

THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

JUNE, 1850.

NO. 13.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1889.

VOL. XXXVIII.

HIDDEN SWEETS.

Not every threatening cloud brings rain,
Nor every gloomy prospect pain.
Oft when we think the storm is near,
The clouds roll back and disappear.

Across life's sky dark clouds are tossed,
And oft our fondest hopes seem lost;
When tenderly an unseen power
Draws back the pall and glides the hour.

And so, each pang the spirit feels
Some hidden sweet, beneath, conceals
That we will miss if we but gaze
Upon the darkest side always.

Beneath the mountains bare and cold,
Are hidden priceless stores of gold;
But those who reach the wealth are they
Who dig the cumbrous earth away.

There is for thee, oh weary heart,
Beneath the bitter draught, a part
Untasted, whose sweet shall leave
A balm for all the wounds that grieve.

MRS. N. A. MONFORT.

DISCOURSES

Delivered by President Wilford Woodruff and Apostle George Q. Cannon, at a Priesthood Meeting, held in Provo, Sunday Evening, March 3rd, 1889.

REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.

Apostle George Q. Cannon.

A body of men such as have assembled here this evening, holding the Priesthood of the Son of God, if they were united in all their thoughts and feelings and actions, would be an irresistible power upon the earth, because there are great promises made to those who bear the Holy Priesthood. In one of the revelations which the Lord gave to the Prophet Joseph, in speaking about the reasons why the Elders did not have more power, and why they did not have the vall rent and behold the Lord as He is, He said that they were not sufficiently humble; they were troubled with jealousies; they had too many imperfections of character, to have these blessings bestowed upon them. It is a remarkable fact—probably familiar

to many who are here—that there is danger of people having blessings bestowed upon them beyond their capacity to bear them; that is, if they are not sufficiently humble and perfect, and if great blessings are bestowed upon them they might, instead of proving beneficial, be an injury to them. Therefore, the Lord does not bestow upon those whom He loves blessings for which they are unprepared and which would cause their overthrow; but metes out His favors suited to their condition. I believe that if angels were to minister unto some men—probably the great bulk of men—it would prove their overthrow, for the reason that they are not fitted to receive those blessings. How often has it been the case in branches of the Church that men and women who have received the gifts of the Spirit have been almost overthrown because of the goodness of God to them! They were lifted up in pride and considered themselves favorites of heaven, and superior to others who were not so highly gifted. The result in some cases has been apostasy.

It might have been thought that a man like Oliver Cowdery, who had, in company with the Prophet Joseph, been ministered unto by John the Baptist, and by Peter, James and John, and Moses and Elijah, and who had beheld the Son of God Himself, would never have apostatized, never lost the faith; but it is a lamentable fact that he left the Church and became a castaway, though before he died he was again baptized and received the Melchisedec Priesthood. This shows that it is not gifts, it is not the abundance of blessings and manifestations that will save men; they must be saved by their own conduct, added to the grace of God—the salvation and the atonement which Jesus has provided. Oliver Cowdery attained to a

great height. He was the second Elder in the Church of Christ. But he fell; and how great was the fall! He fell to a depth that he could not possibly have reached, had it not been for the gifts he had received—the favors that heaven had bestowed upon him.

So it is with us. The greater the blessings that we receive, the greater is our danger and the greater should be our humility. The more favor we receive from heaven, the more we should be humble before the Lord and before our brethren; not be lifted up, not be filled with pride, not imagining that because the Lord has blessed us in some peculiar way, we are especial favorites of heaven. Such a feeling is destructive to whoever indulges in it.

The Lord, in speaking to Moroni, who deplored his own weakness and expressed the fear that the Gentiles would mock at his words because of their weakness, said to him: "If men will come unto me, I will show unto them their weaknesses." Then He makes another peculiar remark. He says that He gives men weaknesses in order that they may be humble. And if we go to the Lord and seek unto Him to show us our faults and our imperfections, the sight of our own characters, in the light of the Holy Spirit, will cause us to shrink before the presence of our Lord and feel that we are as the dust of the earth. Instead of feeling proud and lifted up, and that we are better than our neighbors or our brethren, the opposite feeling will take possession of us, and we will feel that we are utterly unworthy of the goodness and blessings which God has bestowed upon us. This is the spirit which every servant of God should have. If he does not have it, he is not in the path of blessing; because, as I have said, if the Lord loves him, He will not bless him beyond that which he is