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RESPONSE

To "Our Country's Call," by Wm. C. Bryant.

BY ELIZA R. SNOW.

"Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad."

Bryant, why should thy gifted pen,
In numbers, echo from afar,
T'arouse to wrath thy fellow men,
And move to scenes of cruel war?
Its fate is fix'd—its destiny
Is sealed—its end is sure to come:
Why use the wealth of poetry
To urge a nation to its doom?

Why should the implements of peace
And handiwork be thrown aside—
All kindly fellow-feeling cease,
And every hand in blood be dyed?
Our country feels the blighting rod;
Sore wars and famine will prevail;
"It must be so," 'twill avenge the blood
That stains the walls of Carthage jail.

In Fifty-Eight, with sheathless blade
That glitter'd in the nation's hand,
Troops came, these valleys to invade—
Despoil most loyal subjects, and
Obliterate the vital spark
Of truth and genuine liberty;
And on the Union stamp the mark
Of base, blood-crested cruelty.

Fell madness prompts our country now—
She calls to sorrow's heaviest tread;
To quit the axe, the spade and plow,
Will bring heart-rending cries for bread.
Then, with pale, spectre, ghostly form,
Will pestilence move in famine's wake,
Till every hope and every charm,
Shall that ill-fated land forsake.

Our country, why such ills befall?
Why dost thou thus ignobly bow?
Thou wert God forgetting, in thy pride,
And thou art God-forsaken now.
Led by a blind-fold, iron will,
To your own hurt, with madden'd zeal,
You hurry downward to fulfill
What God through Joseph Smith revealed.
"How are the mighty fallen!" And thou,
Land of our birth—our pride, our boast—
Where peace once dwelt—where strife reigns now,
And fills with rage each rising host!
You dropp'd the balances of right
When first the Saints o' God were driv'n;
"Blow after blow" will prove your might,
Like falling leaves of autumn driv'n.

Fight on, if fight you will. At length
The North and South, alike will feel,
With all their boast, in martial strength,
Protection is not made of steel.
Here, without bloodshed, is maintain'd
The freedom patriot prize most dear.
Not "might," but Truth and Right have gain'd
In peace a "glorious triumph" here.
G. S. L. City, Nov. 12, 1861.

P.S. Should Bryant's pen refuse to write
In scenes of blood, 'twere well to come
And share, with grateful, chaste delight,
The peace that fills our mountain home.
E. R. S.

DISCOURSE

By Elder GEORGE A. SMITH, Tabernacle,
Sunday Afternoon, March 10, 1861.

[REPORTED BY JOHN V. LONG.]

I arise before you, brethren, on the present occasion, with a heart full of gratitude to our heavenly Father for his manifold blessings unto us, for our preservation and the light of his countenance that has shined upon us to enable us to understand so much of truth as has been taught unto us, or at least so much as we have been capacitated to receive. That while the storms lower upon the earth, which the Lord is about to sweep with the besom of destruction, we are enabled to stand in the chambers of the mountains while the indignation of the Almighty upon the wicked, passes over. From the time that we entered this valley to the present moment, I have never contemplated our position without feeling to shout Hosannah! for the place that the Lord had reserved for his saints, for the natural fortresses that he had constituted, and for the principles that he had revealed to enable us to develop and to bring from the earth the necessities of life, and more abundantly for the privilege of participating in the enjoyment of the principles and blessings of our holy religion, uninterrupted by those who are without.

Our toilsome journey across the plains, the difficulties that we had to encounter in making a settlement, were such as are unparalleled in the history of mankind; rendered so by the necessity of conveying our provisions over a desert for upwards of a thousand miles. You

may search the history of the whole habitable globe in vain to find a parallel. We were guided by the hand of the Lord from the beginning of this great work. This people commenced to radiate forth from this place; cities began to rise up, branches were organized, new towns sprung up into being, new valleys have been and still are being discovered, and other advantages gained up to the present moment with a corresponding ratio of increase, which is truly astonishing.

The winter after the pioneers arrived here, in 1847, a committee was appointed to examine this valley and to ascertain how much and could be irrigated. After a careful examination they reported eight hundred acres was all that could be cultivated for want of water, and the result is as many thousand are now cultivated. You might inquire into the condition of other valleys, and you would be invariably told that the whole country was a barren desert. This was the case with Spanish Fork and various other places that are now the most fertile. The Lord has opened our eyes that we can see and understand the nature of the facilities that surround us, that we can produce the finest of grain, and make ourselves happy.

In the earliest days of the Church the Elders were sent forth with a report that those who were in the eastern lands should flee to the west, and we continued to flee from the eastern lands towards the mountains, and we have continued to do so, and at the present time we, above all other people upon the face of the earth, have cause to rejoice; while turmoil, discontent, and bloodshed are increasing upon the earth we are at peace. We present the spectacle of a people inhabiting a country flourishing as a reward for our industry.

