ELDER TAYLOR'S TALK.

Full Text of His Remarks Delivered at the Tabernacle, Friday, October 7, 1898.

REPORT FURNISHED BY STENOGRAPHER.

Will Enable the Public to Place the Proper Construction Upon What the Speaker Really Did Say.

Following is the full text of the sermon delivered at the Tabernacle on Friday, October 7, 1898, by Elder John W. Taylor, the transcript being furnished by the stenographer who reported the speaker:

My Brethren and Sisters: I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will attend what I may say unto you. I have had great pleasure during this Conference in listening to the counsels of the brethren, and I feel that the importance of the Question brought to our attention by President Smith can not be overestimated. We are a blessed and a prosperous people today. What has made us so? It is the fact that the leaders of this Church have given a similar kind of counsel for the past forty years to the people.

I desire myself to refer to another phase of our religion for a few moments, as we are reminded by many of our speakers. I have not had to go any further than the Rev. Isaac Mc Conference opened. I have been delighted beyond measure with the beautiful singing that we have in this house, and I refuse to entertain again for a short time with the saints during Conference, for if I know my own frailties, it is to build up the kingdom of God upon the earth and so do my humble part wherever I am called to labor. A few years ago I was called to labor in Nevada, and I was talking upon this subject, because the commandments to the Elders are to plain regarding it. Now, brethren and sisters, all these good things that I have been spoken of are of great value to us, and we should all learn the lesson of patient labor. Whether it be in the field, in office work, or in the field, or wherever I have labored with mankind, allowed a man to do a better day's work than I have done myself. Anyone who has labored with me in any capacity will understand this to be the truth. I speak of this to bear testimony of what has been said. But there is another thing that weighs heavily on my mind. Our feelings are very much influenced by what we hear. A gentleman stepped up to me at the Woods Cross station yesterday morning and told me he was going to move to the rural districts and get on the land. I want more land, he said, but there is one thing that I do not like to move for, and that it is the enticement I see some people in in Rhode's valley, or Kansas prairie, and I don't like to go for one reason, and that is that I was informed that right out of every ten of the marriages there have been of such a character that the wives have had children before they were married. Now, I CAN NOT BELIEVE that in Rhode's valley by the Latter-day Saints are so rotten, as this man stated. I CAN NOT BELIEVE that they have so thoroughly rotted in the valley. Now, this is a question that I want to speak of a little, because there are things that we need to speak of to the Latter-day Saints. It is said by the Prophet that we should be like watchmen on the towers of Zion, and that if we see the enemy approach, and we warn not that city, that their blood will be upon our heads, and as far as I am concerned as an individual, I propose to rid myself of it.

Another thing I am going to refer to. We as a people always put the imperfections of our people out, and we do not cover them up, stick them over and varnish them, but we expose them like the physician that takes the knife and cuts out the ulcer in order that the whole body may be saved. This has been the practice of the Latter-day Saints from the beginning. Sometimes we are told that God does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowation. I was told by a very prominent gentleman in this city, that when he was driving his buggy down Main street into the Assembly evening several gentlemen stepped up to the carriage in regard to say that we have some girls in our city as they do in other cities of the world, that promenade the streets late at night, paint their faces and put on all they can get upon their backs and heads to make them attractive unto the men. The gentleman referred to is here to verify what I say, and we see him that have upon looking this way. These three young men say: We have been looking at these girls that are wandering up and down the streets, and there are two down of them, and they said: We have information to convince us, that nine out of ten of those girls are immortal, and have lost their virtue. Then the gentleman said to the young men: Those are the girls you have to shun your wives from, aren't they? Yes, I suppose, if we ever see her, was the reply. I CANNOT BELIEVE BUT THAT IT IS FALSE. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH A HORRIBLE IMMORALITY EXISTS right here in the center stake of Zion, and I want to say to the girls that wander up and down, time after time, with nothing to do, late on Saturday night, that you are looked upon as being immoral women. While conversing with this gentleman another man came up, whom until I would not know, and he said: I was informed he a lady in Salt Lake who keeps a rooming house, that after the close of services in the Tabernacle choir, several members come to her room to spend the remaining moments. I thought to myself is this possible? Is it possible that we can look upon the beauty of the Salt Lake Tabernacle choir, and hear the singing and hanging over them his face? I cannot believe these things. Nevertheless, I say unto you my brethren and sisters, that I fear there is a degree of carelessness on the part of our people in business matters and lax in their morals, to look lightly upon such a system who trifling upon the moral law. I feel very sorry indeed to see the vices of Noah, the Prophet, to talk to you of them is a painful task, and I know of GERMATIONS now must you feel, faith- ers and mothers, when your sons and daughters are so heavy and clog the sweet of God, when you should be Scriptures to teach and admonish the necessities of life so that your daughters are saved in the time to come the young men of Zion. The several young men referred to are here and you are no doubt of it. But I want to say to you and those that are in NOT TRUE in this instance, but I do believe there is some truth regarding these things. I want to put the words of Nephi, the Prophet, to show you how the people of God have wandered away in every age of the world—how it was with Lehi's family and his children, brethren and sisters, the world as we have to do members of the community with our sons and daughters, and while it is necessary to mete out the law and have an interest on this earth, when we come before the bar of God in the morning of the resurrection, what will we have? We will have our sons and our daughters, or we will be the possessors thereof, and we will be judged mercifully, and will be under condemnation, if we have not taught our sons and daughters the principles of righteousness. The vision of Lehi's dream as recorded in the eighth chapter of 1 Nephi, is as follows:

And it came to pass that we had journeyed many days until manner of souls of every kind, both of fowls of every kind, and also of the souls of fowl of every kind.

