

I rejoice in the growth of the work of God. I rejoice in seeing the baptisms increase as they are doing in all parts of the missionary field. It is true that many people are opposing the Church, but the Church is like the mustard tree, the more you kick it the more the seeds spread. If people wish to oppose the Gospel of Jesus Christ, let them oppose it, it is their loss; but as sure as God lives it is true, and He will see that this work goes on to final victory.

I wish to say to you husbands and wives, be considerate of each other in your homes, be appreciative, and speak all the good you can of each other. Husbands, tell your wives how much you esteem their labors in the home; wives tell your husbands how interested you are in their struggles. A little praise in this life is a very good thing. I would rather have a single flower given to me in life by a friend than I would have my coffin banked with roses. Fathers, stop and observe the constant labors of the mother, day in and day out, year in and year out, consider how she has helped you to make the home, and sustained the trials of motherhood, and then don't be afraid to tell her you appreciate all, don't leave it until she is on her death bed. And so I might say to the wife: be interested in what your husband is doing; encourage him along the line that he is laboring. If you mutually do this, you will love one another better, there will be a stronger bond between parents and children than if you neglect these courtesies and leave things to be taken for granted.

I ask the blessings of our heavenly Father upon the people as a whole, and upon His Church. May the Church grow and increase, even

as fast as the Father would have it. This with all other blessings that the Father sees the people need, I pray for, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Elder John W. Summerhays and Noel S. Pratt sang, as a duet, the hymn beginning:

The morning breaks, the shadows flee;  
Lo! Zion's standard is unfurled.  
The dawning of a brighter day  
Majestic rises on the world.

#### ELDER DAVID O. M'KAY.

Futility of efforts to prevent the growth of the Church.—True growth the result of healthy conditions within.—Spiritual disease acquired by evil doing.—The true Latter-day Saint home.—Each individual a vital part of the Church.

My brethren and sisters: To face this vast assemblage this morning makes me tremble. I believe I can sympathize, now, with a four-year old boy who was asked by a magician to come up on the platform, and who became quite overwhelmed as the magician apparently took from the little boy handkerchiefs, watches, eggs and other miscellaneous articles. When he got back to his parents and friends he was asked how he felt. "O my!" he said, "I just shivered." Well, I "shiver" when I am called upon to face an audience of Latter-day Saints, not from fear of my brethren and sisters, because I look upon them as dear friends and sympathizers, but I tremble because of the responsibility that I feel in this position, realizing my inability to sustain that responsibility without their aid, and without the inspiration of the Almighty. So I tremble, this morning, and pray for your as-

sistance and for the same spirit that has prompted the remarks throughout this conference.

I am thankful, and my heart is made glad, when I listen to the reports and testimonies concerning the growth of the Church of Jesus Christ; and I rejoice more when I realize that this is a true growth—that the Church is growing *from within*, in harmony with natural law and with the spiritual law. It is not a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm, it is not made to appear large by any outward sign. As I have just said, the Church is growing from within; and that is the condition that makes my heart rejoice this morning. When I listened to the reports of our enemies' attacks upon us, I thought: how futile all their efforts will be, if we but remain true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I picture the Church as a mighty oak, against which little boys throw mud, covering the bark, and sometimes injuring the leaves; they even use their pen-knives in an attempt to chop down the tree. At worst, they only riddle a few leaves and besmear the bark. In a few days, the mud is all gone, the rains have washed it off. The life of the oak has pushed out new bark and new leaves; and the mud, which defaced only the outward part, is all gone. Why? Because the life of the oak was untouched, and it had the power within it to throw off those excrescences thrown upon it by thoughtless boys, or malicious youths. So it is with the Church—calumny cannot hurt it, if it is pure within. We are told that "He who steals my purse steals trash, 'twas something, nothing; 'twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands; but he who filches from me my good name robs

me of that which naught enricheth him, but leaves me poor indeed." But we are poor only in the fact that he has injured or robbed us of our reputation, or good name. If we are true within, if our souls are unimpaired, if we remain steadfast to the integrity of our lives, to the Gospel, we are just as pure, and as strong, and as rich in the eyes of God, who sees the heart and judges therefrom.

