

Poetry.

WASTED TIME.

Alone in the dark and silent night,
With the heavy thought of a vanished year,
When evil deeds come back to sight,
And good deeds rise with a welcome cheer;
Alone with the spectres of the past,
That come with the old year's dying chime,
There glooms one shadow dark and vast,
The shadow of Wasted Time.

The chances of happiness cast away,
The opportunities never sought,
The good resolves that every day
Have died in the impotence of thought;
The slow advance and the backward step
In the rugged path we have striven to climb;
How they furrow the brow and pale the lip,
When we talk with Wasted Time.

What are we now? what had we been,
Had we hoarded time as the miser's gold,
Striving our meed of good to win,
Through the summer's heat and the winter's cold;
Shrinking from nought that the world could do,
Fearing nought but the touch of crime;
Laboring, struggling, all seasons through,
And knowing no Wasted Time.

Who shall recall the vanished years;
Who shall hold back this ebbing tide
That leaves us remorse and shame, and tears,
And washes away all things beside?
Who shall give us the strength e'en now,
To leave forever this holiday rhyme,
To shake off this sloth from heart and brow,
And battle with Wasted Time?

The years that pass come not again,
The things that die no life renew;
But e'en from the rust of his cankering chain
A golden truth is glimmering through;
That to him who learns from errors past,
And turns away with strength sublime,
And maketh each year outdo the last,
There is no Wasted Time.

REMARKS

By EZRA T. BENSON, at the General Conference in G. S. L. City, Oct. 9th, 1865.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

I feel grateful for this opportunity of speaking a few words at this Conference, and for the blessings that have been conferred upon us during its session.

We have had a very interesting Conference, and there has been a great deal said which is of vital interest to the kingdom of God. We have come here to receive instruction for our further progress in prosecuting the purposes of God in the future, and for our present individual and mutual benefit. Can we carry the Spirit of these instructions home with us, and diffuse it in our families, in our wards, and in the different settlements where we, as delegates to this Conference, reside? If we can do this, then the Saints in the different settlements who have not been at this Conference will be equally benefited with us.

Can we not only treasure up, but carry out what we have heard this afternoon, and manufacture at home all we possibly can? Yes, we can do it; and we all feel that we can; and we now feel determined in our hearts to commence to do it when we go home from this Conference, that we may be benefited and enjoy the blessings that it is our privilege to enjoy. Who has made this request of us? The President and Prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whom we have raised our hands to heaven to sustain. There is not an Elder in this vast assembly that would refuse to go to Europe, or the islands of the sea, were he called to do so by this Conference. To refuse to respond to such a call would be a disgrace to him, and a sure token that he was weak in the faith, and if he possessed any influence among the Saints he would lose it. Now, it is the same Priesthood, the same power and authority, that has called upon us unitedly as a people, as parents, as children, as families and settlements, as the Saints of the Most High, to produce and make among ourselves that which we consume, to carry out to the best of our ability in all our settlements this very excellent counsel. It is a faithful attention to such instructions that will insure our salvation here, and our salvation in the celestial kingdom of God hereafter; for it is by means of the Holy Priesthood, and the keys and power of it, that we shall be lead back again into His presence.

The great object and purpose of the religion of Jesus Christ is to bring all the faithful back into the presence of their Father and God, for all who will abide a celestial law shall have a celestial glory, and a celestial glory is the highest glory that we have any knowledge of; it is where our Heavenly Father dwells; and no faithful saint can ever

feel satisfied short of reaching His presence and beholding His face. We are banished from our Father in Heaven in this low, sinful world, but we are not altogether lost, for He is feeling after us, and if we will listen to and obey the counsels of His servants we shall be saved.

The brethren have spoken to us with great power during this Conference; I never have seen, in all my life, more power resting upon the Elders. I feel to bear my testimony to the truth of "Mormonism" as the world call it, to the truths that the Prophet Joseph Smith has brought forth, and to the truth that President Brigham Young reveals to this people; these are the truths of heaven, and they will lead all who obey them to the possession of eternal life. Let us give diligent heed to these things. There is plenty for us to do, if we are diligent in the things of the kingdom of God. How simple and plain are the principles of salvation! They pertain to us as mortals, and to this mortal world, and they show us that our heaven is here and will be of our own making, for we are of the earth, earthy; we came from the earth, and the meek will inherit it.

