

He felt his lack of wisdom; he suffered mental agony in the darkness that surrounded him. But he took this promise to be true and put it to the test. The results were the opening of his understanding to the condition of the world and the calling to be the messenger of heaven.

Shall we now say that he was deceived? That his mind became darkened by the prayer? Then, we must say that the Bible misled him. If Joseph was deceived, he must have been so by the power of darkness. We must suppose, then, that in answer to his confident prayer to God, he was delivered up to the influences of Satan. But if there is any truth in the promises of the word of our Heavenly Father, we must admit that the prayer of the young boy was answered by Him to whom his fervent supplications were devoted.

It must not be forgotten in this connection that there are many witnesses who, besides Joseph, testified to the truth of his statements, and notably to the divine assistance in the finding of the book of Mormon. It has been repeatedly pointed out that these witnesses never denied their testimonies. Some of them entered other associations and were even bitter against the Prophet and his friends, but they never denied their testimony. On the contrary, as long as they lived, and on their death-beds, facing eternity, they still testified. The force of this argument has never been successfully met, nor can it be overcome. It is not to be supposed that these men would be lying all their lives and go down to their graves with a falsehood on their lips. Their testimony should be accepted as true by reasonable beings.

It has been asserted that these witnesses were themselves deceived by somebody personating an angel. But this suggestion is about as feasible as was the one offered by the High Priests, who induced the Roman soldiers to say that the body of Christ was stolen by the disciples while they—the soldiers—were asleep, as if it were possible to see the thieves while asleep. Those who suggest that the witnesses to the Book of Mormon were deceived by an impersonator, must think that it is an easy matter to act the part of an angel, and that people are easily satisfied in this respect. He would soon be undeceived by attempting it. Should he drop in among intelligent persons and hint that he were an angel, he would find that people are much less credulous than Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, the Whitmers and the Smiths are supposed to have been. When

men like these stand up before the world and testify in sober words that they have seen heavenly messengers, it is safe to give credence to their statements. In such matters people are not easily deceived. The influence of the presence of such messengers cannot be imparted by mortal men. It is as reasonable to presume that Daniel was deceived by the angel that unfolded to him the contents of the "Scripture of truth," or that John was deceived on Patmos, as to suppose that these witnesses were the victims of deception.

Is there any more testimony needed? If so, the world furnishes it. Every day brings new proofs that God spoke through Joseph Smith. The revolutions in nature, the commotions among the nations and the situation of the Church today, combine in proving that Joseph was a Prophet of God. And then, there is the testimony in the heart of the believer. Those that love truth understand it. They receive the impression thereof indelibly stamped on their hearts. They know for themselves that the work is of divine origin and become living witnesses of the mission of Joseph Smith, the Prophet.

#### INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

THERE is a charm in perusing an old volume of a newspaper that to the reflective mind is truly fascinating. One is carried back to the past, and feels himself actually conversing with, or listening to, the sages who are dead and gone. Sometimes he is astonished at their wisdom, or, at any rate, impressed with their honest faith and simple innocence.

In perusing the pages of the first volume of the DESERET NEWS which begins with June 15, 1850, and ends with August 19, 1851, one meets with many passages that today make interesting reading. There is one in particular that is peculiarly appropriate to our time. It is to be found in the issue of January 11, 1851.\*

In view of the great hubbub raised at present about the fostering of home industries and the development of domestic resources, this document has a peculiar significance. It is the message of Governor Brigham Young to the Deseret Legislature, dated December 2, 1850. It is one of the most complete State documents to be found in the annals of United States history. In political wisdom it is incomparable. It embraces every topic needful and relevant to a State government.

It dwells forcibly on industrial subjects. An extract from the State paper will show best what it excels in, as

well as demonstrate the superior wisdom and penetrative sagacity of the author. Here is an extract relating to industries:

"It is highly desirable that the capitalists of this State should introduce machinery for the manufacture of all kinds of machinery, that will hereafter be required for factories, etc.

Stoves also and other articles of heavy importations should be manufactured by our own enterprise and industry.

Incalculable benefits would result to this community if they would engage in almost every kind of manufacture, not only iron, but paper, books, woollen cloth, leather, crockery, stone ware, and sugar. Upon this last named article I will submit a single estimate for your consideration: Not more than twenty thousand persons would use 456,250 pounds, allowing only one ounce a day to each person; the expense of the transportation alone, at the low rate of ten cents a pound, would amount to \$45,625, a sum equal to construct the most extensive sugar factory; and when considered in connection with the superior quality of the beet, and facility with which it can be raised in these valleys, renders it a most suicidal policy for us to be dependent upon other than our own resources for that article.

In the neighborhood of what has usually been termed Little Salt Lake (now Iron County), our exploring party of last winter discovered inexhaustible beds of the very best of iron ore. A settlement is now being made at that point.

There is no doubt but that the demand and price consequent upon the distance from any successful competition will prove sufficient inducement for the capitalists to invest their means in whatever will necessarily prove a safe investment and insure an abundant return; any and all kinds of encouragement, by throwing around them an energetic and sufficient government, should unquestionably be given. It is wisdom to let capital be associated in infant settlements, because there is a necessity for it for a time; *but to lay the foundation for monied capitalists to monopolize against labor is no part of my policy, politics or religion.*

To encourage enterprise in constructing works of magnitude it may be well to grant privileges; but they should be so guarded as to be made amenable to the power granting them at all times, to prevent the abuse of the powers granted, or diverting them to any other object than the one designed.

Read carefully the last sentences in the foregoing, and compare the "trusts," monopolies, privileges and labor troubles of today with what was anticipated, and what should be guarded against as pictured in that message.

That the sugar project at that time was not a practical success is no reflection on its promoters. Heavy and cumbersome machinery was imported from England at almost incalculable expense. Experts in sugar making were brought from France and Germany, but there were local circumstances and hindrances which they did comprehend, and thus the solution of the sugar problem was delayed. But the question is now solved, and on the lines laid down by Governor Young and his followers.

In glancing further over the first volume of the DESERET NEWS there