

His side went there also. Some people think that because the thief said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom," and Jesus replied, "To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise," that he (the thief) went direct to heaven and in the presence of God. Now, if he did, Jesus Christ broke His own word; for He said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Where did the thief go? Wherever Jesus went, the thief went, and he had the privilege of hearing Jesus preach the Gospel, so that he might have the chance of being judged according to men in the flesh, but living according to God in the spirit. And how could he do that? By receiving the same Gospel that men had in the flesh. Jesus, then, left his body in the tomb and went to the spirit world. Those everlasting gates had to be lifted up. "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." He went and preached deliverance to the captives, and opened the prison doors to them that were bound. He went to proclaim the acceptable day of the Lord. He came back to His sleeping body, and having the keys of hell He also grasped the keys of death, and His body was quickened. He stood upon His feet and ministered to His disciples. He could then go to His Father and report the accomplishment of His mission. He could say: "I have done the work thou gavest me to do; I have preached the Gospel to the meek; I have bound up the broken-hearted; I have preached deliverance to the captives; I have opened the prison doors of them that were bound; I have led captivity captive; I have shed my blood as an atonement for the sins of the world; now, Father, accept of me and my labors." Then He could come to the earth and say: "All power is given unto me both in the heavens and on the earth." He had fulfilled His mission, and had received immortal keys and honors and powers as a reward of the fulfillment thereof. He shall occupy the highest place among all the sons of God, because He is the firstborn, and has performed the work of the firstborn in the plan of human redemption. He will be exalted above every creature, because He was the most obedient of every creature. He will be the greatest, because He was the humblest. He will be the richest, because He was the best. He is the sinless Christ, and therefore He wears the eternal crown.

There is another question that arises here. If men can hear the Gospel in the spirit world, can they obey it fully in the spirit world? Let us look at that a little. Here are the Gospel ordinances. Are ordinances of any effect? Yes, they are. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." Just the same as if an alien does not obey the naturalization laws, he cannot become a citizen of the United States. God's house is a house of order. He has a way of His own, and he that will not accept that way cannot obtain the blessing. Then can those spirits who hear the Gospel in the spirit world obey the Gospel fully? Can they believe? Yes. Can they repent? Why not? It is the soul of man, or the spirit of man in the body, not the body, that believes. It is the spirit of man in the body that repents. What is it that obeys the ordinances? Why, the spirit. But these ordinances belong to this sphere in which we live, they belong to the earth, they belong to the flesh. Water is an earthly element composed of two gases. It belongs to this earth. What there is in the spirit world, we know little about. But here is the water in which repentant believers must be baptized. Can they be baptized in the spirit world? It appears not. What is to be done, then? The Apostle Paul asks this question in the fifteenth chapter of the first epistle of the Corinthians: "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?" It seems that the people to whom that was written were familiar with the ordinance called baptism for the dead, and they were baptized for their dead. Paul was arguing upon the literal resurrection of the body, and says, What shall they do if the dead rise not; why are they then baptized for the dead? Our learned divines may presume from that that the doctrine is not laid down sufficiently clear to endorse it; but to u

there is no doubt concerning it, the Lord having revealed the principle to the Prophet Joseph Smith. He also explained the manner in which the ordinance should be administered, like everything else He has revealed, in great plainness. And that is why we are building Temples. People who visit our city frequently say, "What a fine meeting-house you are building." No, that is not a meeting-house; this Assembly Hall and the adjacent Tabernacle are meeting-houses. That is a Temple, a building in which we expect to perform ordinances for the living and the dead; wherein we may be baptized for our dead, that they may receive the benefit of that ordinance, provided they believe and repent and do the spiritual part, while we do the material part, that they may receive the blessings of obedience to the Gospel, and live according to God in the spirit. Some will say, "I cannot see why a thing done by one person should stand for another." How do you understand the doctrine that Jesus Christ has done something for all of us? We read that "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins." Not my blood or your blood is to be shed for the remission of our sins; but He who was without sin allowed His blood to be shed as a sacrifice for ours. Now the whole question hinges on that. If you reject the doctrine of proxy in baptism, you must reject the doctrine of proxy in the atonement.