We have got to learn how to take care of ourselves, and to organize the elements around us for our own comfort, and cease going to New York, Boston, and other places for supplies. Let our young ladies take pride in wearing bonnets made of straw raised in the country, and braided with their own hands. In doing this they have the satisfaction of following the counsel of the servants of God, and of aiding a little in attaining our independence of foreign markets. Such a course as we have been advised to take at this Conference, with regard to home manufactures, will affect us for the better more sensibly in the future than in the present; but we are apt to think of the present and let the future take care of itself. When shall we be fully delivered from the corruptions from the world, and from the influence of the false traditions which our fathers have taught us? The sooner we can overcome these, and follow faithfully and to the letter the instructions of the Holy Spirit, the better it will be for us as individuals and as a people.

May God bless you, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Special to the DESERET NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

Washington, 3.

The Secretary of the Treasury is about issuing orders to the Treasury agents in the South to call in the sub-agents and close their business, which has been a losing one to the Government, though profitable to all employed.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following circular to custom officers, relative to Chilean and Peruvian prizes;

Treasury Department, }
March, 2, 1866. }

It has been officially announced to this Government that hostilities between Spain, and Chili and Peru have been resumed. It is possible that, during the continuation of such hostilities, attempts will be made to bring into United States ports prizes taken by one party from the other; custom officers will use diligence to prevent the entrance of such vessels, except as in distress, when the provisions of the act of 1799 must be strictly enforced, and collectors will then promptly notify this Department of the fact of such arrival and the circumstances attending same.

New York, 3.

The Commercial's Washington special says the English Minister has protested against the immunity enjoyed by the Fenians, but our Government does not regard the evidence sufficient to warrant interference.

The stock market remains remarkably quiet. Governments are still strong, and in good demand. There are rather more applications for discounts. Auctions are supplying a good amount of paper, which is taken at 8 @ 10 per cent. The prospect is that the supply of this class of paper will largely exceed anything experienced since 1860. Gold continues weak; large sales of gold have been bought from the Government. The current demand and price this morning touched 136½. The shipment of specie to-day is very light, being \$67,700. The total of exports of specie from this point, during the week, amounts to \$754,533.

The Post's Washington special says the Reconstruction Committee has agreed to the proposition to admit the delegation from Tennessee to seats in Congress; two or three reports will be presented by members of the Committee. The majority reporting a joint re-

solution in favor of the admission of the Tennessee members, they will probably obtain their seats very soon.

The *Express* says it was estimated, at the Fenian head-quarters to-day, that nearly a million of men are ready to move for the liberation of Ireland, upon orders to march; several thousand are said to have joined since Thursday.

Correspondence.

Through favor of Pres. B. Young we are enabled to publish the following excellent letter from br. Orson Pratt:—

42, Islington, Liverpool, }
Dec. 12th, 1865. }

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG:

DEAR BROTHER:—I am now in Liverpool, to which place I have been kindly invited by Pres. Brigham Young, Jr., to spend some three or four weeks for the purpose of resting my lungs a little.

Since my return from Austria, about four months ago, I have had the privilege of visiting a number of the Conferences in England, and have preached from four to six times a week. During the last ten weeks I have had a severe cough or cold, but otherwise my health has been excellent. I do not think that my cough has in the least affected my lungs, neither has it interfered with my preaching; but Pres. Young, Jr., thought it wisdom that I should rest a short season, and try and recover from this light affliction.

I have enjoyed myself very much upon this mission, and especially during my labors in England. Your words have been verified upon my head, and I trust that my weak endeavors to build up the kingdom have not been altogether in vain. The Saints seem to be greatly comforted and strengthened, and I have enjoyed the great satisfaction of seeing many united to the Church in those Conferences where I have labored the most. It is not only a great satisfaction, but truly astonishing to see the rapid expansion and growth of talent exhibited by some of the young missionaries sent from Zion; it may all be summed up in this one sentence:—*The Lord is with them.* The President of the Mission is mighty in speaking, wise in writing, diligent in business, excellent in counsel, faithful and energetic in every department entrusted to his charge; in fine, the Spirit of the Lord God is upon him, according to the holy office and calling conferred upon him, in the Historian's Office.

From the proclamation of the First Presidency and Twelve, published in the *DESERET NEWS* and copied into the *Millennial Star*, I learn that many of my writings are not approbated; and it is considered wisdom for them to be suppressed. Anything that I have written that is erroneous, the sooner it is destroyed the better, both for me and the people; for truth is our motto, and eternal truth alone will stand. Permit me to express my most sincere regrets, in having put you and the highest authorities of this Church to so much trouble and expense. I most sincerely hope that the experience of the past may have a salutary influence on the future, and that I may live near enough to the Lord, to avoid all error, and cleave most steadfastly to the light. In the meantime, let me humbly crave your forgiveness, and the forgiveness of the Council, and the forgiveness of all Saints, as touching anything which may have come from my pen, either erroneous or unwise. In relation to doctrine, or prophecy, or philosophy, or science, truth and truth alone is all that I desire. Let my name be recorded among the righteous; let me enjoy the society of my brethren; let me bear a humble part with them in bringing forth and establishing Zion, and my soul will be satisfied—this only is the highest of my ambition; this is the great joy of my life—my hope—my salvation—my all.

