

greater degree than to live the law of chastity which is prescribed by our Church as by no other organization on the earth.

All of these things tend to develop the spirit and the soul of man. The Prophet Joseph Smith has told us that the soul consists not only of the spirit of man but of the spirit and body inseparably connected. Then, in the development of the soul, we have next, after the spiritual development, that of the body. I believe what the scripture says that the body is the temple of the spirit, the temple of God, and that his spirit will not dwell in an unclean body. Our purpose, then, as well as to develop the other phase, is to develop our bodies, to attempt perfection in them, so that the spirit which God grants the privilege of dwelling in this body of clay shall, in its development, be unhampered by physical imperfections.

If we can do these things, we shall not have it said of us that there are more uncultivated souls than land where we abide and we, the priesthood presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have this as our great purpose and our great field of activity: to develop the souls of the people and the soul of the Church. This is a complex problem but it is wholly within our power, if we can only gain the assistance that comes from the companionship of the Spirit of God. If we are humble—and humility is one of the highest virtues that we should cultivate in this spiritual development—if we are only humble, and if we apply the spirit of prayer as Brother Romney has just said, we can gain that power that comes from the Spirit of God.

That Spirit will give us the interest which will impel us to greater activity than we have ever undertaken before.

That, brethren, is my prayer today, that we the servants of God and the servants of his people, for he has told us that inasmuch as we serve the least among us we are serving him; that we can get his Spirit to give us a true vision of our responsibility and the power to meet it fully and completely. All of us should examine ourselves and our problem, and then make a high resolve before our Heavenly Father that we will, to the best of our ability magnify our calling. If we can but do that, there is no question about the power of the priesthood of God. That he may grant it to us, I pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BISHOP LEGRAND RICHARDS

Presiding Bishop of the Church

Brethren, in your presence, and with the utmost humility and sincerity, I desire to express to my Heavenly Father my deep gratitude for membership in this great Church, and for your fellowship and the fellowship of the Saints, and the blessings that I am privileged to enjoy as a member of his Church.

We called a deacon to talk in one of our stake conferences recently, extemporaneously, and he expressed his gratitude to the

Lord for his blessings, and among them he said, "I thank the Lord for the privilege of being reared in a Mormon home." I have thought of that a good many times since, and I think of all my blessings I could be most grateful for the privilege of having been reared in a Mormon home.

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR BLESSINGS

Then I thank the Lord for the influence of the gospel which has assisted my wife and me in rearing our children. I realize the condition the world is in today; they need the influence of the gospel of Jesus Christ more than anything else to enable them to keep their moorings and to be faithful and true to the high standards of this Church.

In traveling from stake to stake, attending stake conferences, in almost every chapel we enter there hangs on the wall a memorial flag or banner, with stars representing each boy and girl in the armed forces. In many cases they total approximately ten percent of the ward or the stake population. I never look at a flag like that but what I realize that every star represents a boy or a girl. I think of those boys, and my own two sons, of where they go and what they do. I am most grateful to the Lord for my present assignment to labor with the youth of Zion. Of all the responsibilities that are mine, I regard this as the most precious and the most important.

THE TEMPTATIONS MET BY OUR BOYS IN THE ARMY

I think of these boys by day and by night, not only the ones who are on the firing line and are in precarious conditions and circumstances, but also those who have to meet the temptations of the world by which they are surrounded under their present conditions. I wonder if we at home have done all we should for them, that as they live we will be proud to know that they stand for us individually, for our homes, for this great Church. Are we willing that the world should judge us individually and as a people by their lives and the things they do?

Then I think of the temptations that they are subjected to. I am sure we were all impressed yesterday with what President Grant said about President Merrill seeing President Grant's brother wearing a halo, as it were, about him, it being the influence of his father. I pray that wherever our boys go our influence may go with them, and may be as a light to their path, to guide and direct and to give them power and strength to resist evil with which they are surrounded at the present time.