Now, there is no dubiety in the minds of the Latter-day Saints on this subject. We have learned these things from God, and we understand them alike. Why? Because we desire the truth; we do not care about the nonsense of men, we want divine truth which comes from God. And when it comes we are anxious to receive it; we seek for it; we ask for it; and He enlightens us by His Spirit, and when the Good Shepherd speaks, we know His voice; and it is that voice that has made plain to us the doctrine that we who have obeyed the Gospel in the flesh may be baptized for our ancestors in the spirit world.

If you will look at this in the spirit that accompanies its unfoldment, your hearts will be filled with joy at the mercy and goodness of God. If there are men or women here who have not believed this, and they will ponder upon it, and seek to God for light upon it, they will have their eyes opened to see that it is one of the most glorious principles. It opens the way for the redemption of our fathers who lived and died without hearing the sound of the Gospel. It opens up the way for the redemption of the heathen nations who never heard the name of Jesus Christ. It opens up the way for the hosts of Israel, with their posterity, who ages ago fell away from the truth and went into darkness; for those whose hearts have been heavy, and whose eyes have been blinded—for it is written "blindness in part has happened unto Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, 'There shall come out of Zion a Deliverer, and He shall turn ungodliness from Jacob. For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.' Those that will live upon the earth of their lineage who shall obey the Gospel, in the latter times will perform the outward ordinances for and in behalf of their dead ancestors. This glorious doctrine lifts up the dark curtain of sectarianism and lets in the light of heaven, and makes plain the justice of God, and the mercy of God. The mercy of our God extends to all of his children, not only to one little branch through the loins of Abraham. All shall hear, all shall have the opportunity of knowing the ways of life and truth, and the opportunity of rejoicing therein; and this is the means that God will adopt to accomplish this great and stupendous result: Every heart shall be gladdened with the tidings of salvation. The living and the dead shall be visited and even those who have been thrust down to hell, who have been beaten with many stripes, and have suffered their portion in the eternal punishment, will have the arm of sweet mercy extended to them when stern justice is satisfied; and in due time every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ to the glory of God the Father. And the time will come when death and hell shall be destroyed, and there will be no more death, neither sorrow nor pain, but every creature, in heaven above and the earth beneath shall be heard to sing, "Blessing, and honor, praise and power, be unto God and the Lamb forever,

who has redeemed us by His blood out of every nation and tribe and tongue and people!"

The Gospel is plain and simple and easily understood and appreciated by the honest seeker after truth. The reason that people generally do not receive it when it is preached to them by the servants of God—it is a hard saying, but true nevertheless—is because their deeds are evil; because they love the things of the world more than the things of God, and the love of the Father is not in them. And because they reject the truth when presented to them, and delight in the spirit of the world, they oppose the truth; and if not openly, in their hearts they sanction acts of persecution and hatred against the Saints of God. Some of them are corrupt in their practices, and such persons are ever ready to assail and traduce the character of our leading men, men whom we know to be pure in their lives, and to be righteous before God; it is the very worst of men who take this course, and thus the Evil One, the destroyer of the souls of men worketh in them and through them. And when they have opposed this work all that they possibly can, they will find that it still flourishes and grows and spreads forth, while they will go to the place prepared for them, where they will remain until they shall have paid the uttermost farthing for their wilful wickedness. All men who fight against the Holy Priesthood of God, will have to meet that some day. Their acts are not hidden from the eyes of Him who does not slumber. Their evil deeds and wicked sayings will be revealed openly. The time will come when the first angel of God will sound the trumpet declaring the secret acts of men during the first thousand years; and the second angel will sound his trumpet and reveal the secret acts of men and the thoughts and intents of their hearts during the second thousand years, and so on down to the last thousand years, even until it shall be declared that time shall be no longer, and the secret acts of all men in all the ages shall be brought to light. My brethren and sisters, let that be a caution to you and to me. When we went down into the waters of baptism and were immersed by the servants of God having authority to administer that ordinance for the remission of sins, though our sins were as scarlet they were washed whiter than snow; and we came forth from the water clean and pure, cleansed by the blood of Christ from all sin. But since that time the acts we have performed will have their effect upon us for good or for evil, and we shall be accountable for them when we stand before the bar of God. They will be seen and known of all; they are written in the books out of which we are to be judged, and every man's acts are stamped upon his own being, in characters that will speak for themselves, in the day when we shall see as we are seen and know as we are known.