Please present my kind love to the Council; and may God bless you and them forever, is the humble sincere prayer of your brother in Christ.

ORSON PRATT, Sen.

DR. LIVINGSTONE the celebrated missionary explorer has returned to Africa by the way of Bombay, it being his present object to find a path by which commerce and Christianity may enter that continent from the Eastern coast, thus being independent of the Portuguese Government, who claim 1,360 miles of the sea-board, and use it for slavetrading purposes.

THERE are eleven daily and twenty-three weekly newspapers published in San Francisco.

Miscellaneous.

WEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

The insufficiency of mere wealth alone to confer happiness, is strikingly illustrated in the life of Nathan Myers Rothchild, who died in London some thirty or forty years ago. For years he wielded the purse of the world, opening and closing it to Kings and Emperors as he listed; and upon certain occasions, was supposed to have more influence in Great Britain than the proudest and wealthiest nobles—perhaps more influence than the houses of Parliament taken together.

He once purchased bills of the Government, in a single day, to the amount of \$20,000,000, and with the profit on a single loan, purchased an estate at the cost of \$750,000. Yet, with all this colossal wealth, he was a miserable man; and with sorrowful earnestness, once exclaimed to a gentleman who was congratulating him on the gorgeous magnificence of his palatial mansion, and thence inferring that he was happy: "Happy!—me happy?"

The Scottish Bard truly says:
"It's no in the titles nor in rank—
It's no in wealth, like London Bank,
To purchase peace or rest—
If happiness hath not its seat
And center in the breast,
We may be rich, we may be great,
But can't be truly blest."

The late Stephen Girard, when surrounded by immense wealth, and supposed to be taking supreme delight in its accumulation, wrote thus to a friend:

"As to myself, I live like a galley slave, constantly occupied, and often passing the night without sleeping. I am wrapped in a labyrinth of affairs, and worn out with care. I do not value fortune. The love of labor is my highest emotion. When I rise in the morning, my only effort is to labor so hard during the day, that when the night comes, I may be enabled to sleep soundly."

SIGHTS IN CHINA

After inspecting shops and elbowing and being elbowed in the crowd till afternoon, when I was ready to drop with heat and fatigue, my pilot steered me to a small square, flagged with stone, on which the sun shown fiercely. He called it "beggar's square," and told me that all the destitute, abandoned sick in the city crawled, if they could, to this spot, because those who died there, received burial at the expense of the government. While he spoke, my eyes were fixed upon some heaps of dirty, tattered clothes upon the ground, which presently began to move, and I discovered to my horror three miserable creatures, lean, covered with filth, lying in different stages of their last agony, on the bare stones, exposed to the burning rays of the sun. They came there to die, and no one heeded them, or gave them a drop of water, or a morsel of food, or even a little shelter from the noontide glare. I had seen shocking things of this kind in India, but nothing so horrible. To insure a climax of disgusts, my guide led me straight to a dog-butcher's shop, where several nasty, fat, oily carcasses of those animals were hanging for sale.—They had not been flayed, but dangled there with their smooth, shining skins, which had been scalded and scraped clean of hair, so that at first I took them for sucking pigs.

There were joints of dog, ready roasted, on the counter, and in the back of the shop were several cages, in which live dogs were quietly sitting, lolling their tongues out, and appearing very unconcerned. I saw several cats also in cages, looking very demure; and moreover I saw several customers, decorous and substantial-looking householders, inspect and feel the dogs and cats, and buy those which they deemed best fitted for the table. The cats did not like being handled, and mewled loudly. "What Cappen think o' that?" said my guide. "Cappen, s'pose, never eat dog? Dog very good, very fat, very soft. Oh, number one dinner is dog?"

"And are cats good?" I asked?
"Oh, Chinamen chow-chow every-thing, Chow-chow plenty eat, Chinamen nasty beast, I think, Cappen, eh?" My cicerone has so long mixed up with European and American ship captains and missionaries, that he had learned to suit the ideas to his company, if his ideas had not undergone great modification, as is actually the case in India with those educated natives of the present day known to you as specimens of "Young Bengal."—[*All the Year Round.*]

THE operation of casting a cubic block of steel, of the enormous weight of one hundred tons, was successfully accomplished at a foundry at East Greenwich, near London.