REMARKS

by Pres. Brigham Young G. S. L. City  Oct 7, 1864.

                                                          Reported by G. D. Watt.

The brethren who have spoken have been disposed to speak conserning the testimony they have within themselves of the truth of this work.  It made me think of a<n item> circumstance in the history of Joseph Smith in which I was an actor, relating to a few men in Nauvoo who sought to make it appear that the printed word was all in all, and immensly superior to the living testimony of the Holy Ghost in the beleiver, and the power of the living preisthood.   I attended one of their meetings, which was held in Joseph's house, arose to speak, and took for my text, "Ye saints of latterdays, I would not give you the ashes of a rye straw for every word that is contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Docterine and Covenants so far as their efficasy is concerned to save any man, independant of the living preisthood of the son of God, and the testimony of the Holy Ghost in the heart of the beleiver".

I have never particularly desired any man to testify publicly that I am a prophet; nevertheless, if any man feels joy in doing this, <t>he<y> shall be blessed in it.  I have never said that I am not a prophet; but <I have said> if I am not,<a prophet of the Lord to this people>, one thing is certain, I have been very profitable to this people   In the providence of God he has placed <Joseph placed me to take> to take charge of the flock,  and  they have been abundantly blessed under my administration.  I did not desire to be their shepard; but the Great shepard of all the sheep placed me in this position, and there is no man on earth can truthfully say ought against the dealings of the leaders of this people with the latterdaySaints.  We have blessed them with the blessings of life and salvation -- the blessings of this life, and of that life which is to come, for the kingdom and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens must, sooner or later, pass into the hands of <the saints> God's people. We are <preparing> trying to prepare the minds of the Saints for  the reception of this great power, that they may prove themselves competant and worthy to hold it.  There is not a faithful Elder who does not daily pray earnestly for the redemption of the Centre Stake of Zion; but how seldom we inquire of ourselves if we are prepared to enter upon that work.  The Lord is very merciful to us, and more willing to <give> bestow his bounties upon us than we are to receive them, or prepared to appreciate them; for if we were now prepared to receive the fullhess of His kingdom we would be far advanced in the knowledge of God to what we are <the reign of power would immediately be given into our hands>. I have often remarked that in spiritual things we are one; and we have also got to become one in temporal things as mueh as we are one in spiritual things.  Br. Kimball has told you that the Lord does not mean that we shall be one in property, in the heighth of our persons, couler of our hair and eyes, in the size and expression of our features, or in the acuteness and vigor of our senses.  Being thus fisically one would not make us one as the Lord wishes us to be one.  He wishes us to be one in our efforts to advance his kingdom.  He wishes every man, every woman, and every child that has attained to years of discretion to  putting forth their hands, their means and their influence to bring about this desired object.  <in this sense he wishes us to be one> I could give you, Thus saith the Lord; but the faith we have embraced is so reasonable, rational and consistant, and so easily proved, that I am not under the necessity of saying, Thus saith the Lord.  If I wanted you to beleive a mass of folly and nonsense, such as others wish you to beleive, then would it be necessary to say, Thus saith the Lord, to operate upon the fears of the more ignorant and superstitious of mankind.  The truth     always stands upon its own foundation, and speaks for itself; for, at this time every Elder & Saint should so live that the Spirit of the Lord will witness unto them the truth of my words, and the words of the Apostles, without <them> me being under            the necessity of saying,  Thus  saith the Lord  to enforce it.  I now say  to the           brethren & sisters, Be ye blessed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.  Amen.