The principles of the everlasting gospel being established in the minds of the people, and the people being united, there is no power in existence that is able to interfere with or mar the community.

It has been my privilege, for the last six weeks, to spend my time in traveling and preaching in the southern settlements, in company with Elder Joseph A. Young. Now, I remember the time that all the saints in Kirtland could have assembled in one of those little school houses that I have been preaching in of late, and they would not have been crowded either.

During our absence we have traveled eight hundred and fifty miles, that is going south and north, visiting all the settlements south of Sanpete. We have attended some forty-three meetings. To accomplish this we had to make long days, traveling eighteen hours in a day, in consequence of deep snow, and we have tasted of the variety of temperature with which the Lord has blessed Utah, from the frigid to the torrid zone.

On our return up the Rim of the Basin, from the settlements of the Rio Virgin and Santa Clara, we appreciated the change more than we did in going down. The brethren are in good spirits, with few exceptions. There were a few places where we had to stay and settle some difficulties; they expressed a willingness to do right, and they were very glad to see us; and although in mid winter they would crowd together and, in fact, they appeared to enjoy our visit more than if they had known we were coming.

It is generally understood that all nations are desirous of getting under their control, both a northern and a southern climate; this is desirable in all nations. We found that the brethren in Washington county had again raised, last year, a good quality of cotton which would be highly creditable in any other country. We have also soil and climate that will produce tobacco as fine as is grown in Virginia, it only needs to be cultivated.

Now, were we to take a man from the broad prairies of Missouri or Illinois and show him the narrow flats of the Rio Virgin he would be apt to describe it as a certain member of Congress described the Louisiana purchase made by Mr. Jefferson, he said that it was a mere strip, mere trine, west of the Mississippi river. That shows how little a Congressman in Mr. Jefferson's time knew of the valley of the Mississippi. Such is the feeling in relation to the limited extent of arable land in the Southern part of our Territory. The field of operation for the production of a supply of cotton is within our reach.

Many of us who use tobacco, and we could save \$60,000 from going out of the Territory every year, if we would raise these articles within ourselves.

I am well known as one who is in favor of letting this article of tobacco alone, it is said that many suffered more for the want of it than they did for bread in the time of famine. If we must have it, I am in favor of laying plans to produce it within ourselves, seeing that the Lord has given us the climate.

Now the production of cotton, in Washington county, is no longer a matter of uncertainty, it can be produced, and as men enter into the business they will gradually learn

how to manage it. Experience shows that as we plant the seed, year after year, it becomes naturalized to the climate and we raise a better article and more of it every year. This may also be said of grain in this Territory, wheat and corn in particular.

Many settlements have arisen within the last few years that are now in a flourishing condition. I visited one, Deseret city, on the Sevier, where they are raising an abundance of wheat and other grain. We organized a branch of one hundred and twelve members, and a good feeling appears to exist there. The soil is of the best quality, and there is a prospect of it being one of the granaries of the mountains. There is a spirit of waking up among the people, at the present time, to their own interests and welfare in regard to home productions. During the last two or three years, while there has been such a vast influx of merchandise, the goods in market being easily obtained, that has had a tendency to cause the people to neglect home productions, and they have exerted their ingenuity to procure means to buy what they needed instead of producing it. This feeling is now dying away to some extent, and we find the people busily at work to produce those things which they need for their own use, and they do not feel to depend any longer upon a foreign market.

Brothers and sisters, the work that is before us requires our undivided exertions and our best economy and industry. And when we undertake to do a work, we should do it with an eye single to the glory of God and a determined zeal to do his will, to live in accordance with his ordinances.

In taking up the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and looking at the commandments and promises given through Joseph Smith, I am led to rejoice. With some, there has evidently been a doubt of their fulfillment, and the idea that there was a possibility of the Saints ever going to live in Jackson County, why say some, it is full of Missourians, many of them possessing the most hostile feelings which they have nourished for years past. The driving of the Saints from their homes by the people of Missouri, and the great prosperity that has attended this people has excited a kind of apprehension that, at some time or other, the "Mormons" would take a nation to go back to root them out of their homes.