And it came to pass that while my father dwelled in the wilderness he spake unto us, saying: Behold, I have dreamed a dream, or in other words, I have seen a vision.

And behold, because of the thing which I have seen, I have reason to rejoice in the Lord because of Nephi and also of Sam; but I have reason to suppose that they, and also many of their seed, will be saved.

But Laban and Lemuel, I fear exceedingly because of you, for behold, methought I saw in my dream, a dark and dreary wilderness.

And it came to pass that I saw a man, and he was clothed in a white raiment, and he came and stood before me.

And it came to pass that he spake unto me and bade me follow him.

And it came to pass that as I followed him, I beheld myself that I was in a dark and dreary waste.

And after I had traveled for the space of many hours in darkness, I began to pray unto the Lord that He would have mercy on me, according to the multitude of His tender mercies.

And it came to pass after I had prayed unto the Lord, I beheld a large and spacious field.

And it came to pass that beheld a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy.

And it came to pass that I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof, and I beheld that it was most sweet, above all that I ever before tasted. Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen.

And as I partook of the fruit thereof, it filled my soul with exceeding great joy; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit.

And as I cast my eyes round about, that perhaps I might discover my family also, I beheld a river of water, and it run along, and it was near the tree of which I was partaking the fruit.

And I looked to behold from whence it came, and I saw the head thereof a little way off, and it was by the side of, I beheld your mother Sariah, and Sam, and Nephi; and they stood as if they knew not whither they should go.

And it came to pass that they did cast their eyes across the river unto me, and I also did say unto them with a loud voice, That they should come unto me, and partake of the fruit, which was desirable above all other fruit.

And it came to pass that they did come unto me, and partake of the fruit also.

And it came to pass that I did desire that Laman and Lemuel should come and partake of the fruit also; wherefore, I cast mine eyes towards the head of the river that perhaps I might see them.

And it came to pass that I saw them, but they would not come unto me.

And I beheld a rod of iron, and it extended along the bank of the river, and led to the tree by which I stood.

And I also beheld exceeding many fiery darts, which came among the rod of iron, even to the tree by which I stood, and it also led by the head of the fountain, unto a large and spacious field, as if it had been a world.

And I saw numberless concourses of people, many of whom were pressing forward, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree by which I stood.

And it came to pass that they did press forward, and commence to the path which led to the tree.

And it came to pass that there arose a mist of darkness; yea, even an exceeding great mist of darkness, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path, did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.

And it came to pass that I beheld others pressing forward, and they came forth and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron, and they did press forward through the mist of darkness, holding to the rod of iron, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.

And after they had partaken of the fruit of the tree, they did cast their eyes about as if they were ashamed.

And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld, on the other side of the river of water, a great and spacious building; and it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth.

And it came to pass that the people, both old and young, both male and female, and their manner of dress was exceeding fine; and they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at, and were partaking of the fruit.

And after they had tasted of the fruit of the tree, they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.

And now, I Nephi, do not speak all the words of my father.

But, to be short in writing behind, I have not written even a hundredth part of the things which he taught unto me; for he spake many things unto Laman and Lemuel, which are not written in this book.

And I, Nephi, have written this record according to my knowledge.

In the first part of my days, in the commencement of the reign of the first Judge, there were many wars and contentions among the people of Nephi.

Wherefore, I, Nephi, was taught in all the learning of my father; and I have seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, I have been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, the Lord has given me a large portion of wisdom and knowledge unto my understanding.

Wherefore, I make a record upon these plates of my proceedings and my reign and my doings.

Yea, I make it according to the knowledge of my father, which consists in that the Lord should show unto him in dreams and visions the things that he should do.

And behold, I make a record of my father's dreams and prophecies, and also a record of my own prophecies and my own reign and doings do I make known.

Wherefore, I know that the record which I make is true; and I make it with my own hand; I make it according to my knowledge.

And now, I Nephi, do not know all things pertaining to the things of God. Wherefore, I will not murmur concerning them, because I know that God giveth liberally unto the children of men, according to their faith.

And I know that they will be confounded in the last day, for they that will work iniquity shall be cast off, yea, they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, nor obey his commandments, but will be destroyed, both temporally and spiritually, according to the flesh and the devil and his angels, and the lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment.

Behold, I say unto you that these things shall be a snare and a stumbling block unto many, for there are many who will say: We will eat, drink and be merry, for we shall be saved if we only repent in the last hour, and such there will be who will say that they will be saved in the kingdom of God.

Yea, there will be many who will say that they will be saved if they only believe that Christ will die for their sins, and that they will be saved in the kingdom of God.

Yea, there will be many who will say that they have no need to repent, for Christ has died