

mer. I soon became intimately acquainted with this good man, and also with the witnesses of the Book of Mormon. By my request, on the 4th of Nov., the Prophet Joseph inquired of the Lord for me, and received the revelation published in the Doctrine and Covenants, sec. lvi.

On the 1st day of December, 1830, I was confirmed and in accordance with the word of the Lord, I was ordained an Elder under the hands of the Prophet. My first mission was to Colesville, Broome county, N. Y., where I commenced to open my mouth in public meetings, and teach the things of God, as the Holy Ghost gave me utterance. The same month I returned from Colesville to Fayette, accompanied by Hyrum Smith.

On the 2nd of January, 1831, I attended a conference at the house of Father Whitmer; and soon after Elder Samuel H. Smith and myself commenced laboring for one of the Saints, by the name of Joseph Coe, to assist him in making preparations to remove to Ohio according to the revelation given at the conference on the 2nd of January. And in a few weeks, Elder Samuel H. Smith and myself started on foot for Kirtland, Ohio, a distance of several hundred miles, to which place Joseph, the Prophet, had just previously moved.

During the spring of 1831, I traveled on a short mission of about one month with Lyman Wight, going about one hundred miles, west of Kirtland, preaching the gospel wherever we were led by the Spirit of Truth. After which I united in the ministry with my brother Parley and preached some in Rome and also in Thompson where the Saints from Colesville were temporarily located; in the latter place I tarried some five or six weeks and labored with my hands.

In June a revelation was given commanding many Elders to travel two by two from Ohio to the western boundaries of Missouri, among whom my brother Parley and myself were called by name, and commanded to travel together. On our way we held about fifty meetings and baptized five in Peru, Delaware county, Ohio, and six in Vermillion county, Illinois.

About the last of August I arrived in Jackson county, Missouri; the next day I was taken with the chills and fever which confined me to my bed a few weeks.

About the first of October, though still weak and feeble, I started on foot for Ohio, in company with Asa Dodds, preaching by the way, as commanded of the Lord through the Prophet.

Br. Dodds stopped in Indiana, but I continued my journey, although suffering much from the ague. Towards the close of the year, I arrived in Hiram, Portage county, Ohio, where the Prophet then resided.

About the 1st of January, 1832, I went to Kirtland, attended many meetings, visited disorderly members with Elder Cahoon, called church meetings and excommunicated several. I then returned to Hiram, united in the ministry with Elder Lyman E. Johnson, and started for Lorain county, Ohio, where we preached in the regions around, until the general conference held at Amherst, Lorain co., on the 25th of January. At this conference, the Prophet Joseph was acknowledged President of the High Priesthood, and hands laid on him by Elder Sidney Rigdon, who sealed upon his head the blessings which he had formerly received. I was appointed to preside over the Elders and was set apart and ordained by Sidney Rigdon. At this conference, by the request of the priesthood, the Prophet inquired of the Lord, and a revelation was given and written in the presence of the whole assembly, appointing many of the Elders to missions, among whom, Elder Lyman E. Johnson and myself were named and appointed on a mission to the Eastern States. (See Doc. and Cov., sec. lxxxviii.)

The next day after conference we left Amherst, and in a few days found ourselves in Hiram.

To be continued.

ANNUAL AND PERENNIAL PLANTS.—There are many of the hardy perennial and annual flowering plants that are specially suitable for bedding-out or planting in masses; but much taste and knowledge are requisite for grouping and ranging the colors so as to produce the most striking effect. Some colors harmonize with each other, and blend to perfection, while the reverse is the case with others. For instance, white and scarlet are in unison, and show together to great advantage; also, blue and scarlet; bright red and yellow; red, pink and white; orange, yellow, sulphur and white; purple, dark-blue and white; and many other combinations and shades harmonize. But blue and yellow should not stand side by side; neither do dull red and yellow harmonize.

EXTRACTS from a Speech delivered in the Senate by General Houston, of Texas, on the Army Bill.