Then let us try and do right for the sake of the right, live in the light of the spirit, see eye to eye, and prove ourselves worthy of the great salvation; and may God help us so to do, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

WHEELING, W. Va., 18.—Special intelligence from Huntington, W. Va., says the largest fire in the history of the town occurred this afternoon, destroying \$50,000 worth of property, with small insurance, rendering homeless 15 or 20 families, and leaving but four buildings standing. In a block 120 feet square the roof fell in, burying five firemen, but they were extricated with only a few bruises except one man, who was seriously injured. The fire is supposed to have originated from careless handling of matches in Kennie's livery stable. The Continental Hotel has been thrown open to those who lost their all.

Toronto, 18.—A fire this morning destroyed the village of Oakville, on the lake shore, 20 miles from here. The fire brigade from here went out by special train, but got there too late to save the village. The loss will amount to \$100,000 or more. The inhabitants are flocking to this city by hundreds for shelter, many on foot. The prohibition act was in force in the county where the village is situated, but when the fire reached the drug store, two barrels of whisky were rolled in the street,

and the members of the village fire brigade all were drunk and helpless. Otherwise the fire might have been controlled in its first stages. Insurance small.

Matamoras, Texas, 18.—Reports have been received of a terrible flood in Yubahua River; it rose so rapidly that the people could not escape. Six were drowned, and much property and stock swept away.

Dubuque, 18.—Dispatches received here from Menominee, Wis., say that the rise of the Menominee River is unprecedented, and that much damage has been done. The river is two feet above the highest previous water mark. At Menominee, owing to the stability of the dam and mills, less damage has been done than elsewhere. The water is four feet deep in the Big Mill, and it will be two weeks before the mills there can be put into running shape.

At Cedar Falls, six miles above Menominee, the dam and mills are badly damaged, and the logs in the dam all broke away. It will take five or six weeks to repair the damage there.

At Prairie Farm, 40 miles above Menominee, the water cut its way around the dam, doing a good deal of damage to mill and store. Scott's dam on Lightning Creek, and Brown's dam on Hay River, are washed away.

At Rye Lake, sixty miles above, the whole country is flooded, and great damage has been done. The middle dam on Moose Bar is partially washed away. At Downsville, 12 miles below Menominee, the dam is partly washed away and the old and new store and boarding house have gone down the river. The devastation there is the greatest of any point on the river. The Chippewa River railroad is badly damaged the whole length of it. It is thought it will be two months before the trains are again running. The flood seriously affects a large portion of the lumbering district of Wisconsin.

New York, 18.—The crew of the schooner *Mary J. Russell*, with which the steamer *City of Meridio* was in collision, arrived to-day. The *Russell*, four hours after the collision, sank to the top of the cabin house, whereon all found refuge until rescued.

Milwaukee, 18.—Iron Mountain Michigan dispatch: No bodies have been found yet, but a coat and pair of mittens were picked up recently. There were probably hanging in the boiler house to dry at the time of the cave in. Some of the buried machinery is being uncovered. The electric lights from Quinnesne mine are being used to facilitate work at night. Pumps from the Chapin mines are being placed in position for use in case the rescuing party meets with water.

Oshkosh, Wis., 18.—The schedule of assets and liabilities in the assignment of S. B. Paige was filed to-day. The assets are put in on lands in Lincoln, Langlade and Douglas Counties, Wisconsin, property in Davenport, Iowa, in Oshkosh, pine lands in Minnesota, and sundry accounts and other items. Value of assets not computed. The liabilities are divided between forty creditors, and amount in total to \$3,697,600.

Cleveland, O., 18.—Coeletown special to the *Leader*: A Pan Handle railway train collided with another near town to-day, and Wm. Russell, one of the oldest conductors on the road, was crushed against a heavy bar in such a manner that his head was cut off, and his body otherwise shockingly mangled.

Boston, 18.—President Perkins, of the C. B. & Q., informs the *Advertiser* that the proposed purchase by his road of the Hanibal & St. Joseph road was consummated this evening in a conference between Perkins and Ames. The terms, as given by him, are thorough, and insisted upon by his people.

The C. B. & Q. will guarantee all bonds of the Hanibal & St. Joseph Railroad Company, and purchase preferred stock at par with its 3 per cent. debenture bonds and common stock at 42, the price paid John R. Duff, with 6 per cent. interest since the date of that purchase; payment for this will also be made in 6 per cent. bonds.

