

THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

JUNE 1850.

NO. 22.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1889.

VOL. XXXVIII.

BLOSSOM-TIME.

There's a wedding in the orchard, dear,
I know it by the flowers:—
They're wreathed on every bough and
branch,
Or falling down in showers.
The air is in a mist, I think,
And scarce knows which to be—
Whether all fragrance, clinging close,
Or bird-song, wild and free.
And countless wedding-jewels shine,
And golden gifts of grace;
I never saw such wealth of sun
In any shady place.
It seemed I heard the flutt'ring robes
Of maidens clad in white,
The clasp of a thousand hands
In tenderest delight.
While whispers ran among the boughs
Of promises and praise;
And playful, loving messages
Sped through the leaf-lit ways.
And just beyond the wreathed aisles
That end against the blue,
The raiment of the wedding-choir
And priest came shining through.
And though I saw no wedding guests,
Nor groom, nor gentle bride,
I know that holy things were asked,
And holy love replied.
And something through the sunlight said:
"Let all who love be blest!
The earth is wedded to the Spring,
And God, He knoweth best."

MARY E. DODGE.

DISCOURSE

Delivered by President George Q. Cannon, at the General Conference, Salt Lake City, Sunday Morning, April 7th, 1889.

REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.

I will read a portion of the third chapter of John's first epistle:

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law.

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness, is righteous, even as he is righteous."

In standing up, my brethren and sisters, to address you, I depend upon the assistance of your faith and prayers. It is a serious responsibility to stand up before an audience like that which is assembled within these walls, to address them upon the principles of life and salvation. I should not attempt it if I did not hope that I should be assisted by the Spirit of God.

We are, as a people, in very peculiar circumstances. It seems to me there never was a time when we needed instruction and counsel from the Lord more than we do at the present; in fact, we cannot live without this counsel and instruction. The gathering together of these Latter-day Saints in these mountains has been in compliance, we believe, with the requirements of heaven. The organization of this people, the extension of their settlements throughout this mountain region, are due to the fact that God has spoken, and that He has given command, and that in obedience to that command the Latter-day Saints have gathered out from the various places where they have heard the Gospel, to this land. Our preservation, our growth, our union, the strength that we have, are all attributable, as we believe, to the blessings of God upon us. If these were withdrawn, we would be in a most pitiable condition.

We assemble together in order that we may be instructed concerning our duties, that we may arrive at a better understanding of our relationship to our Father, and the obligations that we are under to Him, that we may know how we can best discharge those obligations in a manner that will be acceptable in His sight. Thus far we have been led by Him. He has not hidden His face from us. He has not

concealed His counsel nor withheld His word. This is a reflection which fills me with thanksgiving and joy: that from the day that this Church was organized (fifty-nine years ago yesterday), up to the present time, the Latter-day Saints have not been left to grope in the dark, or to stagger and wander around without a knowledge of that which they ought to do, and the will of God concerning them. The voice of revelation has not been stilled. The whisperings of the Spirit of God have not been withdrawn. But there has been a voice from God in the midst of this people, to which they could turn their ears and receive the counsel that they have needed in the great variety of circumstances in which they have been placed; and shall we not today, in this congregation and in this General Conference, praise our God with all our hearts, that there has been no darkness so great as to prevent the rays of light from the eternal world coming to us? There have been no paths so numerous but what the path that we had to pursue has been marked out in plainness before us. There may have been labyrinths around us; mankind may have been pursuing devious paths; but there has always been pointed out to us, with the greatest certainty, the path that we should pursue, the direction in which we should travel, the labors that we should perform, the things that we should not perform, and the evils that we should avoid. This has been the case from the beginning. I thank our great God this day for this inestimable blessing. Certainty has been given to us. God has heard our prayers. He has pointed out to us, in answer to prayer, that which we should do. And though we have had evils to contend with: though afflictions have beset our pathway, and persecution has laid its heavy hand upon us; nevertheless, we have had the assurance that we were not left to ourselves; that this great work with which we are identified had not been deserted by its great Founder; that He had not forgotten nor neglected us, nor withdrawn His favor and watchcare from us; but that