

tude we were in only by taking astronomical observations,—getting the altitude of the sun, moon, or stars, and determining our latitude and longitude to find out where we were, as sea captains do on the great deep. And thus we continued, month after month, to wander in this solitary way, in this wilderness as it were; and when we entered these valleys we found no city already built for us. David said that the people who should be gathered from all lands would "find no city to dwell in"—no city already prepared for them.

Did we have any suffering, affliction, hunger, thirst and fatigue? I can bear testimony that the pioneers, and many others who followed in their track that season, can look back to that period of their lives, as to a time when they experienced the fulfillment of David's words:—"hungry and thirsty their souls fainteth in them. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble and he delivered them out of their distresses." This was literally fulfilled, for we were faithful in calling on the Lord; we bowed before him in the morning, we humbled ourselves before Him in the evening, and we prostrated ourselves before Him in our secret places. Some of us went out upon the hills by ourselves, and called upon the Lord, according to the order of the Holy Priesthood, which order, many of you who have received your endowments, understand. Many times we were thirsty, and our souls were ready to faint within us; but we came forth by the direction of the Almighty. His hand was with us, He heard our cries, our prayers came up before Him, and He delivered us from all our afflictions. Yet we found no city to dwell in; no splendid houses, mansions, and palaces and everything conducive to happiness and comfort, as our emigration from foreign countries find in these times.

Finding no city to dwell in, the Lord permitted us to prepare a city for habitation. I have stated that the Lord had accomplished wonders—great wonders—besides healing the sick and doing those things already named; and one of those great wonders is the city of Great Salt Lake. It is a miracle to my eyes, it is a miracle to the Latter-day Saints who dwell within it; it is a miracle to all the inhabitants of the Territory; it is a miracle to our enemies scattered abroad; and a wonder to all the nations of the earth who have read its description. Let me tell a secret that some of you, perhaps, have not fully understood. Do you know, Latter-day Saints, that this city is already celebrated in distant nations, across the sea, as one of the most beautiful cities upon the American Continent? It is even so. What renders it beautiful? It is not because all the houses have been joined house to house, and story piled on story. No, that does not add to the beauty of a city. That is after the fashion of old Babylon, or like the cities of the nations. They, it is true, build some very superb buildings, of the most beautiful and costly materials—granite and marble stone, magnificent in style, and adorned with all the beauties of modern architecture. We see this in the cities of the eastern states, in old England, on the Continent of Europe, and wherever modern civilization extends; but what is all this, when compared to the beauty of our habitations? When emerging from Parley's Cañon in the stage, I put my head out of the window to look for the city of Great Salt Lake, but it was so completely shrouded in trees, that I could scarcely get a glimpse of it. Now and then I caught sight of a chimney peeping out above the stately shade trees and smiling orchards, I could also see this great tabernacle that you are now building, towering up, like a little mountain; but it was impossible to get a full view of the city generally it was so completely covered with orchards and ornamental shade trees. I thought to myself that I never saw a grander sight. Where did these trees come from? You brought them down from the mountains, then little saplings; many of you brought them on your shoulders, others piled them on their wagons, and then you set them out on land that had the appearance of being a parched desert, and in soil, that to all human appearance was unproductive. And during the twenty years that have rolled over your heads, you have beautified this city, and made it a paradise. It surpasses all the cities of the east in beauty; and your industry is spoken of abroad, as something wonderful and marvellous. For a people without capital, driven from their former homes,

having nothing, as it were, but bone and sinew, to bring to pass the marvels we now behold, is considered without a parallel.

But David says, that this people, gathered from all nations, who would find no city to dwell in, should finally prepare a city for habitation. Thank you, brethren, for having fulfilled the prophecy. Many other things, in this same Psalm, are now being fulfilled. The inspired psalmist predicts that the Lord would cause waters to break out in the wilderness; and in the desert springs of water; and that the thirsty ground should become pools of water. Has this been fulfilled? What aspect is presented over the country, for miles and miles around, when you irrigate your farming lands? Do you cast your eyes over them sometimes, and see standing, pools of water? If you do, you behold the fulfillment of the psalm. In the twenty-ninth chapter of Isaiah—the very place where this book, (the Book of Mormon) is spoken of, and the marvellous work that should be accomplished by its means, we also read that a forest "shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest." David also says, that you were not only to make a city for habitation, but you were to plant vineyards, sow fields, and eat the increase thereof, and he would not suffer your cattle to decrease.

