destroy the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Though harassed and hated the work has continued to prosper, and the Lord has established His marvelous work and wonder in the earth. The saying of our Savior has been realized and demonstrated, "The world hated me, therefore it hateth you." Yet the Lord so loved the world that He gave His beloved Son for its redemption. The mission of the Latter-day Saints is now and always has been to try to convince the world that it is better to serve God than to serve mammon. But there is no force, no coercion in this Gospel. The spirit of peace, and of gentle persuasion, and of love unfeigned is characteristic of our leaders, and it is pre-eminently exemplified in all their teachings that they realize the truth of the doctrine that the powers of the Priesthood are inseparably connected with the heavens, and if any man should desire to assume unrighteous dominion or exercise undue authority over his brethren, Amen to that man's Priesthood. The "Mormon" Elder, as he proclaims these grand principles, also exemplifies the fact that he can call sinners to repentance, and teach them the better life, only by that spirit of gentle persuasion, which is so well expressed in the following lines:

"Know then that every soul is free,
To choose his life and what he'll be,
For this eternal truth is given,
That God will force no man to heaven.
He'll call, persuade, direct aright.
Bless him with wisdom, love and light,
In nameless ways be good and kind,
But never force the human mind."

The choir and congregation sang,
"O, say what is truth."

Benediction by Elder Don C. Walker.