

by-W. D. C. Pattyson.

An Address

TO LATTER DAY SAINTS

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

Dear Saints in Conference Assembled:

Our Nephite Brethren speak to us from the dust of the buried past—I would speak to you from the dust of twenty-five years of humiliation.

Misjudge me not now, I adjure you; for, as the welfare of the Church and its usefulness to man depend largely upon your willingness to be upon the side of Him who was and still is “despised and rejected of men,” even so at this moment, it is being weighed by your disposition towards “the servant” whom He has allotted to organize Zion.—D. & C., Sec. 100-4-5-6.

I am not complaining of this humiliation; for it is humiliation in the view of worldly men only. Do worldly men know the Laws of God? Do they know His worship? Only they who do His will may know of His doctrine. How, then, can worldly men judge rightly what comes under the constitutional right of Divine worship? Show me a man who condemns my course of action, and I will show you a man who is neither obeying the Law of Consecration, nor teaching it as it reads. If he takes from or adds to it one whit that the plain sense does not provide, he is a trespasser and blind guide. Suppose such a one held an office, would you be justified in taking his interpretation of the law as your rule of action? No; you, too, would go into the ditch. We are not in Utah, that we may not suppose such a case for the sake of considering a principle.

Some complaint that I have in this matter, I have laid before the three leading quorums of the church in joint council, as directed in Sec. 126-10, but the Lord is the ultimate judge, and therefore you, too, are interested in having the right prevail.

I am speaking to you of things of which *I know*. I have paid for this knowledge—my interest in business, the esteem and regard of relatives and neighbors, desire for family and home, ease and liberty, and even the approbation of many of my brothers and sisters in the Church, but I have maintained my self-respect and my freedom of approach to God and His Christ.

Do I appear to boast? Condemn me not—I would prove to you that I can serve you, that I seek the good of the Church and have not been given to self-seeking.

This is no man's Church. Jesus Christ called it into life and preserves it. The Lord is committed before the world to make this Church a success upon its original and only plan. But seventy years, although they have added to it wealth, have weakened it in faith, speaking of the Church as a whole and not of individual members. There is where I can help you. In faith in this *work*—this *latter-day work*. I have faith, too, in the officers and members, but they require to realize more fully the value, the great need of the work, the great danger that at this moment menaces the hope of man.

Will reproof hurt if, through patience, it strengthens you in the Laws of the Lord?

I have said that I know whereof I speak. I have consulted Brother Joseph and, although he said that he was not then prepared to endorse me, he also said that he had not decided in his mind against my claim or position, but that his mind was open to proof. That is all I could ask.

Now, that consistently means that opportunity will be given to present proof. I have since presented some practical action, but like everything directed of God, it is beyond the natural mind. I claim and beseech the right and permission to explain.

Empower some representative men whom you believe to have the welfare of Zion next to their heart to examine me.

This is no light matter. If you cannot feel it a sacred duty to give me close investigation, that you may be sure that you are not opposing Christ and His work in this matter, you are not the Latter Day Saints that I believe you to be.

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