I have been gone about three years, and I would like to enquire of those who keep cattle, whether they are on the increase in this Territory. I think if they were to answer they would say they are. Brother Kimball says the Territory is perfectly alive with them; and I have no doubt that the hills, mountains, and valleys are sprinkled over with them, and that they are on the increase. This is what David says—"He suffers not their cattle to decrease;" and he also informs us that that barren, thirsty land, that solitary place, that wilderness through which His people should be led, should become, as it were, a fruitful field—this you know has been literally fulfilled. We are further informed that "blessed are they who sow beside all waters and send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass." How do you farm in this land? you answer, by the side of the water streams. They do not farm in this way in the old countries; but wherever they find a beautiful piece of soil, whether on mountain or plain, they convert it into a farm, it is no matter if it be many miles from the water. But Isaiah saw that this people would be put in possession of a land, where it would be necessary to "sow beside all waters," and in passing up and down this Territory it is universally the case, that all our farming lands are located alongside the water streams which come out of the mountains.

Do you want a blessing, brethren? If you do, Isaiah has given you one, for he exclaims, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass." David also declares, in the Psalm already referred to, that "He setteth the poor on high from affliction and maketh him families like a flock." What does the Psalmist mean? Does he mean to say that the families of a poor man who has been gathered should increase like a flock? This is what he predicts: why do the world find fault with it? Are there not some fault-finders? I hope not; Br. Kimball says, they are all dead; if so, it is to be hoped that we will be troubled with them no more.

We should rejoice to think that God has brought us into this desert country and made it so fruitful, like the Garden of Eden, where the poor man, who in the old countries could scarcely live, has in the course of the twenty years, not only got flocks and herds, but "families" (for David actually puts in the plural) "like a flock." To go around these valleys, and occasionally count the families of a poor man, is like counting a flock of sheep. Gentiles (we merely repeat the name they have given themselves) feel like finding fault with us in regard to this matter; but if we are satisfied, why should they find fault? If the poor man has been lifted up on high, just as David said he should be, and if the Lord has made him to have families like a flock, why should you find fault with this poor man? Is he not better off here than in the old countries, where for twelve or sixteen hours daily labor he received only eight shillings per week, for himself and family—and was scarcely able to

keep body and soul together—living and dying in the most squalid poverty?

I cannot see any harm in the people coming to this distant land, and gathering around them flocks, and herds, and fields, and each multiplying his own families; till they resemble a flock. All seem to feel tolerably well about it. The wives of these poor men have smiling faces, and seem happy. I do not know but some of them quarrel; but that does not prove that the principle is not good and true. Monogamist families also quarrel sometimes, but you would not do away with marriage and say that a man ought not to have one wife because they pull hair occasionally. Why find fault, then, with the poor man David speaks about, whose families should be like a flock, because now and then one gets up a quarrel? The system is good; the quarrel is no part of the system, but is a violation of it, and is the introduction of discord into that which the Lord intended to harmonize. Plurality of wives is something a little different from what our fathers have taught us, and it will take us a little while to learn this ancient scriptural order. You would not find fault with a little child because it did not learn the alphabet, spelling lessons, and get into reading in one day. Let all have a chance to learn by experience, and by that which God has revealed in ancient and modern times, to rule, govern, and control these great flocks and families so that they may be worthy to rule in the Kingdom of God.

There are many curious things written in the ancient prophecies and in the writings of the Psalmist. The people abroad in the world generally think a great deal of what David said. There are some churches so pious that they would not have a hymn, composed in modern times, sung by their congregations. They would think their chapels were polluted by singing a hymn composed by any poet or poetess in these days. You may think I am misrepresenting them, but I am not. You go to Scotland if you wish to see the truth of these words. Will the Scotch Presbyterians permit hymns of their own composition to be sung in their sanctuaries? No; what do they substitute? The Psalms of David—the man after God's own heart, who was so righteous when but a boy that God was with him; and who, long before he was raised to the throne of Israel, and while yet a youth, as it were, had eight wives, and into whose bosom God afterwards gave all the wives of his master Saul. This man knew how to make psalms, for he made them by inspiration for the Scotch Church to sing; he understood it; and when he looked upon and realized what a flock of wives and children he had, he no doubt felt a glow of pleasure in anticipation of the time, when the same orders should be established among that people who were to be gathered from all lands. When have any people ever fulfilled these ancient prophecies if this people are not doing it now.