Fear occasionally takes hold of them, but still there is that same deadly hatred among them towards us, which they possessed, and in consequence of that, many have considered that it would be impossible for the Saints ever to go back to that land and inherit it, and build the Temple that has been promised and commanded to be built. Notwithstanding the revelations that had been given to build a Temple, the brethren were prevented from fulfilling it in consequence of the opposition of their enemies, or foolishness or carelessness in the breasts of many who were called to act with the Prophet Joseph, when the Saints were driven. When the Saints were driven from the United States, we could not see why, but those who have any light in them can see now. If we were in Missouri, we should be obliged to take sides in the present lamentable strife of brother against brother. If we were there, we would be in constant trouble. The present state of anarchy should show us that it is impossible to settle their difficulty peaceably; they may strive to divide and make an amicable division, but it will end in the most awful bloodshed; it is impossible to avoid it. Their determined will and their hatred to each other are such that they cannot be reconciled. The hatred with which they hated us has turned upon each other, and it will continue upon them in such a manner that they cannot avoid it. And by and by, it will be like it was with the Jaredites and the Nephites; when they became divided, they were determined to exterminate each other: they resolved on the extermination of one party or the other, and it ended in the extermination of both. You look in the Book of Ether, in the Book of Mormon, and you will find it. After they had slain two millions of people, the king of one of the contending parties tried his very best to procure peace and cease the shedding of blood. Coriantimur offered Shiz, if he would give peace to the people, he would give his kingdom to him, but Shiz would not consent to peace, unless Coriantimur would come and be slain by the hand and sword of Shiz. Then the people were again stirred up to battle, and fought until all were slain except him whom the Prophet of God had said should not die by the sword. From the spirit that is now manifest, it is not impossible for like scenes to be again enacted upon this continent.

It is just as easy, I contend, for the Lord to cause the Saints to return and build the Temple in Jackson County as it was for the Lord to bring us into this wilderness, or to frustrate the powers of our enemies here in this territory, as most of you have seen. When this people shall have learned to do the will of our Heavenly Father, and to be united in all things, then will be brought about the prediction that the wicked shall slay the wicked. The time is not far distant when the distressed of all nations will come from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south, and claim protection from the Saints of the Most High God.

It is high time for the Saints to be awake and on hand to perform their duties and live up to their calling as Saints of God, doing all things required at their hands, that the light of truth may constantly shine in our minds. The only thing that we have to fear is that the Saints do not realize the importance of their position, and that they will not be awake to the duties that devolve upon them.

The time is high when thousands and tens of thousands of our enemies and their children will come to crave protection of this people. There are many persons who have read the revelations of Joseph Smith that have had misgivings in relation to them, and they have feared that they were true, but they did not feel quite willing to believe that they would be literally fulfilled, or if they did, they dared not confess it. Any persons that have looked at the accounts published in our papers can see how rapidly and how easily the Lord can accomplish his work. He does not wish us to go and slay our enemies, but he wants us to be upon the watch tower. He wants us to build towers, temples, houses and every thing that will make us comfortable; also to plant vineyards and olive yards and to watch over them. But when it comes to the wicked slaying the wicked, he has thus far caused the wicked to slay the wicked. The Saints have been and doubtless always will be spared this trouble, but they will have to face dangers, in many instances to lay down their lives for the gospel's sake, and to such the Lord will give crowns of glory and endless life, even to all those that live according to the principles of eternal life. But we need not expect crowns of glory in this life; the blessings of light and life that are in the midst of the Saints are only to be had by living for them, by living our religion. There are hundreds and thousands that are willing to fight for their religion. The things that are required are for us to live our religion, walk in accordance with the principles of honesty and justice, that the light of the Holy Spirit may continually shine upon us, and that our religion shall be the uppermost thing in our minds, all the day long.

We frequently suffer ourselves to be bound by earthly considerations so that we neglect our duties and attend to some small matters, and we thereby become careless and indifferent, but of this we should be very careful.

When I first settled at Parowan, in the county of Iron, the nearest settlement to it was Payson, and I believe there was only some three or four families in Payson; there was also a few in Sanpete. The fall after, the location was made at Cedar City. From that day to the present there has been a continual increase and extension of our settlements in that direction; and, although it appears to be a great distance from here, settlements are rising up so fast that a man can stop at a settlement every night.

In 1858, I was told at Toquerville that it was impossible to make a road to the valleys up the Rio Virgin, and they were calculating that they would have to carry their seed grain and plows over the mountains upon pack animals. I told them that, in a few years, I would ride over in a carriage. Bro. Joseph A. Young and myself visited the two settlements there, and passed over the ground I am speaking of, with four animals to our carriage, and Bro. Joseph remarked that this road, which is very steep and crooked, was so crooked that it was difficult to see the lead animals. The pass has the name of Johnson's twist.

The people are raising cotton and grain; they are cultivating the earth and are enjoying excellent health, and the water is of good quality. These two places—Pocketville and Grafton—are certainly in a flourishing condition.

We also visited the settlement at Minersville, Beaver county. It is composed of some twenty families. They are engaged in digging for lead, and they are trying to bring it into us. Evidence exists that a supply may be had from that quarter.

We organized a few families that live on Corn Creek, into a branch of the church. We also found a small company of men on Cove creek, who are commencing to make a settlement there. Those two settlements obviate the necessity of camping out at nights between Fillmore and Beaver, and the settlements in Round valley and at Chicken Creek prevent the necessity of camping out between the city of N. phi and Fillmore. This will be a great convenience to travelers.

Our country is a very extraordinary one, indeed, and, if the Lord should send fit season rain to prevent or do away with the necessity of irrigation, it is capable of sustaining a dense population, but as it is, the people are obliged to live in cities located above the