I desire to read a few words from a letter I received from a captain from one of our bases. "After wading through the muck and mire and vice, immorality and corruption, it takes courage of a high caliber to keep yourself immune from partaking of the

same." And then he tells of attending an officer's party when he was the only one of all present, men and women, who was not under the influence of liquor. Then I wonder if my boy were there if the influence of the home and of the gospel would be such that he could stand out alone against that entire group of officers, even though they taunted him, as they did, as the captain explains in his letter.

Now, I want to read a few words from my own missionary son who recently entered the service. He says:

My companion and I are plenty disgusted with the boys here. Their language is positively evil, foul and vile. If the Lord preserves their lives, they will be mighty fortunate. Day and night filthy talk.

Things would not be bad at all if we had a company of returned missionaries.

Thank God that our boys are able to discern the difference between the ways of the world and the way they have been taught in this Church.

A returned missionary came into my office not long ago. I knew his parents well. He was serving at one of the bases here in Salt Lake, and I said: "What kind of boys are you associated with?"

"Oh," he said, "they are swell fellows. They would do anything in the world for you. But," he said, "they profane the name of God all day long, and when you tell them they are doing it, they don't believe you. They have just been used to it, it is their natural language, it is the way they talk."

He said: "Do you want me to tell you the rest of the story?"

I said, "Well, yes."

"Well," he said, "they don't think any more of being immoral, going out for a woman, than they would to go and buy a beefsteak if they were hungry."

You wonder that the world could fall to such a condition as that.

I attended a stake conference in San Diego. Brother Hugh B. Brown was there, and we had some sixty-odd of our boys of the armed forces present. They sang for us; some of them talked, and after the conference one of the boys came up to me and said: "Bishop, you'll never know what a day like this means to us." He said, "The world is so wicked—you think men are wicked, but I want to tell you that they are not in it as compared with the women."

I could not understand that, because I had been reared in Zion and know of the teachings of the gospel and the high standards of our women. And this condition seems to be largely conceded by leaders in the world. When I was in Atlanta as president of the Southern States Mission, one of our most prominent

ministers of Atlanta, in talking before a Bible society in Virginia, made this statement about conditions in the world. He said:

Society thinks it is cute for debutantes to be carried home Monday morning gloriously drunk. History shows that all conditions which preceded the downfall of every empire of the past face us today. It remained for the twentieth century to lift woman down from her throne, teach her to drink as we drink, smoke as we smoke, and blaspheme as we blaspheme.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF MANKIND

Roger Babson indicates that there are four requisites to restore the world to peace, one being a return to righteousness and Christianity in action, and then he adds: "There, however, may be a great difference between righteousness and theology, between theoretical Christianity and Christianity in action."

Booth Tarkington, in giving an explanation for the condition the world is in today, said: "Lop-sided progress did it—scientific material advance achieved by nations undeveloped in spirit."

Will Durant, who was here not long ago, made this statement: "We will be poor and virtuous again."

I thought much about that, and I thought that if poverty were the only price of virtue, God grant that poverty might come, for virtue must return to the earth if we would be able to stand when He makes His appearance.

Returning from Oregon a few weeks ago from attending a conference, I sat in the men's rest room while the porter was making up the berths, and there were an army officer and one or two others present, and a doctor who was in the armed forces just returning on furlough from New Guinea and the Islands of the Pacific. Someone started the subject of Salt Lake, and then I admit to you brethren that I never listened to a man use more vile language than that doctor did when he spoke of Brigham Young and the Mormons. I shall never repeat it as long as I live, to man or woman.

Then I spoke up and said, "Doctor, I would just like to tell you that I am from Salt Lake City, and I am a member of the Mormon Church, and I have traveled all over the United States and in Europe, and in Mexico and Canada, and the islands of the sea, and if there is a people on this earth as morally clean as the Mormon people it has never been my privilege to meet them." I referred him to an article that appeared not long ago in *Life* magazine from the surgeon general's office of the United States, in which the statement was made that the greatest deterrent to the success of the armed forces in the United States and the war industry was venereal disease. The article indicated that eighty-five per cent of all the men in the armed forces, including married men, were living immoral during the term of their service.

