



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

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REFLECTIONS.

The aspect which the civilized world presents is a painfully humiliating one, if the people could only realize it. With advantages such as perhaps no previous generation has possessed, the nations of Christendom to-day bid fair to eclipse any previous age in manifesting the very worst phases of the human character.

Among barbarous and semi-civilized peoples, great physical strength, powers of endurance, undaunted courage, with brain enough to successfully direct them for superiority and power, are viewed with greatest respect and are deemed the highest claims to excellence. They regard war as comparatively praiseworthy. It is a medium by which these characteristics are tested, and through which they come to be viewed as exalting virtues. The strength of Cœur de Leon's arm and the trenchant blows which he dealt his adversaries in fight, did more to inspire his enemies with terror at his name and fill his rough subjects with a rugged affection for their monarch, than if he had possessed the gentleness of Edward the Confessor and the astute statesmanship of Richelieu combined. The spirit and feeling of the rough feudal ages were in perfect harmony with reckless and hairbrained exploits, which now, in theory, would be apt to gain their perpetrator the uncomplimentary epithet of a fool-hardy madman.

It was perfectly consistent with such an age and such a condition of society as then existed to be at war, and to go to war on the slightest provocation. But now we see nations that can scarcely speak of those times without a sneeringly contemptuous superiority; that refer in a spirit of self-glorification to "the dark and feudal ages;" that boast of their enlightenment, and declare they have stood for ages in the foreground of progressive civilization, launching into war on the most trivial pretexts, emulating in fierceness and bitterness, not semi-civilized communities, but savage hordes, and engaging in the work of wholesale destruction as if it were a pastime.

It is not one nation or two that thus stultifies their professions and pretensions, but Christendom as a whole, that while singing the praises and lauding the virtues of the Prince of Peace from her million places of worship, in terrible mockery changes her songs of praise for notes of battle, her laudations of peace for the angry voice of war, mingled with the groans of the dying, the shrieks of the torn and mangled, and the wail of widows and orphans.

What has the world gained by eighteen centuries of preaching a perverted gospel, by all their inventions, and their much boasted advancement in civilization and enlightenment, in science and art? Nothing; except it be the power to destroy each other in greater numbers and with greater rapidity. How much nearer do they appear to be to universal peace now than they were when paganism controlled the greater portion of the earth? Strife, turmoil, confusion, corruption, depravity unequalled, and war prevail throughout the earth. And are these

the fruits of civilization, of enlightenment, of missionary efforts, of bible societies and institutions organized for the benefit of mankind? This is the condition of the world. These are the results which we see,—results which are patent to all.

This is what we have embraced the gospel and come to these mountain valleys to flee from. This is what our enemies seek to compel us to be participants in. These are among the blessings (!) they are striving to have us enjoy. Through the gospel we have found peace; not the spasmodic feeling which enthusiasts rave about in protracted revivals, that leads to the most bitter animosity against all who happen to differ from them in religious or political views; but that genuine peace which the world would fain enjoy but will not accept, and which will be as lasting as our obedience to the principles of truth. This peace they avowedly declare they would rob us of. Do we realize its worth, and the blessings that accompany it? Can we look upon our fields, smiling with the fruits of the earth, bearing direct evidence to the bounties of a merciful, kind and ever watchful Providence, and not feel to appreciate the position we occupy, the blessings we enjoy, and the gospel which has bestowed them upon us?

If Christendom understood, and would practically apply, that commandment on which hangs "all the law and the prophets," they would not be in their present terrible condition. That commandment says to all, "Love the Lord thy God, and thy neighbor as thyself." That would bring peace, happiness, honest dealing, uprightness between man and man, and a course of action productive of continued good to all. If, as a people, we are wise, we will seek constantly to observe this injunction, that we may enjoy the benefits accruing from such observance.

The dispatches which now cross the wire from the east, read us a most significant lesson, if we would but give heed to their teachings.

TRIP TO GRANTSVILLE, AND DEDICATION OF THE NEW MEETING HOUSE THERE.

On Friday morning, 13th inst., Presidents B. Young and H. C. Kimball, accompanied by Elders John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Geo. A. Smith, F. D. Richards, Geo. Q. Cannon, and a number of other Elders, left this city for Grantsville. On arriving at Black Rock, they were met by Bishop J. Rowberry and Capt. J. Gillespie with a company of mounted men and escorted to E. T. City, where they partook of a sumptuous repast provided for them; after which a meeting was held, which was addressed by Elder Cannon, and Presidents Young and Kimball.

