along. The very fact that the father of the ward inquires of the child to know if all is well with him, and to ask if he is obedient to his parents, will lead that child to be obedient to his parents and to do the things that he ought to do, as he has been taught to do by his parents, by his ward teachers, and by the teachers of the various organizations. I say if all this various organizations I say if all this

various organizations. I say, if all this influence is brought to bear to guard that little child from the day that it

leaves the mother's arms or the parental roof, to go out and associate with

other people, and hence come under other influences, it does seem to me that we need not lose one of these little

been some neglect somewhere along the line, or that child would not have

the line, or that child would not have gone astray. My brethren and slatters, if there is anything more precious to the Latter-day Saints than these little children, these jewels which God has given us. I don't know what it is, and if there is any mission given to us as Latter-day Saints of greater importance than the bringing up of these little children, our neighbor's as well as our own, I don't know what it is. And surely there are no children more precious of all our Father's children than those born of Latter-day Saint parentage—children born under the covenant, heirs of blessings, and we ought to do our duty by them as well as by those who come among us, for

as by those who come among us, for our duty is to preach the gospel to

those who come among us just as much so as to carry it into the nations of the earth. It is all one great cause in

which we are engaged, and every manad every woman should feel the re-

DUTY TOWARD CHILDREN.

A Discourse Delivered by ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS.

Before the Pioneer Stake Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, October 27, 1907.

(Reported by F. W. Otterstrom.)

attending the first session of this conference, held in the Pioneer stake hell, In that meeting we heard reports from the president of the stales, and from a number of the heads of the various auxiliary departments of the state, and these reports were indeed flattering. and very gratifying to all those who are interested in the uphulding of the

kingdom of God.

However, there were some features reported which give evidence that there However, there were reparted which give evidence that there is still room for Improvement. Reference was made to the action of the judge of the juvenile court of this city appointing certain officers, designated by the Religion classes of the Pioneer stake, as probation officers, with authority and the responsibility of bringing to the attention of the parents the fact that there is a current ordinance, in the enforcement of that ordinance.

I feel this afternoon that if I could I would like to ald this good cause in some way. I have in mind now some of the rumors that have been in circulation, and which have been emitted from

of the rumors that have been in circula-tion, and which have been emitted from the press in regard to conditions preva-lent in this city. These conditions are indeed deplorable, if true. There is no doub' some truth in the reports which we have heard of hoys and girls run-ning at large supon the streets in the evening, and in the night-time, and of some discoveries of immoral conduct on the part of some of our boys and on the part of some of our boys and girls. This brings to my mind the subject upon which Elder McKenzle has ust been discoursing—the subject of

PROPER HOME ENVIRONMENT.

It is of the utmost importance that make the environment about our les such as will produce the desired we make the environment associated homes such as will produce the desired result upon the minds of our children. Take, for example, the little babe newly born. The mother takes that child in her arms, and looks into his face. If it is a male child she may wonder what is the future destiny of that child. She knows well that it that child there are the possibilities of his becoming a noble, God-fearing, faithful man, as good as there is upon this, our Father's footstool. She also knows that in that infant child are the possibilities of his becoming as ville, and corrupt, and wicked, and irreligious as the most corrupt and wicked that this world affords. Here are these two pictures confronting her, and the father with her, for they are one, one in interest as to fronting her, and the father with her, for they are one, one in interest as to the welfare of that child. What is going to make the child the noble man those parents would like him to be, or the reverse, a very demon incarnate? Or what is it that will place him somewhere along one or the other of these two roads, ending in one condition or the other, as I have stated? Environment is the answer—and education, if it so be that we cannot include education under the title of environment. These are the things which are to make that child what he is to be when he is a maunder the title of environment. These are the things which are to make that ehild what he is to be when he is a matured man. Who has the providing of the environment for that child, and the education that he needs? None so much as have the parents of that child. But there are, it is true, other things brought to bear upon the mind of the child for which the parents are not always fosponsible, but the parents have the first charge. The parents have that child under their immediate care until he is old enough to leave their roof, associate with other people, and come under other influences. The greatest responsibility, therefore, rests upon the sibility, therefore, rests upon the TRAIN UP A CHILD.

I have in mind now some instructions given by Lehi, who left Jerusalem some 800 years before the birth of our savior, and who with his family, under the direction of the Lord, traveled in the wilderness, and finally built ships d came to this American contin which was a land of promise unto them. Of Lehi's sons the older ones, them. Of Lehr's sons the older ones, Laman and Lemuel, were most disobedient, and were wilfully wicked. I will not pretend here to account for their condition, but I wish to read to you a few instructions, which Leht gave unto the children of Laman, his oldest and disobedient son, which are found in Second Nephi, fourth chapter, I will read beginning with the third verse:

"Wherefore, after my father had made an end of speaking concerning the prophectes of Joseph, he called the children of Lamen, his sons, and his daughters, and said unto them: Behold my sons, and my daughters, who are the sons and the daughters of my first born. I would that ye should give ear unto my words; for the Lord God hath said, that inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall be cut off from my presence. But behold, my sons and my daughters, I cannot go down to my grave, save I should leave a blessing upon you; for behold, I know that if ye are brought up in the way ye should go, ye will not depart from it."