My brethren and sisters, this feeling, this desire to be all that the Gospel would have us become, is what I would like to speak about this morning; that the true life within is what we should put forth efforts to protect. No matter what a man is thought of by his fellow men, as Brother Grant intimated yesterday, if he is true, God is his friend, and he is rich indeed. In the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians, the Church is compared to a person. We are dual beings; our body, the outward part—the temple, if you please; the spirit within, the true life. So, the apostle says, is the Church:

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member but many. . . . If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again, the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more, those members of the body, which seem to be

more feeble, are necessary: and those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. . . . And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

I like that comparison because it suggests the element I mentioned in the beginning: true growth. Take one's body, what does it need? When is it in good condition? I have here a selection from the work of Everett Hale, in which he mentions our physical needs; he says:

"The peril of this century is physical decay. This peril is gravely eminent with respect to all who dwell in our great cities. All the conditions of life in the modern American city favor it, wealth or the accumulation of the wherewith to gratify the desires is the great incentive of our contemporaneous life, and under its fevered stimulation, vast numbers of men and women, utterly careless of the body's needs or demands, struggle in the great conflict, and eventually go down victims of the unchangeable law of Nature which decrees that the fittest shall survive; and all these weak persons, who succumb to the inevitable before they have reached the ultimate span of life, bear or beget children who are weak in proportion as their parents were weak, and these children, not possessing strength, resisting power and vitality, succumb quicker than their forbears. There is a great natural truth, universally demonstrated, with regard to the various forms of living organisms, and that is when all the functions of the body work together harmoniously—such as the digestion, the respiration, the circulation and the excretion, there is found a normal, strong, healthy organism, capable of existing under conditions that would mean the quick dissolution of one in which there was a derangement of the natural functions."

How much more beautiful is that woman who has natural beauty

because of true growth, because of the working harmoniously together of all the organs of the body to foster and build up the demands, the needs of nature, than she who plastering the outside, tries to get beauty from without. The latter cannot be compared to that beauty which comes from true growth, and which results from the healthy condition of every organ of the body. How strong is that man, how admirable in structure, who has health throughout his body, whose organs are in good condition! The healthy man, who takes care of his physical being, has strength and vitality; his temple, if you please, is a fit place for his spirit to reside in. There are many things that attack the vitality of the body. We expose ourselves to disease; it gets into an organ that is somewhat impaired, then the ravages of disease weakens that and impairs other organs, the result being that the body succumbs to the attack. Only the other day, a brother and I were called to administer to a woman, a mother. Two weeks ago she was healthy and strong, a beautiful young woman. She exposed herself—not needlessly either—by going to a place where the water was impregnated with typhoid germs. Those germs entered her system, and attacked the organs of her body. One organ after another became impaired and deranged, and when we reached her bedside we found that she was literally poisoned by the ravages of that disease. If you had heard her husband's prayer, as he knelt by the bedside, pleading with God to abate that fever, to restore his wife to him and to the two little children, your hearts would have been touched as ours were, and your faith would have

been exercised, as ours was, that she might be restored, the ravages of the disease be counteracted, that she might again enjoy good health and strength.

Bodily ailments deprive us of the full exercise of our faculties and privileges and sometimes of life itself. It is necessary, therefore, to take care of the body. But, great as is the peril of physical decay, greater, far greater, is the peril of spiritual decay. The peril of this century is spiritual apathy. As the body requires sunlight, good food, proper exercise and rest, so the spirit of man requires the sunlight of the Holy Spirit; proper exercise of the spiritual functions; the avoiding of evils that affect spiritual health, that are more ravaging in their effects than typhoid fever, pneumonia, or other diseases that attack the body. These diseases may stop the manifestations of life in the body, but the spirit still lives. When disease of the spirit conquers, the life dies eternally. Such an extreme spiritual disease would, of necessity, be an unpardonable sin. When men get spiritually sick, they do not care much for religion. They think it not necessary for them to attend to their spiritual wants. Dissatisfied with themselves, they find fault with those who do enjoy the true life of spirituality. Why? Because they don't know what real spiritual life is. Their bodies are succumbing to the diseases that are attacking the spirit. How? Why, in many ways. Those boys who sat, one week ago, in the rear room of a saloon, playing cards for hours, drinking whisky or beer, profaning the name of God—invited into their souls a malady that is more fatal than typhoid fever, or any other disease that can attack the body.

