

tions of duty are whirled backward by the passion of self-indulgence into the barbarism of luxurious pleasure or the anarchy of social strife?"

He concludes that it is neither brave nor wise to give these troublesome questions an answer of despair. Two are stronger than one, and if the world has grown more just and more kind, we can reasonably trust that in the long run it will improve in the matter of self-restraint, and the selfish, reckless spirit will be overcome.

This seems to me a very intelligent and comprehensive view. I thought of it while President Smith was speaking yesterday, when he declared that his motive for presenting the Word of Wisdom was the fact that it was more neglected than any other revelation which God had given to this people. Right in line, you see, with the argument of this learned man, that in the matter of self-restraint there is a laxity, even among those who are otherwise just and kind—not just, not kind to themselves, however. And in this spirit of self-indulgence, this unwillingness to curb and control the passions, there lurks a danger that threatens the disruption of society. It behooves every good man and every good woman to stand in a solid phalanx against any tendency that imperils the happiness of the human race and nullifies in any degree, the good that is being done in the interests of temperance, virtue and philanthropy.

One more thought and I will conclude. I wish to recur to a question propounded by Dr. Van Dyke in the fore part of his interesting essay: "Who can measure, in the abstract, the comparative strength of the good and evil forces? Who can

tell, beforehand, which way the tug of war must go?"

I can, and you can; every soul illumined by the Holy Ghost can tell what will be the inevitable outcome. If God and Satan are pulling against each other, what will happen must be plain to every reverent, thoughtful mind. The issue is not in doubt. God will not be mocked; Omnipotence will not be defeated. While He allows the agency of man and the agency of Satan their full play, never at any time has He given to man or to Satan the power to destroy His work or prevent the fulfillment of His predestined purpose. Strength will prevail over weakness. Truth will triumph over error. No matter what trials and persecutions the cause of Christ may have to undergo before its victory is assured, the final outcome will be glorious. Christ will complete His work; the righteous will be saved; the wicked, damned; and the world will attain perfection.

"Truth forever on the scaffold;
Wrong forever on the throne;
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own."

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

Gratifying evidences of faith of the Saints.—Blessings invoked on those devoted to God's work.

We feel to give to God praise and gratitude from our hearts for the manifest interest shown by you, the Latter-day Saints, the people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in this semi-annual

conference. During the inclement weather of yesterday this building was filled to overflowing, and overflow meetings were held in the Assembly Hall and in the Barratt Hall, and the Spirit of the Lord was enjoyed richly by all who heard. We thank you and the Lord will bless you, my brethren and sisters, for your devotion to His cause, for your love for His truth, for your union and fellowship toward those who are called to labor in your midst and to preside over you in the various organizations of the Church. I feel in my heart to say not only God bless you, but as I may exercise my own right as a witness of the Lord Jesus and as an apostle of Jesus Christ, I bless you with all my soul, because you love the truth, and you manifest it. There is nothing in God's world that draws men and women so near to my heart as that they love the truth and that they love God, that they love the cause of Zion and are devoted to the interests of the Church. This endears men and women to my heart; I love them when they love this work and

when they show their interest in it. It lifts my soul to heaven and fills it with joy unspeakable.

God bless you in your bodies, in your minds, in your labors, in your homes, in all your positions and, above all things, pour out upon you His Spirit that you may rejoice more and more abundantly in God's glorious work that He is inaugurating in the world in the latter day. Peace be to you and all that pertains to you and to the kingdom of God, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning!
 The latter-day glory begins to come
 forth;
 The visions and blessings of old are re-
 turning,
 And angels are coming to visit the
 earth.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Seymour B. Young.

Conference adjourned until 10 a. m., Tuesday, Oct. 6th.