

**OFFICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—EQUALITY PRODUCED BY
THE GOSPEL—THE EVIL OF CLASS
DISTINCTIONS—DANGER OF
WORLDLY-MINDEDNESS—RICHES ALONE NOT
PRODUCTIVE OF TRUE HAPPINESS—A CONTRITE HEART
NECESSARY—SHOULD BE AN INCREASE OF SPIRITUAL
GIFTS—WORD OF WISDOM—THE RETURN TO JACKSON
COUNTY.**

DISCOURSE BY APOSTLE GEORGE Q. CANNON, DELIVERED IN THE 14TH WARD
MEETINGHOUSE, SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 25, 1880.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

While I was sitting here today, a portion of the record of Alma suggested itself to my mind, which I will read, as found recorded in the 4th chapter of the Book of Alma—(new edition).

[The speaker then read the greater portion of the 4th chap.] Continuing he said:

I should not attempt to get on my feet to speak to you my own thoughts, or my own feelings, or that which my own spirit would suggest. I have had sufficient experience in my life to know that for a man to impart profitable instruction unto his fellow creatures in the capacity of a teacher of the things of God, he must have the aid of the Spirit of God. Without that he cannot impart that which will be of permanent profit to anyone. I know it is the privilege of a people situated as we are to know the mind and will of the Lord concerning us, and also when we come into an assemblage of this character to receive the instruction which is adapted to the circumstances of each particular individual, and that is the office of the Spirit. I cannot tell your

feelings. I do not know your hearts. There may be secret sorrows, there may be griefs, there may be doubts, there may be many things that oppress you in your feelings, of which I am entirely ignorant. But the Spirit knoweth the things of God. God knoweth our hearts and his all-piercing eye can penetrate the inmost recesses of our hearts, and every thought, every secret is known to him, and he can, through the aid of his Holy Spirit, impart to each one that portion of strength, of comfort, of light which each soul may need to strengthen it on its onward journey in the path which God our Father has marked out for us to pursue, and unless a meeting of this kind is attended, with these effects, to me it is exceedingly unsatisfactory. When I go as a listener, I desire to go to meeting to be fed, to go away from the meeting with a feeling that I have received that which will be a benefit to me in my life, in the acts of my life, and so also if I speak.

The position of the Latter-day Saints in this respect is different from that of every other people which