"I apprehend, as I have already stated upon the subject, no danger from the military influence or martial character of a regular army. It is the indoctrination of this Union with false sentiments that I fear, and the political influences brought to bear on the legislation and institutions of the country I wish to guard against, because, in proportion as the army is increased and persons of influence, of family, or of wealth, obtain situations in it, they exercise indirectly or directly an influence on the legislation of the country, not only in this body but in the other branch of Congress. That is what I am warring against, not that I would not foster a military spirit to a certain extent, but we are a nation of civilians, we are an agricultural, we are a farming, we are an independent people; we know the value of liberty, and you cannot find a man in possession of an estate but what knows how to defend his liberty and is willing to do it as a volunteer. But of what material will you compose your regular army? Of cheap material? I am not in favor of that cheap material. Is it that you wish to send them out to Utah to get destroyed? Do you think it is a speculation on the part of the nation to get that material because it is cheap? I am for economizing the public treasury of this nation, but I wish to do it on some rational principles. I wish to do it by the employment of volunteers."

"One cause of the great convulsion which separated us from the mother country was the billeting or stationing of troops on private families without their consent. That was one of the most odious features of that phase of things that menaced our liberties, and it grated on the ideas of the freemen of this country. This provision was made in the Constitution on the supposition that none but the militia would be necessary for these purposes; that in any emergency there was not to be a standing army to be called out; and that that odious feature of despotism would not be obtruded before the public eye. It was not intended to use a standing army composed of mercenaries, of men of other countries, picked up at random, to operate upon the citizens of this country. No, sir; it was supposed that if the American people had to be subdued, it would be done by their peers, whose presence would rebuke them for insubordination or insurrection; and not by a regular force made up of mercenaries whose only resource was their employment in the army, and who had none of the endearments of life to fall back upon when they had executed the orders of their officers."

"This is the spirit in which the Constitution was framed. These were the feelings that animated its authors, who declared their open detestation of anything like the employment of a federal force to control citizens, and reduce them to subordination to the laws. Therefore, sir, I am opposed to the increase of the regular army; and if it is intended for the Mormons, I tell you that we cannot wait two years to raise troops to subdue them. If they have to be subdued—and God forbid us from such a result—and the valley of Salt Lake is to be ensanguined with the blood of American citizens, I think it will be one of the most fearful calamities that has befallen this country, from its inception to the present moment. I deprecate it as an intolerable evil. I am satisfied that the Executive has not had the information he ought to have had on this subject before making such a movement as he has directed to be made. I am convinced that facts have been concealed from him. I think his wisdom and patriotism should have dictated the propriety of ascertaining, in the first place, whether the people of Utah were willing to submit to the authority of the United States. Why not send to them men to whom they could unbosom themselves; and see whether they would say, 'We are ready to submit to the authorities of the United States, if you send to us honest men and gentlemen, whose morals, whose wisdom, and whose character, comport with the high station they fill; we will surrender to them; we will give up our authority, and act in obedience to the laws of the United States?' If this course had been taken by the Executive, I am sure he would never have recommended war; and if the facts had been before the Secretary of War, I am sure he never would have made the recommendation which he has submitted to us."

"But, sir, there is never a pretext wanting here when it is proposed to increase the regular army, so as to give promotion or to create new appointments. The Department had been for years calling for additional regiments, and in 1855 we granted them. We got along very well for many years without them. Indian depredations have not been diminished by the employment of those four regiments. More depredations have been committed since their organization, I believe, on the Indians, and by the Indians on the white people, than for five or six years previous."

"Whenever it is considered necessary to increase the army, or to raise a disturbance, bad men will go on the frontier, who expect to profit by such things, or stimulated by such influences, and they commit depredations on the Indians or on the whites, so as to provoke a contest. Men have been detected in Texas stealing horses and committing depredations, and running to the Indian country for the purpose of inducing depredations on the Indians, when they would profit by that, or so to confuse the public mind that the people could not tell whether the depredators were Indians or white horse thieves."

"The more men you send to the Mormon war, the more you increase the difficulty.