MEETING AT E. T. CITY.

Elder Cannon spoke of the blessings poured upon us in our mountain home, of the protecting hand of God which has been over us, and over the Saints coming from distant lands; and urged that the great lesson which God has endeavored to teach us is *perfect obedience* to Him and His will; warning the Saints against importuning the servants of God for counsel not dictated by the Spirit of the Lord.

Pres. Young expressed himself that his sole object in visiting the Saints is to do good. The blessings of food, lodging and the association of friends be enjoyed at home. But our great aim ought to be to build up the kingdom of God. We have gathered here for that purpose, and in gathering we have brought ourselves with our peculiarities along. He cautioned the Saints against allowing the word of God to be choked by the cares of the world; for many are loving the world, in their haste to get rich, as though they have forgotten that

the things of the world perish with the using. Riches are good in their place; but when a love for them takes the place of a love for the light of God and those virtues which ought to rule in our hearts, they become a curse instead of a blessing; hence there are those among the Saints who are sometimes found with riches, yet grovelling in darkness.

Pres. Kimball inculcated the principle of obedience and the necessity of prayer. He encouraged the Saints to plant out fruit trees and grow their own fruit; to cultivate little but cultivate it well; and urged that whatsoever we sow that we shall reap. He said that if he had but ten acres of land he would have all necessary kinds of fruit on it.

TO GRANTSVILLE.

After meeting, the company proceeded to Grantsville, and were welcomed on reaching it by the School children, cleanly and neatly dressed, carrying banners with appropriate mottoes; and a battalion of infantry, who presented arms as the company passed, having a very fine appearance.

THE NEW MEETING HOUSE,

in which the congregation assembled on the morning of the 14th inst., is a fine adobe building, which reflects great credit on the small but thriving settlement of Grantsville. It is 60 feet long by 38 feet wide, and is 17 feet from floor to ceiling. There is also an ante-room 16 by 16 feet, over which is a prayer-room of similar dimensions. Elder G. Q. Cannon offered the following

DEDICATORY PRAYER.

O God, our Eternal Father, in the name of Jesus Christ we thy servants and thy handmaidens have assembled ourselves together this morning for the purpose of dedicating this house unto Thee, the Lord our God. We thank Thee for the many blessings which Thou hast bestowed upon us as a people. We thank Thee for the Gospel of Jesus Christ which Thou hast revealed unto us for our salvation. We thank Thee for the gifts of the gospel, and for the Holy Priesthood with all its attendant blessings. We thank Thee for all the blessings that we have enjoyed from the time we have come upon the earth till the present time. We desire to come before Thee with hearts full of gratitude and thankfulness, because Thou hast fulfilled all Thy promises unto us; every word Thou hast spoken, every promise Thou hast made unto us has been fulfilled. We glorify Thee in our hearts and praise Thy name in the congregations of the Saints, for Thou, O Lord our God, art far above the gods of the children of men.

Thou seest, O Lord, the exertions which the enemies of Thy people have made from year to year to frustrate Thy work and to destroy Thy servants; but Thou hast delivered us out of all our afflictions and defended us from all our enemies, and hast given us power to accomplish Thy purposes on the earth, for which we thank Thee; and also because Thou hast given unto us an existence in this probation when holy angels have been sent to communicate Thy will, and to bestow upon man on the earth the keys of life and salvation, that man and the earth on which we dwell might be prepared for the coming of Thy Kingdom and power in great glory.

We thank Thee, O God our Heavenly Father, for that measure of Thy Holy Spirit which prepared our hearts for the reception of the testimony of Thy servants. We thank Thee for the peace with which Thou hast blessed us since we came to these valleys of the mountains; that notwithstanding the machinations of our enemies we are yet dwelling in peace one with another, having rulers of our own choice whom Thou hast given unto us.