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS. Wherefore, after my father had

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS.

That is the point I wish to emphasize: These children, the sons and daughters of Laman, were instructed of their grandfather and patriarch that if they were brought up in the way 13 which they should go, they would not depart from it. I have in mind also the saying of Solomon in some of his proverbs. In his day Solomon was counted the wisest man in the world Kings and queens came from other countries to learn wisdom of Solomon. He said: "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." If this is true, and we have no occasion to doubt it, then if the child is brought up in the way that he ought tool to go, it will be a most difficult thing, when he is grown up, to convince him of the error of his ways, and to implant in his heart and mind faith sufficient to enable him to overcome and conquer the evils of his nature, and to put his trust in the living God. There is danger, on the one side, of his getting an improper education—whether it he by surrounding him with unwholesome in ger, on the one side, of his getting an improper education—whether it he by surrounding him with unwholesome influences and environment, or whether it he by allowing nim to go where he will be taught those things which are in conflict with the truth, thus giving to him a false education. In either case I say the responsibility rests first with the parents, and then all slong the line of the cuild's life. I would first have the parents understand this responsibility. The Lord tried to make this plain in the early days of this Church, in a relevation that He gave to parents in Isreal. I desire to read a paragraph or two from the Doctrine and Covenants upon this subject. You, no doubt, have already read this and heard it over, and over—if you have not, you ought to have done so, as parents in Isreal. In this revelation the Lord lays the responsibility upon the parents to Zion, and requires that they teach cheir children the first principles of the gospel before they arrive at the years of accountability:

"And again, in asmuch as parents have stilden in Zion or in any of her stakes

"And again, inasmuch as parents have utildren in Zion or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them

I had the pleasure this morning of not to understand the doctrine of retiving God, and of baptlem, and the gift of the Hely Ghost by the laying on of hands, when eight years old, the sin by, upon the heads of the parents: to pray and walk uprightly before the Lord." So that upon the parents devolves the responsibility of isaching their children the first principles of the Gospel before they are eight years of age, and then they are to teach them to walk uprightly before the Lord, and that ensure that they are to teach them principles of morality and that which will tend to clevate and emoble them among the children of the earth.

ARE PARENTS DOING THEIR DUTY?

Now, parents, I wonder if we are loing our duty? Do you think that the Lord would have required at our hands that we teach our children these first principles of the gospel if it were not possible for children to understand the first principles of the gospel before arriving at that age of life. Surely the Lord knew what He was talking about, and surely these intelligent children which He has given us will understand these principles it presented before them under the inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord in plainness and simplicity as it is within the power of the Latter-lay Saints to present these principles to their children. I feel that it is a gift from God, and that it is one of the manifestations of the Spirit of the Lord in plainness to have the spirit to teach their children. I feel that it is a gift from God, and that it is one of the manifestations of the Spirit of the Lord unto His children to be able to teach these principles to be able to teach their children will appeal to their understandings. How many of us have undertaken to do this? Who of us have made appointment with our families once a week, or once a month, or on special occasions, in order that we might sit down with our families, and having first invoked the blessings of heaven upon us and upon our efforts, tried to teach our little children the principles of the gospel? I wonder if most of us are not under condemnation before the Lord today because of our neglect to our children. most of us are not under condemna-tion before the Lord today because of our neglect to our children.

POWER OF EXAMPLE.

POWER OF EXAMPLE.