They have to be fed. For some sixteen hundred miles you have to transport provisions. The regiments sent there have found Fort Bridger and other places, as they approached them, heaps of ashes. They will find Salt Lake, if they ever reach it, a heap of ashes. They will find that they will have to fight against Russia and the Russians. Whoever goes there will meet the fate of Napoleon's army when he went to Moscow. Just as sure as we are now standing in the Senate, these people, if they fight at all, will fight desperately. They are defending their homes. They are fighting to prevent the execution of threats that have been made, which touch their hearths and their families; and depend upon it they will fight until every man perishes before he surrenders. That is not all. If they do not choose to go into conflict immediately, they will secure their women and children in the fastnesses of the mountains; they have provisions for two years; and they will carry on a guerilla warfare which will be most terrific to the troops you send there. They will get no supplies there. You will have to transport them all from Independence, in Missouri. When the fire will consume it, there will not be a spear of grass left that will not be burnt."

"In addition to that universal desolation, they have canyons, they have ravines, and they have turbulent rivers to cross. A hundred men on the sides of these canyons can roll down rocks enough to keep the army engaged a week in getting them out of the way, and there is no place to put them. I am told by persons who have traversed it, that the passway is a mere space between precipitous and high mountains barely sufficient for the passage of a wagon. In times of rain a little rivulet courses it way through, and there they have made a road of width sufficient for the passage of one wagon only. How long would it take to throw obstructions there that would render it impassable? How long could they delay your army in that way? and when they arrived at Salt Lake, exhausted, worn down, without supplies and munitions, in what situation would they be to take to the mountains and to pursue these men in their fastnesses where ten men could resist a thousand? When the troops are in these canyons the rocks could be hurled down on them; and it could easily be done, for they are now in almost a quivering condition, and the least exertion will cast them down. With five hundred, or even fifty men, they could destroy an army of ten thousand, if they were in one of these gorges, and they chose to hurl down the rocks upon the troops. I am told there is a road for fifty miles which you have to pass, that is very difficult, under the most favorable circumstances. Then, after you strike the margin of Salt Lake, there again is a precipitous mountain of several hundred feet high and perpendicular, on which an enemy could stand and act."

"But this is not all. The rivers are impassable except by ferry boats. Do you think the Mormons will let the ferry boats remain? Will they not destroy them? There are no means there of making them; there is no suitable timber. How are they to carry the army and the supplies across? To reach Salt Lake City would require a march of many days from where the army are now, if they had no obstacles to encounter, no impediments in their way, and no enemy to encounter. I received the other day from a very intelligent Mormon whom I knew in Texas, and a very respectable man he was, once I believe the United States district attorney for Utah, a letter of seven pages. In that letter he takes a comprehensive view of this subject. He protests most solemnly that there never would have been the least hostility to the authorities of the United States if the President had sent respectable men there. He says that Governor Brigham Young has been anxious to get rid of the cares of office, and would freely have surrendered it and acknowledged the authority of the United States; but that men have gone there, who have made threats that they would hang them, and even threats of a character that renders them more sensitive in relation to their families, and that they expect nothing but rapine and destruction to ensue on the advent of those troops if they should every arrive there."

"I know not what course will be taken on this subject. I hope it will be one of conciliation. As for troops to conquer the Mormons, fifty thousand would be as inefficient as two or three thousand; and in proportion as you send troops in that vast region, without supplies, and without the hope of them, with no means of subsistence after a certain period, unless it is transported to them, the greater will be your danger. Consider the facilities these people have to cut off your supplies. I say your men will never return, but their bones will whiten the valley of Salt Lake. If war begins, the very moment one single drop of blood is drawn, it will be the signal of extermination."

"Mr. President, in my opinion, whether we are to have a war with the Mormons or not, will depend on the fact whether our troops advance or not. If they do not advance; if negotiations be opened; if we understand what the Mormons are really willing to do; that they are ready to acquiesce in the mandates of the Government, and render obedience to the Constitution; if you will take time to ascertain that, and not repudiate all idea of peace, we may have peace. But so sure as the troops advance, so sure they will be annihilated. You may treble them, and you will only add to the catastrophe, not diminish human suffering. These people expect nothing but extermination, or abuse more intolerable than even extermination would be, from your troops, and they will oppose them."