We come before Thee to dedicate this house unto Thee and unto Thy service. We dedicate the land upon which this house is built and which surrounds it, that it may be holy and pure, with the fence, and the shade trees planted around it for ornament. We dedicate the corner stone with all the stones of the foundation, with the sand, the clay and the lime used for mortar, that the foundation of this building may be firm and immovable. We dedicate the walls of this house unto Thee, the Lord our God, and the adobe work, with the mortar and timber and all the materials of which the walls are composed; with the gables also, and the walls from the top to the bottom and from the bottom to the top. We dedicate the floors of this house unto Thee, with the seats and the joists, the boards and the nails pertaining thereunto. We dedicate the doors, with the locks and the hinges, the windows and the fastenings thereof, the sashes, the glass, the nails and the

easing. We dedicate the roof unto Thee, O Lord, with the rafters, the shingles, the nails, the pins that fasten the rafters, and all the material of which the roof is composed, that all may be blessed and dedicated to Thee. We dedicate the chimneys, the ceiling, the laths, with the nails, the plastering, and the ornaments thereon, and the paint used on the seats, the doors and windows, and throughout the building, that the paint may be blessed to preserve from decay the timber upon which it is used. We dedicate the stand, the railing, the floor and the seats pertaining thereto; and we dedicate this house which Thy servants have built from the foundation stones to the top thereof unto Thee, that all may be blessed and dedicated to Thee, the Lord our God, and be holy unto Thy name.

We pray Thee, O Lord, that Thou wilt bless and strengthen every part of this house, that it may be durable and form a shelter to Thy Saints in which they may worship Thee. And when any of Thy servants enter this stand, may inspiration from on high rest down upon them, that they may speak unto the edification, the comfort and the instruction and reproof of Thy people; and should Thine Elders sin, when they enter this stand may they see their sins and transgressions, and may they be remitted and they have power to turn away from the same; and may Thy people be filled with Thy Holy Spirit when they come here to worship, that their hearts may be prepared to receive the words of Thy servants; and should strangers enter, may Thy spirit open their hearts to receive the word, that they may not be inclined to mock and deride Thy work, but that they may be convinced of the truth.

We pray Thee, O Lord, to bless this house with all its surroundings, and all the land which Thy people possess. May Thine angels be around this house, and when Thy servants offer up prayer herein, whether in the days of peace and prosperity when every thing is smiling around them, or in times of adversity, may Thine ears be open to the cries of Thy people, and may there ever be a sweet spirit here. We dedicate unto Thee all this land which Thou hast given unto us, with our wives, our children, our flocks, our herds and our substance, praying that we may have power to grow up a holy and pure people unto Thee. We pray that Thou wouldst manifest the acceptance of this dedication unto Thee by the outpouring of Thy Holy Spirit upon us at this time.

All these blessings we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pres. Kimball felt to dedicate his will to God, and if that be subservient to Him all else will be. He felt like blessing all the land, and dedicating it to the Lord, with everything we possess, and our bodies and spirits which should be pure and holy. He reproved the practice of finding fault with others, instead of seeking to correct our own faults; and showed that God designs we should increase in the possession of all useful knowledge, to make the elements of life around subservient to our wants.

Elder Geo. A. Smith felt comfortable at meeting with the Saints in such a comfortable house. Was pleased to hear Elder Kimball bear testimony that for thirty-five years he had prayed every day. Realized that many could bear the same testimony, although there were others who could not because of their remissness. Exhorted the brethren to keep the Sabbath holy. Referred to the history of the settlement of the southern country, and the instructions given to the settlers to live in forts, and said that Pres. Brigham Young preached in 1853, that if the settlers did not fort up in twenty years they would be driven out of the mountains. Reviewed briefly the sad effects resulting from non-obedience to counsel.

Benediction—by Bishop Lorenzo D. Young.

2 p.m.

Elder Wilford Woodruff said he was pleased to have the privilege of meeting the Saints in so good a house in Grantsville, and felt thankful to see them surrounded with such heavy fields of grain. All the improvements we make in adorning the earth, cultivating fields, planting gardens and orchards, building dwelling and meeting houses, tabernacles or temples, we do for ourselves, for our own benefit, and not particularly to add to the glory of God. If we obey the laws of God and keep His ordinances we do it for our own salvation, and not for the salvation of the Lord, for He is already saved and exalted to thrones, dominion, power and glory. Elder Woodruff showed the difference between the Saints of God and the world,—those who had the gospel of Christ and walked in the light of it, and were looking for the fulfillment of the promises of God