Now I wish to call attention to the effect of our own lives before our children and before our neighbors, and before our neighbors' children. There is no more potent means of tsaching our children the principles of morality, the principles of religion, than by our accepting of these principles and living them in all the actions of our lives before our children. It is as natural as oan be for the child to imitate his parents. They learn by object lessons and oar lives are constantly an object lesson before our children. If it were possible for the child to be brought up under the roof of his parents and never leave that roof or come under the influence of other people, that child would be as his parents are, You note the young lady, the girl, who has never worked away from home, she ents and never leave that roof or come under the influence of other people, that child would be as his parents are. You note the young lady, the girl, who has never worked away from home, she has never read domestic science, she has never read domestic science, what she knows of house-keeping, she has observed in her mother, you will find that she sweeps the floor, that she makes the beds, that she does her cooking, washes her dishes, and does everything in detail just as her mother has done it. The very language that is used by the mother and by the father will be used by the daughter or by the son, under such circumstances, showing clearly that is placed before him. This is environment. How recessary then that the parents set a worthy example that is placed before him. This is environment. How recessary then that the parents set a worthy example before the children, and in order that their instructions may have weight and influence with the children, it is necessary that their example and their precepts conform: there should be no conflict between them, else there might rise up in the minds of the children a question as to the sincerity of the parents in their teachings to the children. We do not wish our children to think for a moment that there is any hypocrisy in us, for as soon as they discover that, amen to all the influence we may have with them; they will seek elsewhere for example and for teachings. In the case of Lehl, it is apparent that there were some other influences brought to bear upon his sons than those which were found in his own family, or Laman and Lemuel, Lehl's disobedient sons, would not have taken the course which they did. For this Lehl and his wife may not have been responsible altogether. Now if the conduct of my neighbors is going to influence my children in their course of life, how necessary that not only my example but also the example of my neighbors be such as is worthy the emulation of my son or my daughter who come in contact with my neighbors or with thefic chilsary that not only my example but also the example of my neighbors be such as is worthy the emulation of my son or my daughter who come in contact with my neighbors or with their children. Their lives and their conduct will have to do with the moulding of the character and the making of my son or daughter what he or she is to be. Therefore I should observe the commandment of the Lord unto me, and take up a labor with my neighbor and try to convert and reformed my-self. I am reminded now of the commandment of the Lord to the Latterday Saints upon this subject. I would like to read a paragraph on that subject:

ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL.

"And again I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment that every man, both elder, priest, teacher, and also member go to with his might, with the labor of his hands, to prepare and accomplish the things which I have commanded, and let your preaching be the warning voice, every man to his neighbor; in mildness and in meckness."

in meckness."

That is the principle: Every manpriest, teacher, deacon, and member—
and that includes the sisters—all are
critied to preach the gosuel, every
one to his neighbor; so there is a
responsibility in this conflection, for
the saving of my neighbor, that this
influence may be felt by his children,
and my children, and again by myself, for I must be influenced by the
life and conduct of my neighbor. All
has its weight and influence, and every one of us needs to fortify himself
and build a wall about him, as it were,
for protection, for we have not always the Spirit of the Lord with us
in such power that we can reels; ways the spirit of the Lord with using such power that we can resist the evil, or that our salvation is assured. We cannot stand alone, and we are always in danger when we do not enjoy the presence and influence of the Spirit of the Lord. Therefore it is well that we provide the right kind of influences, the right kind of environment for ourselves as well as for our children.

INFLUENCES OF ASSOCIATION.

When our children are ald enough to see our from under our roof, they minch with a pair playmates. If their playmates are as good as they or better, the influence will be wholesome upon their minds, and they will receive education in the right direction. If, on the other hand, my neighbors' children have not had the education and training that mine have had, but have been neglected and have been

unrestrained until they have fallen into the society of vile and corrupt individuals, and have partaken of their influence, then my children are likely to become tinctured when they associate with the neighbors' children, who have been in such company. They go to the district schools and mingle with the children of all classes. Perhaps they are as good children as mine, but there may be one solitary child who has been neglected. He may be wicked at heart, he may be cerrupt, and if so he may be the means of corrupting a number of children of that school. My children may be the very ones that come in close contact with that corrupt individual, and they may be tainted, who knows? These influences on the outside, then, should be made as wholesome and proper is it is possible for us to make them.

RESPONSIBILITY OF TEACHERS.

RESPONSIBILITY OF TEACHERS.

So in the district schools, the teachers should observe that they have authority and responsibility not only in the schoolroom but upon the grounds, and over the children going to and from the schools: and they should mingle with the children. They should participate in their piay, and be present upon the play and be present upon the play ground in order that they might check any tendency that they might check any tendency that they observe on the part of the children in the way of rudeness, vulgarity, profanity or wickedness of any kind. I feel that the teachers in the district schools have a responsibility in connection with the training of my children, and the influences that surround them when I place them in the charge of the district school teacher to be taught. We have some rights; we pay our taxes; we maintain those institutions: and we ought to elect men and women to office, in the management of these schools, who are in sympathy with these sentiments, men who will employ teachers who are, first of all, moral themselves, as well as being competent to teach the rudinents of learning, such as are necessary in the district schools. This has not always been the case, We have known of men occupying positions of these innocent children—who themselves have confessed their guilt, their wickedness, their corruption. I hope there are not many such teachers, but I have in mind one case, in one of our neighboring cities, where a man was frank to confess his own wickedness and claimed that that was no bar to him as a teacher of children.

