

their substance as becometh Saints to the poor and afflicted among them."

It is related that while the brethren of Zion's Camp were struggling with the cholera, two of them went to the house of a member of the Church, one of the refugees from Jackson County, and asked him for a small fowl, to make a little broth for some of the brethren who were dying. It was refused with this remark: "We are going back to Jackson County in a few days, and I will need all my fowls." And this to the men who had come a thousand miles and endured every hardship in order to make it possible for the people to return to Jackson County. Is it any wonder that they were not then redeemed, having in their midst such characters as this man of infinitesimal soul? Can a people honey-combed with selfishness build up Zion?

Think of this, Latter day Saints, you whose bins are filled with plenty, but who neglect to open your hearts and purses to the poor.

"And are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom."

It would seem that this law of union prevails in the celestial worlds; that Gods and angels live in the united order, having "all things common." And this is doubtless why it is written of those who are exalted to that glorious sphere, "All things are theirs, and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's." All things are possessed equally by those who inherit the highest glory, but of course the order of seniority, the patriarchal system, would necessarily still prevail.

"And Zion cannot be built up except upon the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself."

"And my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer."

"Therefore, in consequence of the transgression of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion."

Now you will observe that there was no relinquishment of the project. Some have supposed that the days of dreaming of Jackson County and the redemption of Zion were over, but I tell you the Lord has not relinquished one jot or tittle of His original design. He says in another revelation: "Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered;" and we are only waiting for the expiration of that "little season" which the Lord speaks of to Joseph; for the redemption of Zion will come in His own due time and no power can hinder it."

It is evident, from a careful perusal of these revelations, that the Lord did not intend that Zion should be redeemed in that day; for He says: "I do not require of you to fight the battles of my people; but I will fight your battles;" and that His people must needs become strong and numerous ere the day of His power dawned; "My people," says He, "shall be willing in the day of my power." He tells the surviving members of Zion's camp that He had brought them that far for a trial of their faith, and that the redemption of Zion could not be brought to pass until His Elders were "endowed with power from on high." Now, none of these men who went forth to redeem Zion had received their endowments; for it was before any temple had been completed, or any endowments given. Moreover, they went forth with guns in their hands, supposing the Lord actually intended them to wrest those lands from the hands of the enemy by force of arms, and yet He afterwards told them He did not require of them "to fight the battles of Zion," but that He would fight their battles, and had sent forth the destroyer for that purpose; to empty the land of His enemies.

No, it is plain that it was not designed to take place in that day. And yet the mission of Zion's Camp was no failure; their faith was tried and proven; they were weighed in the balance and were not found wanting; and, from the ranks of those heroic men who, by that remarkable expedition, foreshadowed the redemption of Zion, who cast the shadow of that coming event, the Almighty subsequently chose the first quorums of the Apostles and Seventies of this dispensation.

The Lord, speaking concerning His purpose in relation to Zion's redemption, says:

"Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power."

"Therefore, I will raise up unto my people a man, who shall lead them like as Moses led the children of Israel."

"For ye are the children of Israel, and the seed of Abraham, and ye must needs be led out of bondage, by power, and with a stretched out arm;

"And as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be."

Brethren and sisters, do any of you imagine that Zion has already been redeemed? If not, you here have the word of the Lord that she shall be. I am aware there are divers interpretations put upon the words which I have read to you. But God has spoken them; you may interpret them

as you please. One thing I know: the redemption of Zion is an event yet to be. It will come by power; the power of God operating upon and through His Priesthood and His faithful people; a people who will put their trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and not in the men, nor the methods of this world. Brethren and sisters, out of the midst of this people will come the redeemers of Zion. You are the fathers, and mothers of those who will bear off the Kingdom of God. The salvation of this people will come from within, not from without. The water may irrigate the roots of the tree, the sun may ripen the fruit upon its branches, causing them to bud and blossom and bear; but it is the tree itself that must produce the fruit; and if there be no life within, the water will but rot it, and the sunshine wither it from the earth. So by the power of God, and the faith in the hearts of His people the redemption of Zion will be effected.

There is faith, there is resolution, there is determination in the hearts of many of this people to sacrifice all things, even life itself, if need be, upon the altar, for God and His cause. And many of you will live to see, rising like a phoenix from the ashes of past and present defeat and humiliation, a glorious Zion, a brave, a valiant, a victorious Zion; a people who will no longer flee from the faces of their enemies; but instead of "flying upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west," will "spoil them of the east together." Look to the future. Remember the past and its lessons, but do not live in it nor worship it, nor look longingly backward, as did Lot's wife, to her destruction. Look ahead! Do not think too much of the present, but wisely use it and improve it. The Lord says of His people: "They shall be looking forth for the time of My coming." Therefore, from the hills of the present, looking backward betimes with veneration upon the past, the valleys from which we have climbed—keep your eyes fixed upon the future, those towering peaks, those "Alps on Alps" of progress and perfection that are yet to be surmounted, and upon whose snowy summits will yet plant their feet a people pure and righteous, strong and powerful, that will go down in the night of the Lord and redeem Zion!

God speed the day, through Jesus, Christ. Amen.

Over twelve inches of snow has fallen in the Junction City during the last twenty-four hours.