

shall have your battalion, even if it is to be furnished from the Elders of our Church." And so it was. Those men enlisted in the service of the United States and marched to the Pacific coast. Had it been the purpose of the Latter-day Saints to establish an independent kingdom in the land, their opportunity was when they first entered this valley. They were removed a thousand miles from the frontiers of the United States. There was no prospect at that time of there very soon being a means of rapid communication between this valley and the east. The people had been led here by a man whom they learned to revere and love, a man who possessed pre-eminently the qualities of a king, had the Saints desired one. But when they settled in this place, isolated from the rest of the world, from the east and the west from the north and the south, did they take that course? No; as soon as practicable they applied for admission into the Union. They could not forget, notwithstanding all the opportunities by which they were surrounded, that their destiny was linked with the destiny of that nation whose Constitution God had inspired.

There was another time when a crisis arose which gave the Latter-day Saints a very excellent opportunity of manifesting any feeling of unfriendliness they might have entertained against the government. There came a period when the Union was severed, when powerful States, one after another, seceded from it, and their representatives left the halls of Congress. It was a question as to whether the seceders would not be successful in their enterprise. If there had been unfriendliness in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints against the government, then was their opportunity to show it, to have not only a north and a south, but a west as well. Just about the time the war was breaking out the telegraph line connecting us with the east was completed, and the first message that went over the wires was one from Brigham Young, saying: "Utah stands firm in her allegiance and does not secede."

[President George Q. Cannon here leaned over and whispered to Elder Roberts, who thereupon remarked:] I am informed by Brother Cannon that there were overtures made to our representative in Congress by the seceding States of the South asking us to unite with them in that movement; but those opportunities were disregarded. And why? Because we knew who the Master builder of this ship of State was, and that our destiny was linked with it.

Of late we have given further evidence of our loyalty to the country in which we live. I do not believe the pages of history can reveal a quieter submission on the part of a people to what have been regarded as unjust laws; we have borne that which other communities would not have tolerated.

The other day, in reading a little of our history, I came upon the words of a man who is highly

esteemed in the midst of Israel—a man who joined his fortunes with the Church when to all human appearance that Church would crumble and go to decay—a man who has been well and honorably known among us, whom we revere, and who today occupies a high station in the Church. I mean our venerable Brother, Daniel H. Wells. When he Saints had been settled in this land four years, when they were celebrating the anniversary of the entrance of the pioneers into this valley he made these remarks, which I will read:

"It has been thought by some that this people, abused, mal treated, insulted, robbed, plundered, murdered, and finally disfranchised and expatriated, would naturally feel reluctant to again unite their destiny with the American republic." * * * No wonder that it was thought by some that we would not again submit ourselves (even while we were yet scorned and ridiculed) to return to our allegiance to our country. Remember that it was by the act of our native country, not ours, that we were expatriated, and then consider the opportunity we had of forming other ties. Let this pass while we lift the veil and show the policy which dictated us. That country, that Constitution, those institutions were all ours; they are still ours. Our fathers were heroes of the Revolution. Under the master-spirit of an Adams, a Jefferson, and a Washington, they declared and maintained their independence, and under the guidance of the spirit of truth they fulfilled their mission whereunto they were sent from the presence of the Father. Because demagogues have arisen and seized the reins of power, should we relinquish our interest in that country made dear to us by every tie of association and consanguinity?" * * * "Those who have indulged such sentiments concerning us have not read Mormonism aright, for never, no never, will we desert our country's cause; never will we be found arrayed by the side of her enemies, although she may cherish them in her own bosom. Although she may launch both the thunderbolts of war, which may return and spend their fury upon her own head, never no never, will we permit the weakness of human nature to triumph over our love of country, our devotion to her institutions, handed down to us by her honored sires, made dear to us by a thousand recollections."

Those were the sentiments of the Latter-day Saints in that day, and I believe they are their sentiments today. It is for us in the future, therefore, as in the past, to be guided by these patriotic sentiments.

It frequently happens when a member of a family in the east, or in foreign lands, joins the Church that the rest of the family in their spirits turn against him and become unfriendly. Jesus himself understood that principle when He said that His gospel would set father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law; that a man's enemies should be the members of his own household. Not that the Gospel which He promulgated engendered bitterness and strife in those who accepted it; but the bitterness, the rancour, the hate,

were engendered in those who rejected it; and it was because of this that the breaking up of that sentiment which should unite, and generally does unite, families and kindred together occurred. It frequently happens that the one who accepts the Gospel is regarded as the black sheep of the flock, and is driven out from his father's household. But he gathers to Zion, where he finds a multitude of fathers and mothers, of brothers and sisters, and friends who are dearer to him than those from whom he has been separated. When he comes here what does he do? The Spirit which attends that part of the Gospel which Elijah introduced in our dispensation, which turns the hearts of the children to the fathers, rests upon him, and he goes forth in righteousness unto the temples of our God and becomes a savior unto his fathers' household.

So let it be with us in regard to our country. Though singled out as objects for special legislation, though unloved and untrusted, let it be our part to become a savior in this our national household; for whatever the conduct of those who administer the laws in this land may be, however unjust, however partial; however oppressive it is for us to hug hard those principles of liberty which are entwined with the institutions of our country, and to maintain them—though all the rest of the world should prove untrue to them—inasmuch as this shall be our course, rest assured Latter-day Saints, that bondage will not be ours; for God has decreed that this land should be a land of freedom to those who inhabit it. If they persist in iniquity, then those who so conduct themselves will be dealt with by the hand of Almighty God; but those who are righteous, those who live in harmony with the decrees of God concerning our glorious land shall dwell in peace and feed richly at the feast of liberty which God has promised to his children.

I pray that our spirits may be strong, that our hearts may be moved, that our hands may not drop, that our knees may not shake, but that we may be friends to God, friends to our country, and to our countrymen, and that finally, under the guidance and direction of that Spirit which actuated the fathers of our republic we may rescue from destruction the principles of liberty, which are inseparably connected with the Constitution of our land.

The choir sang the anthem:

"O, be joyful in the Lord."

Benediction by Elder G. B. F. Wells.

CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

The American miner who visits the Alps will very likely notice the absence of many mineral deposits that are frequently met with in the mountains of America. Amid all the mighty upheavals of the Alps, no beds of coal or iron have yet been found.