Go back, now, historians, and tell us what people have ever fulfilled these sayings, except the Latter-day Saints. Did the ancient church ever fulfil these prophecies? No; why not? Because the dispensation of gathering had not then come. They were commanded to build up churches in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus and various parts of the earth; and when they had built up these churches they were permitted to stay at home. David says the people of God are to be gathered from all lands, and we see that it was not done by the ancient church. Now come down from the days of the introduction of Christianity into Palestine to the present period and place your finger, if you can, on a people who have fulfilled these prophecies. You can find nothing that has had the appearance of it, until the appearance of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Since his day you can see what the Lord has done in sending abroad His missionaries, as swift messengers to preach the gospel to all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, baptizing all who would repent, and building up churches to His holy name, then proclaiming in the ears of all the Saints, "Go from all these nations to the great western hemisphere, locate yourselves on the high portions of the North American Continent in the midst of the mountains, and be gathered in one, that you may fulfil the prophecies that have been uttered concerning you." When we see this, we see God fulfilling that which He spake many long centuries ago. And the work is still rolling on, just as fast as the wheels of time can roll

it. The Prophet Isaiah, in the 35th chapter says "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

Latter-day Saints lift up your hearts and rejoice with joy unspeakable; for you are the very ones who have the privilege of fulfilling this; you see it directly before you. Has this prophecy been fulfilled here? Was there a wilderness here? Was there a desert here, and does it blossom as the rose? I was not here this spring, but I will venture to say that if I had been within three miles of this city, in April or May, I should have seen, for five or six square miles, peach, pear, plum and apple trees all in bloom, literally making the wilderness to blossom as the rose. What a miracle compared with twenty years ago, when I stood, solitary and alone by the side of City Creek, near this temple block, and surveyed the scene! The prophecy of Isaiah has been fulfilled, thanks be to Him who rules, controls, and guides all these things!

If there ever was a people that needed blessings, it seems to me, that the Latter-day Saints are the ones. How much you have suffered in years past and gone! How great have been your trials for the truths sake! How great your exertions together out from among the nations of the earth! How great has been your toil in this desert country to fulfil these prophecies! God bless you, and your generations for evermore, and give you a hundred fold, besides these valleys, to make you and your posterity rejoice, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FROM SWITZERLAND.

Through the kindness of Elder Wm. Clayton, we are enabled to present our readers with the following extracts from a letter to him by Elder J. S. Horne, bearing date St. Imier, August 16th:

Bro. Karl G. Maeser arrived here on the 13th inst., safe and sound, and looking much better than when I last saw him in Salt Lake City. We expect br. Octave Ursenbach every day. He is now visiting in France. You can imagine how gladly br. Maeser and I met each other, and how much we had to say. He is sitting by me now, busy writing, and feels first-rate.

The people in this country are now busy with their harvest, which is only middling. There has been a great amount of hay made this season, but the crops, generally speaking, are lighter than they have been some previous years. Fruit is also not so good as we have seen it.

The Cholera is said to be raging in Italy. It is also reported to be in Zurich, Switzerland, though as yet not very extensive; it is hoped it will be stopped, but I am unable to say how that will be, a higher Power will govern that matter, according to my opinion. The people seem to continue in the same old downward track; wickedness of various kinds is so common that in many instances it is merely mentioned; or passed by as a matter of course in this enlightened age.

I am still enjoying good health, and feeling first-rate in my mission. We do not have so many converts as would be pleasing to us, but that does not make our duties less important, neither are we less responsible.

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.—A young minister went out to preach, and observed during his discourse, a lady who seemed much affected. After meeting he concluded to pay her a visit, and see what the impressions of her mind were. He approached her thus:

"Well, madam, I see you were affected much to-day during preaching?"

"Hark me," said the lady, "I'll tell you. About six years ago, me and my husband moved to this place, all the property we had was a donkey. Husband he died, and me and the beast were left alone. At last the beast died, and to tell you the truth, your voice put me so much in mind of that dear old critter, that I could not help taking on and crying about it right in meeting."

A CEDAR post is standing in Sharon, N. J., which is not all decayed, though it was put in its present position in 1749—118 years ago.