Their spiritual life was being deranged; it is deranged. Though the mothers did not detect, when their boys came home that night, just how deeply imbedded were the germs of that spiritual disease, the germs were there, and those boys' spirits were poisoned. This condition kept them from Sabbath school the next Sunday; it keeps them from their quorum meetings during the week; it keeps them from the Mutual Improvement assembly; they have not the life, the moral strength to go to these places for spiritual sunlight, and the healthful exercise of the spirit. The man who hates his brother, and kneels down for prayer with that hate in his heart, has in his spirit a disease which will impair his spiritual life. The man who cheats his neighbor—I care not whether anybody knows it or not, he knows it (remember it is the real growth we are speaking of)—the man who takes advantage of a brother is weakening his spirituality. He cannot enjoy true growth in this Church, so long as he harbors that dishonest sentiment. Dishonesty is a spiritual disease. The man who steals' is inviting into his soul that which will prevent him from growing to the perfect stature of Christ. The man who fails in any way to live up to that which God and conscience tell him is right is weakening his spirituality—in other words, is depriving himself of the sunlight in which his spiritual nature will grow.

Let us then, as individuals, grow from within; be what President Smith suggested at the opening of this conference: be men of God, pure within, repentant; for no man, said he, can gain salvation unless he repents of his sins. No matter where we are, no matter what peo-

ple outside of this Church may think of us, no matter what the ministers of the world may say, we are what our inner life makes us, what God knows we are. If our character is true, the mud they throw upon us will at some time fall off, and we shall stand pure and undefiled. As the world shall some day know that Christ is the Son of God, so shall they know that the members of this Church, being true within, are His righteous followers.

There is another important factor in our lives that is also suggestive of the body and spirit, and that is the home. Every home has both body and spirit. You may have a beautiful house, with all the decorations that modern art can give, or wealth bestow. You may have all the outward forms that will please the eye, and yet not have a home. It is not home without love. It may be a hovel, a log hut, a tent, a wikeup, if you have the right spirit within, the true love of Christ, and love for one another—fathers and mothers for the children, children for parents, husband and wife for each other—you have the true life of the home that Latter-day Saints build, and which they are striving to establish. No matter what they may be without, are your homes pure within? Are morning prayers offered there regularly? Or do the things of this world take you away from your homes and make you deprive yourself of morning prayers with the children? "Woe to that home where the mother abandons her holy mission or neglects the divine instruction, influence and example,—while she bows a devotee at the shrine of social pleasure; or neglects the essential duties in her own household, in her

enthusiasm to promote public reform." We must consider the home; it is the spring of life, if you please, of our social conditions today. It is no wonder, when we think of some home pictures that are shown to us, that millions and billions of dollars are spent trying to-purify streams made impure by the unholy fountains of home life in the world. One author gives us a description of such a home—a home in which the parents lived lawless lives, and subsisted, like leeches, upon what they could extort from their fellow men. In this environment two young girls grew to womanhood—what were they?

"Sad creatures, without name, without sex, to whom neither good nor evil were any longer possible, and for whom, on leaving childhood there is nothing more in this world: neither liberty, nor virtue, nor responsibility. Souls blooming yesterday, faded today: like those flowers which fall in the street and are bespattered with mud before a wheel crushes them."

From such homes come the men who are trespassing upon the rights of others; come women who are degraded, and who are dragging their virtue and that of others in the mud. It is such homes from which springs much of the evil in society today. I wish the money now spent in police and detective work could be used in purifying those homes. What the world needs today is good parents. Where parents are incapable of rearing their children properly, the state should assist by means of guardians of the young who should be required to do individual work.

Latter-day Saints, how thankful I am that true "Mormon" homes are pure homes—you know they are; if they are not pure, they are

not Latter-day Saint homes, no matter what the world thinks. We know the lives of the Latter-day Saints, and we know that their influence is to produce pure boys and girls. O, my heart rejoices that we can bear testimony to the world that the homes of the Latter-day Saints are godly homes. If there are those among us who contaminate the world, or who take advantage of their neighbors, we can truly say they have not been influenced by the Latter-day Saint home, but by influences they have come in contact with outside the home. Parents, you Latter-day Saints, let us beautify our homes. It is all right to make them as attractive as possible, but O, live within, live within! If mothers feel incompetent to train their children, if they find that there are conditions outside which are counteracting their influence in the home, go to the parents' classes, and there unite with your neighbors in overcoming the social conditions that may be contaminating your children. Let us live within.

