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Conference, am  (BY, PPP, HCK)  
      Elder Brigham Young stated the object of the meeting.  The first item of business is the spread of the Gospel of salvation.  I want to state what devolves upon the Twelve.  Nine years ago a revelation was given which was fulfilled in 1835; and when fulfilled, the Prophet lifted up his head and rejoiced before the Lord.  Previously, the responsibility of spreading the Gospel rested on him; now it is on the Twelve.  This is the relation we hold between the living and the dead---to direct how you may escape.

      Last winter we were directed to send men to the nations of the earth. Elder Addison Pratt had been to the Sandwich Islands, and proffered his services.  We have power to ordain them, and call upon the Church to assist in sending them.  Here are four men willing to go, and we do not wish them to cease trying, unless it be to die trying. One of them is ill. If he stays, he will die.  I would go, or die trying.

      We call on the churches to fit out these men with necessaries. Elder Eli P. Maginn and Elder Philip B. Lewis we call on to fit them out. If Elder Lewis does not, Maginn will do it himself.  This takes the responsibility from us.

      If the Saints will not help, the curse of God will rest upon them. If the Temple at Nauvoo is not built, we will receive our endowments, if we have to go into the wilderness and build an altar of stone.  If a man gives his all, it is all God requires.  Brother Kimball has received one dollar since he came to Boston, and seventeen dollars and a half before, towards building the Temple. A book is kept of all sums given.  This book will also be opened.  All is recorded.  I have received twenty-three dollars, and I have spent about forty-five or fifty dollars.  I am rich, and expect to be so throughout all eternity, with the help of God and my brethren.  I can get home, if I can sell land.  Some of the Twelve are more destitute; but they are the best set of boys you ever saw.

      During the persecution in Missouri, when the mob came against Far West, Elder Kimball stood near me in one of the companies; and every time they formed, he rammed down another ball into his old musket, until he got five balls in.  We are a good-feeling set of men, because of the Spirit which is in us.  What produces it?  The impulse of the heart.  We should feel the same on the desert of Arabia, or on the islands of the sea; we feel happy wherever we are.  When we ask for victuals, and get turned away, as we often have been, we feel just as well.

      The Spirit which is in me prompts me to look forward to something better. We have a prospect of selling shares of the Nauvoo House, and of obtaining subscriptions for the Temple, and we feel better.

      Here are twelve men, and I defy all creation to bring a charge of dis­honesty against them.  We had to give security for the faithful performance of our duty as agents for the Nauvoo House and Temple. This has been heretofore unheard of in the Church.  I glory in it.  The financial affairs of the Church rest on our shoulders, and God is going to whip us into it. When men are in future called to do like Brigham, I will be one to bind them: this is a precedent.  We are the only legally authorized agents of the Church to manage affairs, give counsel to emigrants how to dispose of goods, &c.

      Some men come into this Church through designing purposes. Mr. Cowen, who lives about 30 miles above Nauvoo, wanted Brother Joseph to make a settlement at Shoquokon.  Several of the brethren went there and preached, and some families moved up with the intention of settling. Mr. Cowen was all love---a charming fellow, and calculated to magnetize. He is now in the Eastern country, and going amongst the brethren. He gives one a kiss, and says he, "I am not a Mormon, but expect to be: Brother Joseph and myself are confidential friends.  Can't you lend me five hundred dollars?  I have got land, and I will give you a mortgage." At the same time, he knew quite well that his land was in a perfect swamp, and that the place was not fit for a settlement.  Even the captains of steamers could with difficulty be persuaded upon to call there, either on account of goods or passengers. His name is John F. Cowen, and he stands five feet six inches high. There are others.

      I would ask the Latter-day Saints, Do you know your benefactors? Do you know the source from whence you derive your knowledge? Take in the publications and periodicals of the Church. They give you intelligence of all matters pertaining to this dispensation with revelations for the guidance of the Church.

      I know that men who go through the world with the truth have not much influence; but let them come with silk velvet lips and sophistry, and they will have an influence.  It is your privilege to be discerners of spirits. If you don't know me or the Twelve, walk with us fifty years, and perhaps you will know us then; and if such a man as Cowen comes along, will you trust him or me?  No power can hide the heart from the discerning eye. If we are ignorant, what knowledge have the rest of the people?  I sit down with all my ignorance, and read people's hearts as I see their faces, and they can't help themselves.

      No one has ever stepped aside but I have known it.  I know the result of their actions, and they cannot help themselves.  If you find out my heart, you are welcome to it.  If any of the Twelve take a wrong path, or a course by themselves, I know the path, and know the end of it.  They are soon in the ditch, crying for help.  I sit down and let others run.  I strike with a crooked stick to hit the whole.

      Now, the Twelve must be helped home, and there must be something for the Temple and the Nauvoo House.  We have got a plot of the city of Nauvoo for lithographing.  If any wish to advance the money to lithograph, and have a few thousand struck off, they shall be paid till they are satisfied. There was not wealth enough in New York and the regions round about.  [He here exhibited the map of Nauvoo.] He concluded with a few remarks relative to the circumstances of Elder Hyde, who had just returned from his mission to Jerusalem.