"We have a clear manifestation in a letter that was read here the other day of the course

proposed to be taken by the commanding officer there, against whom I wish to say nothing. I shall animadvert, however, as I may think fit, on the circumstances that were there disclosed. I believe I saw the letter; but I am not certain yet that I fully comprehend it. An act of civility was tendered by Brigham Young, and you might, if you please, construe it, under the circumstances, rather as an act of submission on his part. He sent salt to the troops, understanding that it was scarce there, and was selling at seven dollars a pint. As an act of humanity, thinking at least that it could not be regarded as discourteous, he sent a supply of salt requisite for the relief of the encampment, intimating to the commander that he could pay for it, if he would not accept it as a present. What was the message the military officer sent him back? I believe the substance of it was that he would have no intercourse with a rebel, and that when they met they would fight. They will fight; and if they fight, he will get miserably whipped. That was a time to make peace with Brigham Young, because there is something potent in salt. With the Turk, who has similar habits and religion to the Mormons, it is the sacrament of perpetual friendship. Why may not the Mormons have incorporated that into their creed? But, instead of that, he sent him a taunt and defiance. Why could he not have said: 'I will accept it as a present, or I will recompense you for it according to its value? I would rather see Brigham Young; and if he chooses to come to my encampment, I pledge him the honor of an officer that he shall go away unscathed if we come to no understanding; but if he wishes to acknowledge the authority of the United States, I am ready to receive that acknowledgment; and if the Government of the United States bids me, I will withdraw my troops.' If he had sent that message, it would have been worthy of a magnanimous, generous soldier's mind and heart. As it was, he sent a message I would not have sent, and I do not think it is calculated to conciliate Brigham Young. He is too proud a man, I take it; a man of too much sense to have sent such a message as that, after an act of civility was tendered."

"What is to be the consequence of that act? We must have supplies. I presume the troops have cattle; and they must slaughter them in order to have fresh supplies. They will be very fresh supplies, indeed, if they have no salt to use with them. Placing men upon diet of that kind is calculated to produce the most fatal of all epidemics in the world—the cholera. Exposed in tents in that inclement region at this season, I should not be astonished if two thirds or three fourths of his forces were swept off by cholera. Humanity ought to have induced him to accept the salt and make a fair recompense for it, if he did not receive it as a courtesy; but an opposite course was taken. If there be any disastrous consequences resulting, his message was calculated to bring them about."

DR. LIVINGSTONE'S EXPLORATIONS IN THE INTERIOR OF AFRICA.—The indefatigable researches of Dr. Livingstone have suddenly made us acquainted with one of the happiest people in the world, of whose very existence little was hitherto known in civilized Europe generally. The province of Angola, Dr. Livingstone writes in the "Journal of the Royal Geographical Society," possesses great fertility and beauty, and its capabilities, both agriculturally and commercially, are of a very high order; indeed, I do not fear contradiction in asserting it to be the richest in Western Africa. As I have now had the advantage of passing through the province twice, and have honestly endeavored to obtain correct knowledge of the country, I venture to give you my impression, as not calculated to mislead any except those whose general views of the world are more gloomy than mine. The great scientific traveler, who spent sixteen years among this favored people has had ample opportunity of studying their physical and moral condition, and his details are most curious. They appear indeed to enjoy Elysian felicity, requiring neither police, lawyers, physicians nor physic! No magistrate has there a chance of committing "a brute of a husband" to six months' hard labor for beating his better half, for, the fair sex is so highly respected that if a man were asked to go anywhere or agree to any arrangement, he says, "I must go home and ask my wife." If she says "No," there is no possibility of getting him to move. They are equally independent of physic and the physician, for Dr. Livingstone found their staff of life to be the "Revalenta Arabica Food," which keeps them perfectly free from disease, "consumption, scrofula, cancer, &c., have been scarcely heard of, and the small pox and measles have not been known for twenty years."

PRENTICE ON KEITT.—The Louisville Journal gets off the annexed commentary on the fight in Congress:

We see a good many comments in the papers upon the affair in the House of Representatives, in which Mr. Keitt figured and was figured with so strikingly. Keitt certainly "had the floor" on the occasion, and the floor had him, and the two were unmistakably entitled to each other. There seems, however, to be some little dispute as to whether Keitt fell by stubbing his toe, or was knocked down by an enemy, or pulled down by a friend. One statement, apparently true, is, that Keitt disappeared immediately after rising from the floor. Grow gained some eclat in the affair, and Keitt lost. Grow grew, and Keitt kited. Keitt grasped Grow by the throat. He is not the first individual that has had a downfall from being too grasping.