OBJECT OF AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS.

There are a number of auxiliary associations which have been instituted in the Church by the inspiration of the Lord, as I firmly believe, to assist the parents in the training of their children, realizing, as the Lord realizes and knows that the parents do not do their full duty by their children. These officers, whom we sustain, by the uplifted hand, to take charge of our children and instruct them, have a great recers, whom we sustain, by the uplifted hand, to take charge of our children and instruct them, have a great responsibility resting upon them; they are expected to have a watcheare over our children; but first we must go back to the parents. How are these officers to do something for the parents in the training, in the education of their children, if the parents do not place their children in a way to receive their instruction and the influence which is to be exerted by these institutions? So the first responsibility is with the parents. The parents ought to appreciate these organizations and the faithful labors of the workers in these various associations. The parents ought to bring their children and have them enrolled in these associations, and do all in their power to aid the officers in their efforts to interest and hold the children in these organizations—the officers, likewise, seconding the efforts of the parents, being assistants to the parents.

DUTIES OF INSTRUCTORS. From the reports we heard this morning in regard to the Pioneer stake of Zion. It is evident that the organizations of this stake are effective; they are in good working order; they are well officered; they are accomplishing a good work, bringing together as many as rosethle of the young people, and a good work, bringing together as many as possible of the young people, and there teaching them the course of life that they should pursue, the course which will bring them both earthly and eternal happiness. I feel it a pleasure and an honor to be able to raise my hand to sustain these faithful men and women. I feel, too, that there is a responsibility resting upon these officers outside of their meetings. When they go out upon the streets and meet these children, members of their classes, I think they owe it to those children that go out upon the streets and meet these shiddren, members of their classes. I think they owe it to these children that they take a moment's time and speak to the children. It doese not take long for a teacher to say to a child: "How are you, Thomas?" or "How are you. Ellen?" as the case may be. "How are you getting along? How are your parents? Do you love your parents? Do you love your parents? Do you love your Religion class? Do you attend your meetings regularly?" etc. A few questions like these will cause the child to think of the teacher, and if he thinks of the teacher, he will think well of him; and knowing that the teacher, when he meets him again, will ask as to his welfare, as to his faith and faithfulness, that child will try to put himself right, that he can make a ravorable answer. Now it does seem to me that if the teacher in the Sunday school, the teacher in the Religion class, the teachers and officers of the Mutual Improvement and the Primary associations, if all these teamers and officers, who have some responsibility concerning the proper bringing up and educations, if all these teamers and officers, who have some responsibility concerning the proper bringing up and education of my child, will do their fluty by my child, and if I do my duty by him, it does seem to me that he cannot go far astray.

WORK OF THE WARD TEACHER

for astray. WORK OF THE WARD TEACHER.

Then there is the ward teacher, whose duty it is to watch over the people of a certain district. These ward teachers have certain districts of the ward assigned to them, and they are expected to be watchmen, as it were, upon the towers; they are to see that there is no iniquity in the Church, so far as that district over which they are called to preside is concerned. They are supposed to know every man, woman, and child in their respective districts. They are supposed to know whether or not the children are strending these organizations, and if not, why not—and to use their influence to get all the children into these organizations. They are supposed to know what kind of company these children are keeping, what kind of books they are reading, and they are expected to be in position to advise and counsel the children in the various avenues which they should pursue—being on hand to teach the children their duty, and so live that they may have influence with the children of good. When they see these children upon the streets or elsewhere it is their duty to manifest their love toward them and try to exert an influence with them for good. Then there is the ward teacher, whose for good.

INFLUENCE OF THE BISHOP.

So with the bishop, who is the father of the people in his ward—he ought to snow these little children, if possible all of them. He ought to recognize



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and Malaria.

them, when he has an opportunity, and sponsibility of washing clean his hands inquire as to how they are getting and clearing his hands of all responsibility. The very fact that the father, billity concerning the preaching of this and clearing his hands of all responsibility concerning the preaching of this gospel to those who are mature, and not mature. If we were doing our full duty in this latter respect, what need would we have for these ncers stationed one in each ward? We would have no use for them if we are all doing our full duty toward the children. Surely there is neglect somewhere, Let every man, and woman search himself or herself, and let us search himself of hersett, and let us ask ourselves the question: Are we doing our duty, and are we justified before God? If we are not, let us repent and see to it that we do out full duty while opportunity is affected.

May the Lord bless us to this end, I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen, other influences, it does seem to me that we need not lose one of these little children. If they are going astray who is responsible for it? Have the parents done their duty? Have the ward teachers done their duty? Have the officers and the teachers in all these organizations, with which the child has been identified, done their full duty to the child? I tell you nay; there has been some neglect somewhere along

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