

O God, I did not come out to this war
 From a park bench or a rented room,
 I came from *home*.
 And I brought with me family words:
 Garden, crib, fireplace, front door,
 Wife, Little fellow.
 Now they are all mixed up with war jargon:
 Jeep, tank, foxhole, tommygun, blitz.
 Help me, God, to keep my thinking straight.
 Grant the impossible. Make home, our home,
 Seem real—in battle.
 Show me how to sort out my thoughts
 And use the words about home,
 Even when I'm sitting in a swamp,
 Hours at a time, not daring to move
 More than my eyes. *They'll* keep me sane.
 I'll be a better human. And just now
 When fighting is my job,
 I want to stay human.
 It didn't take a war to show me how I love
 My home. But it has taken a war to show me
 How it will feel to walk out of Hell
 Straight to a paradise that men call home.
 O God, let ours rest under the shadow of your hand!
 Amen.

God grant that in our homes and in our communities provision may be made for these returning thousands of our boys, that they may uphold here at home as they have out there in the main the standards of the Church. I bear witness to its truth, to the divinity of this work. I bear witness to the fact that these men who are our leaders are inspired of God, I pray that under their direction we may be able to carry out this splendid program for the rehabilitation of our service men, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The congregation sang the hymn, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," L.D.S. Hymns No. 290, Hymn Book No. 145.

ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH

Patriarch to the Church

This is great company. I wish to thank my Father in heaven for the incomparable privilege of being a little part of it.

As I have listened to this conference, beginning with the message of the Lord's prophet, and have felt the cumulative power of the succeeding testimonies and admonitions, I have been increasingly aware that if I am to make any contribution at all it must be with the help of my Father in heaven, for which I pray, and I ask you to join me in that prayer.

A FERVENT TESTIMONY

I wish to record before this present congregation and before the unseen audience my emphatic witness, without hint of reservation, that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, is the anointed One of Israel, the very Redeemer of the world, that he rose from the tomb in a literal resurrection which, by the Christian world, is not believed, in spite of its flaunted celebration of Easter. I wish further to record that because of the wickedness of men the gospel was taken from the earth and that in this dispensation was restored, and that the priesthood of Almighty God was restored with Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery as instruments, that Joseph Smith is a Prophet of the Living God and that every one of his successors is also a prophet.

A SERMON FOR A SOLDIER KILLED IN BATTLE

Not long ago, some weeks ago, I received a letter from a Canadian boy in England. He said in part:

Will you promise to do something for me when and if you manage to get to Edmonton this summer? Will you go to my home and see my mother and talk about me a little? She likes me a lot, and she likes to talk about me to someone else. Since you may be in Edmonton, and especially if something has happened to me by that time, you could gratify this little trait of hers. With love, Roy.

And just a month ago there came to my desk in the tortured handwriting of a grief-stricken mother this letter:

Mr. Smith, Roy has gone. Please will you say a sermon for him?

Roy was not a member of the Church. He was a boy of great talent, a boy of great promise, and he is gone as thousands of others are going, killed in battle.

What sermon shall we say for Roy, together with the thousands of our own boys and the tens of thousands of others who are his companions in death? Shall we extol his virtues and praise his talents or shall we berate our enemies and castigate the war lords? Neither panegyric nor denunciation will give to the world the pictures Roy might have painted, nor the sons he might have reared. What shall we say? Shall we not plead for conduct which will remedy the evil? What one of us, having selected a reputable physician and called him in to diagnose and administer to our ills but will follow his instruction? I marvel at the faith men put in doctors. We will literally lap up any nostrum which a physician in whom we have faith prescribes, without asking what it contains or what it may do. Oh, that people had a fraction of the faith in the words of the prophets that they have in their physicians! We seek to avoid medical quacks. How much more important that we avoid spiritual quacks. We need in these days of a sick world the treatment prescribed by the Great Physician. We have his diagnosis, and we have it constantly reiterated by the Lord's prophets.

