

*For LNS
Dedication meeting
M. J. H.*

My beloved brethren and sisters:

The reception that you have just given President Smith and his associates was very beautiful and fitting; and I hope that it may be prophetic of the manner in which this house shall be used. God's work is orderly; the Gospel consists of eternal, unchangeable laws; respect is shown to authority because it is according to the order of the House of God. In this meeting house, now to be dedicated, we hope, most sincerely, that order, system, precision of program, will ever rule.

When President Smith arises to speak, I am sure that every person will maintain most absolute attention. Perfect order will prevail. This is proper for he is the head of the Church; God's official representative on Earth. Yet President Smith is only a servant of The Most High. This house is the Lord's. When we enter here, God speaks by the voice of his servants; by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, by the holy influence which pervades this house. In this house, God's house, then, order, the first law of heaven, must ever prevail. Let this be the keynote of our worship here.

Joy is in our hearts to-day. This house, which we began some years ago, in faith and with prayer, now stands ready, and we are about to dedicate it to the service of the Almighty God, our Father who is in heaven. It is through his blessings that we have been permitted to realize this, our hearts' desire.

My heart goes out in gratitude to the people of this ward who have aided so unitedly and so cheerfully in the construction of this house. The building committee have labored in season

and out of season. May God deal gently with them because of their loyal faithfulness. The Presidency of our Stake, likewise, have aided greatly in our work, by their wise counsel, their constant encouragement and their official support. Fathers they are indeed to this Stake. May God preserve them long to guide us.

It is also a most pleasant duty to acknowledge the gracious and substantial support given us by the Presidency of the Church. Without their help, we should have been unable to continue and complete the house at this early date. In this help we have but another manifestation of the vigorous support given by the First Presidency to the wards and stakes of Zion.

President Smith has shown a personal interest in our work. At the sacrifice of his personal comfort he is here today to bless us and to dedicate this house. It is a blessing indeed to have this great, good and holy man with us. In what house of Zion is not President Smith's life a household story. He was brought into the world when storms of devilish fury shook the very foundations of the Church. With his mother's milk he verily drank a knowledge of the conflict between evil and good. Soon afterward his father, beloved Patriarch to the Church, was martyred in Carthage Jail, and young Joseph Fielding Smith might well have thought in his childlike way, that wrong had triumphed over right. Nevertheless, at eight years of age the boy drove a team of oxen from Winter Quarters to Salt Lake City, and this brought his widowed mother and her family into the promised valleys of the mountains. At fifteen he was preaching the Gospel in the Sandwich Islands. From that time on, he has been almost without interruption in the service of the Church, giving his whole strength to the

-3-

people. Who has known Joseph F. Smith to falter in his duty, or to spare himself in the service of the people?

This man is honoring us with his presence to-day, and we honor him and love him - for his high qualities as man, as friend, as President and leader, and as Prophet. As a man he towers above other men because of the settled strength of his nature; and even the unbeliever yields him homage. To have him as a friend, is to rest securely in his good-will, for he loves his friends with a living vigor, and he is the friend of all the people. As President of the Church he stands shoulder to shoulder with those who have borne the mantle of leadership before. Look back over the years of President Smith's presidency, and note that in spite of one of the bitterest persecutions to which we have ever been subjected, the Church has risen triumphantly, until externally and internally, the Church is stronger than ever before. We have grown greatly under his guidance. President Smith comes of a prophetic line. By nature and by calling he is a prophet. No man can long associate with President Smith without recognizing his prophetic power. In doctrine, in organization, in the management of temporal things, his seership has made itself manifest and has clarified our thoughts. Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith - mighty men, prophets and seers all - is it not one of the longest prophetic lines in the history of the world? And are we not proud-happy - that the present prophet is even as his predecessors in service

before God.

May God bless, with all blessings, this great man, our friend, our leader, our prophet, President Joseph F. Smith! May God bless us all, to walk steadily in the light of truth! May He bless these exercises, and make this house indeed holy and serviceable in the cause of redemption.