

we should be trained, that we should feel the hand of oppression, that we should know and understand how great the boon of freedom and liberty is by having to endure for a time persecution and injustice. We are being schooled in those things which are necessary for our experience. It shall yet redound to our good, and when the time comes that the Saints possess the kingdom under the whole heavens, I think they will be inclined to remember the days when they were under the iron heel of oppression, be merciful and insist that every man and every woman shall enjoy the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, without let or hindrance, from the powers that be. These are the experiences that we are gaining now.

Sometimes, like a dream, the history of the past rises before me. I see this work when those who were attached to it could be held in a log room not more than four-tens feet by sixteen feet in size. I see the leaders branching out into surrounding neighborhoods, preaching the Gospel; I see them coming over the seas and from beyond the mountains with the glad message of the Gospel restored; I see the success which attends them on every hand. I likewise see the sufferings and sorrows of the Saints. I see them persecuted by yet blinded Missouri until they are robbed of all their possessions and driven out in the inclement season of the year, their pathway made brilliant by the light of their burning homes. I see their Prophets and men unjustly condemned to a felon's cell—nay, more, at last shot down in cold blood while under the protection of the sovereign State of Illinois. I see them cross the mighty Missouri upon the ice in the winter season, launch out into the wilderness, and finally into the desert. Their wearied marches across the plains have come up before us hundreds of times, and their arrival in this desolate land, where no gardens, no orchards, no pleasant pastures, no fields relieved the dreary waste; nay, not so much as a hunter's or a ranchman's cabin to break the monotony of the desert. I see them beginning to till the soil; then a period of scarcity, of hunger and famine in their midst; and while famine is laughing at them from within, their enemies are mocking them from without. I see all this, and then I see the prosperity that attends the labors of the people. Honest toil gains the mastery over the elements, brings them a livelihood for themselves and their offspring after them. I see them building these cities, these towns and villages. I see again, the clouds of darkness and persecution settle upon them—mothers with their children going hither and thither, fleeing from the ungodly persecutions that have been perpetrated against them. I see all this in the past with its blood, with its tears and with its sorrows. But as that dream fades away, the future, the glory that shall yet attend this marvelous work of God, like a vision bursts upon the mind,

and I see the frontiers of this people extending; I see them enlarging their villages into towns, their towns into cities where are to be found the temples of our God, wherein the work for the living and for the dead is being performed. I see their Elders traveling abroad among the nations faithful witnesses for God, notwithstanding the hatred and prejudice that exist among them.

I see more than that. With instructions from the writings of the ancient Prophets, I understand that the north is yet to give up the mountains of ice shall melt away, and the tribes that have been hidden from the children of men shall come like doves to the windows in the midst of the Saints to receive their blessing at the hands of the children of Ephraim; I see them wending their way across the ocean to the promised land in Palestine, where, doubtless, Stakes of Zion will be organized, to which they may come. I see this; and then side by side with it is the increase of crime and wickedness. Wicked men are waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. I see societies crumbling and States falling to pieces under the reign of anarchy, injustice, famine and bloodshed. I see all this until those who will not take up the sword against their neighbors must needs flee to Zion for safety. Then when nations shall be weakened and their pride humbled through wars and calamities which shall overtake them, and they behold the nations of Zion increasing, I see their ambassadors coming to the inspired servants of God, asking the secrets by which they hold together their society, how they govern and control men and have peace and happiness, while distress and war are abroad in the earth. I see them coming bending to those whom they have despised and held in derision. I see the despised ones in glory resplendent, and part, at least, of the prophecies uttered by the ancient servants of God fulfilled. There let the vision rest; it is enough.

Now, Latter-day Saints, this is not a figment, it is not the ideal coinage of a dotard's brain; but it is the word of God repeated over and over again in the revelations that He has committed to His people; and just so sure as the Throne of the great Jehovah shall remain, just so sure will He fulfil His purposes. Those who fight against Him with the hope of overcoming us, and with the hope of preventing the accomplishment of the decrees of God, it will turn out as it did in the experience of Joseph—the very thing that they inaugurated to bring about, the destruction of the work of God, will be the means through which and by which His purposes will be accomplished.

You need not fear, for God has decreed it and there is no power on earth that can prevent its fulfillment. You need not even bring a railing accusation against those who assail this work. I have pitied those men—I pity them still—for their lack of understanding when they think that by

gaining a city election they have stormed the bulwarks of Zion and hold them in their possession. It will be with them as with the man who was an hungred. He dreamed that he ate, but he awoke and found himself hungry still, or the thirsty man who dreamed that he drank, but awoke and was thirsty still. Disappointment shall be their portion in this respect.

I pray God, my brethren and sisters, that the contemplation of these things will cheer and comfort your hearts, tend to increase your faith, and enable you to grasp to some small degree the wondrous work which the Lord has set His hand to carry out. May God bless you to that end is my prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The choir sang a selected hymn:

"Come, Spirit, Come."

Benediction was pronounced by Elder H. P. Richards.

CAUSES OF POVERTY.

AN exchange collects the opinions of a number of celebrated gentlemen regarding the causes of poverty. Ignatius Donnelly says: "The chief cause of poverty is the lack of property," and he adds that this lack is due to "the unequal and unfair distribution of property." Chauncy M. Depew, the railroad king and after-dinner orator, says:

"Lack of self-confidence is often the cause of failure. Many men seem to have no faith in themselves, consequently no assertiveness, no independence, no pluck and no push. They seem to be afraid to stand up and speak out for themselves and prefer to lean on others. Poverty in such cases is inevitable."

Robert P. Porter, superintendent of the census, thinks a lack of thrift is the principal cause of poverty. Prof. C. K. Adams, of Cornell University, says:

"We shall all be obliged to admit that poverty is one of the necessary contingencies of civilization. In a country where liberty prevails the diligent and capable have the opportunity of rising above the indolent and incapable. Where there is perfect liberty on the part of individual men some will rise and others will fall. This is the result partly of superior intelligence, partly of inability, and partly of error, but there can be no possibility of removing poverty, excepting by a course of legislation which will take away opportunities. Hence it will probably always be found that where there is the largest liberty of individual action there will be the largest inequalities among men.

Henry Clews, the nervous, incisive writer, and financier, whose every faculty of mind seems devoted to the subject of finance, says:

"Drink, that one word, tells the chief cause of poverty at the present time in this country. Of course, I mean excessive drinking, the kind that leads to habitual drunkenness, and by slow degrees paralyzes a man, mentally