New York, 18.—The executive committee of the Stock Exchange listed five million collateral trust bonds of the Union Pacific Railroad, three millions of Oregon Short Line, and about twenty-two million common and preferred stock and bonds of the Chicago, St. Louis & Pittsburg Railroad.

Railroad Commissioner Fink announces that as some of the rail-

roads insist upon a reduction in grain rates on and after to-morrow, rates on the eighth class will be a basis of 25 cents per hundred pounds from Chicago to New York. Rates on all other classes, unchanged.

Toronto, 18.—It is understood the rupture of negotiations between the Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways is connected with the construction of the Central Ontario & Quebec railway, the Ontario & Quebec being prepared for track laying in the vicinity of the city.

Little Rock, 18.—Under an act passed by the Legislature during construction, Phillips, Monroe, St. Francis, Jefferson, Chicot and other counties issued bonds for various purposes, some for \$100,000, others \$300,000, making a very heavy aggregate. The counties mentioned several years later resisted payment, declaring the law unconstitutional. Recently the Supreme Court of the State in the Jefferson county case declared the act unconstitutional to-day the U. S. District Court delivered an opinion that the counties owe the debt and must pay the bonds.

Chicago, 18.—A representative of the Pennsylvania Railway is in the city to-day for the purpose of establishing a ticket office for the Chicago, St. Louis & Pittsburg Railway, formerly Columbus, Chicago & Indiana Central. The intention is said to be to make it a competing trunk line between Chicago and New York via Pittsburg, to operate outside of the pool.

Commissioner Fink has issued a call for a meeting of the General Managers and General Passenger Agents of the trunk lines, to be held in New York, April 25th, to take final action in regard to the differential rate agreement, and for the establishment of an Eastern passenger pool. At the same meeting the General Managers will consider questions in freight traffic, covering dead and live freight, the reorganization of pools, etc.

Albany, 18.—Sixty-six million five hundred thousand dollars worth of stock was voted to-day by supporters of the Vanderbilt ticket at the election for directors of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad.

CHICAGO, 18.—An important sale of short-horn cattle took place at Dexter Park to-day. The attendance of breeders from the cattle raising districts of the West was large, and the bidding spirited. The animals sold were drafts from the herds of Richard Gibson, Illinois, and Rigdon, Hueston & Son, Blandinsville, Ill. Thirty-five head were disposed of, for \$37,500. Twenty-five cows and heifers averaged \$1,219; ten bulls averaged \$170. Among the important sales were Duchess of Hillsdale 1st, 2 years, sired by Duke of Airdrie 22nd, dam Duchess of Hillaret 6th, to Charles Degraff, of Winona, Minn., for \$7,000; Kirklevington, Duchess of Hillsdale, second, yearling, sired by Duke of Airdrie 22nd, dam imported Kirklevington Duchess 18th, to Strother Gucus, Alsington, Ill., for \$1,900; Duchess of Geneva, 10 years, sire, Duke of Geneva 6th, dam Wild Oxfordton, to N. P. Clark, of St. Cloud, Minn.; Lilly Barrington 6th, 2 years, sire, Duke of Oxford 51st, dam Lilly Barrington, to A. J. Alexander, of Spring Station, Ky.; Duke of Hillsdale 1st, 2 years, sire, Duke of Airdrie 22nd, dam Duchess of Huston 7th, to George Allen & Son, of Palermo, Ill., for \$3,500.

DENVER, 19.—The El Paso Times special says: From Crook's headquarters Wilcox, Arizona, General Crook, with two hundred Apache scouts and one company of Cavalry, will move into the mountains of Mexico next Sunday. Mexican troops will co-operate. Fears are entertained of a fight between Apache scouts and rangers from Tombstone who are reported en route to the San Carlos Indians.

PORTLAND, 19.—A boiler in Donald McCleary's planing mill, burst yesterday afternoon. W. H. Green, engineer, was killed and two others wounded, but not dangerously. The front of the mill was blown out. The boiler was scale eaten.

CHICAGO, 19.—The *Tribune* has a long letter on the Alaska fur trade, and adds editorially: Under the protection of the United States revenue officials and with the help of a revenue cutter to shell an occasional Indian village, the Commercial Company monopolizes the entire commerce of Alaska, and practically excludes all outside competition. The manner in which the extremely valuable fisheries of Alaska have passed into the hands of this soulless corporate