APPEAL OF FIRST PRESIDENCY

Five and one-half years ago the First Presidency of the Church said this:

We affirm that all international controversies may be settled by specific means if nations will but deal unselfishly and righteously with one another. We appeal to the leaders of all nations and to the people themselves that they mend and adjust their differences lest the vials of God's wrath be poured out upon the earth, for he has said he will visit his wrath upon the wicked without measure. We further declare that God is grieved by war and that he will hold subject to the eternal punishment of his will those who wage it unrighteously.

We are but beginning to see how prophetic that utterance was. Brethren and sisters, we have faith in the physician because experience has taught us that very frequently his prescriptions are helpful. We have learned to leave things alone, sometimes, when we find they are doing us unquestionable hurt. When are we going to learn the lessons of history? The scriptures are replete with the experiences of people who have rejected the prophets. In this conference reference has been made to many of them, and there will be those foolish persons who will say, "Well, that's Bible stuff. I don't quite believe the Bible." If men can't believe the Bible, will they study their secular history and find the reasons for the dissolution and destruction of the great civilizations of the world—Tyre and Sidon, Babylon, Nineveh, Egypt and Greece, Carthage and Rome—yes, and today the great part of modern Europe? And can the United States of America be far behind? I say unto you, "Nay, unless the United States of America give heed to the prescription of the Great Physician."

FAILURE TO HEED THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS

Reference has been made to the forthcoming conference in San Francisco. It is becoming increasingly the cynosure, with all eyes turning toward it, with great hope. Will it fail? It will fail unless it is based upon the precepts of the Gospel of Christ, and I have seen only two pronouncements by men in high places who have had the courage to declare this fact.

A few years ago I had the great privilege of driving President Grant from Madison, Wisconsin, to a speaking appointment, and as we drove he said, and I have rarely seen President Grant in sadder mood: "I wish the Latter-day Saint people would be obedient." That called to mind a remark that President Joseph F. Smith made before some members of his family. He said, "I wish I could tell this people some of the things I know," and one of his sons said, "Papa, why don't you?" He replied, "I have tried and I can't, for the people are not ready to hear it." That calls further to mind those tragic words of the Prophet Joseph Smith, betrayed by some of his

own, "If my life is of no use to my friends, it is of no use to me," and those other great words of the Master himself:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, ye shall not see me henceforth till ye shall say, . . . Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. (Matt. 23:37-39.)

Brethren and sisters, Latter-day Saints, listen to the counsel of the Lord. What matter if we be but few? If every man at this conference, if every Latter-day Saint listening to this conference, would go out and see to it that he made of himself a center from which went out the testimony of the truth, we could accomplish miracles. Let no Latter-day Saint, who has raised his hand to sustain the prophets of the Lord, permit himself ever to depart from that instruction. Let him challenge any faultfinding and let him champion the truth.

Brethren and sisters, any Latter-day Saint having covenanted as a Latter-day Saint to keep the commandments of the Lord and then who refuses to follow the counsel of the Lord's prophets is bringing bricks and mortar for the erection of those altars of unrighteousness upon which other millions of Roys will be sacrificed. Let us remember it.

God give us courage, give us vision and above all give us faith, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER LE GRAND RICHARDS

Presiding Bishop of the Church

Brethren, it is good to be here to share with you the inspiration and teachings of this conference. We have heard enough already, that if we can just remember half of what we have heard and take it back to our stakes and wards, they will be enriched because of these conference sessions.

PREPARATION FOR THE RETURN OF THE SOLDIERS

A great deal has been said during the conference, and at the present time much is said and written, about postwar conditions and our responsibilities. In my work in the Church with the young people, particularly the boys of the Aaronic Priesthood, I feel that there are some things to which we can well give thought along this line, for the Church will have to remember that our boys will be coming home, anticipating a great deal from us. We have had many letters from boys who are in the service, in answer to some of the articles that have been written and published in the Church Section of *The*