The body of the Church is composed of many members, yet all one body; and it is healthy, vigorous, strong, and influential when all the members of that body are working harmoniously together. You Deacons, think of your quorum; you are members of the body. If you injure your finger, the whole body suffers; and if a little Deacon's quorum, away off in some remote stake or ward, is inactive, to that extent the body of this Church is suffering. You who preside over Teachers' quorums, see that the body is in healthy condition. You Elders throughout the Church, and you presidents of Elders' quorums, how is the spirituality of your quorum? You have the outward

form; you have your meetings, and your courses of study; but are the members of the body all in good condition? If so, happy are you, and you are promoting the welfare of the Church. You Seventies, you are called upon now to make a special effort each Sunday morning to put that body of men in proper condition. If any members of these quorums be not in condition for service, the body will suffer to that extent. We want all the members of the Church to be in true working order. If we are true within we shall grow, and the whole Church then is strong. What matters it though the world turn against us? If we are one, if we are pure, if we are sincere, God is our stay and our inspirer. The world cannot hurt us any more than the lions hurt Daniel, in the den when God protected him. They cannot hurt us any more than the fire hurt the three Hebrew children when they were cast into the flame.

My voice is not adapted to address this audience, and I fear that it is grating on you; but there is one more truth which I wish to express before closing. I wish to bear testimony that I know that this Church is the Church of Jesus Christ. We are strong in it only to the extent that we are pure and true as individuals, as members, as leaders in organizations. I know that the men who lead this Church are men of God; I know their hearts; and you know them. You know that they have nothing but good for you, and for the whole world. I know the three men who stand at the head of this Church, who sit here today, are inspired men; God bless them. May He bless all who are striving to establish truth among mankind, is my prayer, and

I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The hymn, "Who are these arrayed in white," was sweetly rendered, as a soprano solo, by Sister Edith Grant.

### ELDER RULON S. WELLS.

My brethren and sisters: That I may be led by the Spirit of the Lord is the sincere desire of my heart at this time. I feel the great responsibility in standing before this vast congregation, and, unless my heavenly Father shall aid me, I feel that I will not be able to speak to you satisfactorily.

Reference has been made today, by one of the speakers, to the great sin of indifference. I wish to echo my belief that this sin is one of the prevailing ones in the world. I appreciate the fact that this congregation may not be charged with that evil; their presence here is evidence that they do feel some interest in the welfare of Zion, and that they are not totally indifferent to the word of the Lord. I appreciate the fact that they have come up hither to be fed the bread of life. I rejoice in the words that have been spoken. My soul has been made to feel that I have been fed the bread of life, and I believe that the Latter-day Saints assembled here today have that same sentiment in their bosoms, and they rejoice in the truths of the everlasting Gospel. They rejoice in the influence of God's Holy Spirit that has been made manifest in our midst. Nevertheless there are of our own number many who are indifferent regarding the religion which has been revealed in the day and age in

which we live. The great enemy to religion is this spirit of indifference. Men are prone to take advantage of the free agency which our heavenly Father, in His infinite wisdom, has given to every soul, and in taking this advantage they have misapplied that agency, in making a wrong use of the talents and ability with which our Father has endowed them.

There are two things which are very valuable to every human soul. There are others, but I wish to point out these two and the wrong use that is being made of them. They were given to us for an all-wise purpose, and with the bestowal of these gifts upon us, came the responsibility of making a proper use of them. The two things to which I refer are time and money. Some one has said that "time is money." We will all concede that both are regarded by the children of men as ranking among the things of greatest worth. If they are valuable to us as individuals, let us ask ourselves the question: Are they not also valuable in the bringing to pass of God's purposes among the children of men? What are we doing with our time and money? Are we devoting these great gifts of God unto our own selfish purposes, or are they being devoted to the service of God who made us? There are some who are foolish enough to think that if they devote a few hours of their time to serving the Lord that that is all He requires of them. They argue that, if they go to church upon the Sabbath day, if they attend the Mutual Improvement Association, or perform some other particular duty that devolves upon them, by reason of an appointment which they have received, they think that all the rest