He turned to the officer sitting there and said: "That doesn't begin to cover it, does it? Why, it is ninety-nine and nine-tenths percent."

Then I told him of a letter I had in my possession from the superintendent of the L. D. S. Hospital in Salt Lake, in which the superintendent indicates that they had given the Wasserman test to over 7,000 boys who passed through the missionary home here in Salt Lake, and out of those 7,000 tests, only four of them showed any trace of impure blood, and I said: "Doctor, if you can duplicate that anywhere in the world, I'd like to know where."

EXAMPLE OF A MORMON GIRL

Then he added: "Well, over in New Guinea, even the doctors and the nurses 'let their hair down.'" That was his own expression. He said: "They figure they may never come back, and they are getting all they can while they are there. But," he said, "there was one nurse from Salt Lake, a Mormon girl, who said, 'I left my home clean, and I am going to return as I left.'"

I said to myself: "God bless her." And I know that if her parents knew they would say the same thing. I cannot help but feel if there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that has come to repentance, surely there must be great rejoicing in heaven when a Mormon girl or boy has the courage to stand out against the entire group and keep himself sweet and clean.

GOOD AND EVIL INFLUENCES EVER PRESENT

I thought of the words of Joseph when sold into Egypt, tempted by Potiphar's wife—you know how she laid a trap for him—and then Joseph said: "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" He refused all her entreaties and efforts to seduce him, even though he realized that he might incur the displeasure—which he did—of those who ruled over him, and he was cast into prison.

I saw a picture in Brussels, when I was laboring as a missionary in Europe, depicting a man as he stood with a revolver and shot off his head. As he did that thing, there stood on either side an angel, one an angel of light, the other an angel of darkness. As he pulled the trigger that severed his head from his body, the angel of darkness turned with a laugh of triumph, and the angel of light turned and wept.

Brethren, wherever your boys and girls go those influences will go with them. If there is anything you can do at home to strengthen them to meet the temptations that come before them, please do not leave undone what can be done. I say this to you fathers, and you officers in this Church. I cannot help but think of the words of Jesus when he said, "Fear not them which kill the

body, but are not able to kill the soul, but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

And think of the words of the Presidency of this great Church to all the youth of the land, "Better dead clean, than alive unclean."

God help us to help them, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Vocal solo, "The Lord Is My Light" (Allitson) was sung by Albert Eccles.

ELDER SAMUEL O. BENNION
Of the First Council of the Seventy

At the beginning of my remarks I acknowledge the hand of the Lord in permitting me to be here today. I pray the Lord that I may be sustained.

It was forty years ago now, at this particular time of the year that I was preparing to go on my mission. I called on President Joseph F. Smith, according to appointment, and told him I was ready to go. He said to me, "Brother Bennion, you stay here and help elect Theodore Roosevelt, and then go." And I did.

I am delighted to be here and to see this great congregation. I enjoy the companionship of my brethren; I would not want to live in mortality without it.

A TESTIMONY OF THE TRUTH HELPS UNDER DIFFICULTIES

Seventy-seven years ago my progenitors came down Emigration Canyon into this valley, and they found here a desert—nothing that was inviting enough for them to want to stay. They came from the green fields of England, into this desolate place; almost all they had in the world was in a wagon box. And many others were in the same condition. But there was one thing in their hearts, one thing that brought them from the shores of England: they had a testimony of Jesus. They knew that the Redeemer lives; they knew that this is the work of God, and they believed the prophet of God when he said, "This is the place," and, "Here we will build a temple unto our God; here will be our home; this is where we are going to reside."

The Indians could scarcely live. My parents knew them, and these Indians were living on the rodents of the earth, and anything they could get. The same soil that is here now was here then, but it was barren.

But the Lord had said through His prophet, Isaiah, centuries before:

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: . . . they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. (Isaiah 35:1 and 2.)