

that the angels do, which I can do in my mortal state and yet do not do? Then I would like to know it; for I would like to be like Jesus, and like the angels. I want to be like our Father and God, as far as it is possible in this mortal state for man to be. That is my desire, and always has been; for I want to dwell with God. I want to gain celestial glory. And I know all of you do. What is there that we have not done for this Gospel? Is there anything that we would not do for it, and for the fulfillment of the promise of celestial glory and eternal lives in the presence of God and the Lamb? Why, many of you have forsaken everything on earth for the sake of this Gospel. Therefore, I know that your desires are the same as mine in these matters; and it is a desire that we should cherish and cultivate as fast as we can to get a knowledge of godliness, so that when we are called hence we can go with perfect assurance that we shall go into the society of the holy and the pure, to mingle with prophets, apostles and mighty men who have been faithful in the flesh, who have fought the good fight, and who have been willing to lay down their lives for the truth of heaven. Heaven would not be heaven to you, nor to me, unless we could get into such society. Well, to reach there we must be pure in our hearts. We must be free from sin. We must keep the commandments of God, we must walk uprightly before the Lord, practicing these heavenly principles which are revealed in the Gospel.

Brethren and sisters, I am not speaking to you something that is theoretical, that is unattainable. I do not want to talk about things that are beyond your reach. I want to talk about that which we can do, and that which is within the reach of every one, within the reach of these little boys that are old enough to comprehend my words. Let us be pure, and be instruments in establishing a reign of righteousness on the earth. Each man, each woman, each child, has his and her influence in the earth. Children have influence when they do right; for their example has a good effect. However obscure we are, we have some influence, and can promote righteousness in the earth. Every man in this Church that gives way to Satan and yields to his influence is an enemy to God and to the Church of God, and he retards the growth of righteousness and the spread of truth. It is said of Cain that he loved Satan, more than God. How did he love him? By doing as Satan told him. And Satan is seeking all the time to make all of us do what he wants us to do. He is an enemy to God, and he is our enemy. He is seeking continually, in every possible manner, to gain influence with us, to darken our minds, to mislead us, and to hold up the pleasures of the world as an inducement for us to do what he wishes us to do. On the other hand, God, through His angels, through His Spirit, and through the words and the counsels of His servants, is endeavoring to induce us to serve Him, to keep His commandments, and to walk in the straight and narrow path; and He promises unto us exceeding great joy. And do we not have it? I tell you that all men and women that serve God get

rewarded as they go along, in the happiness that they have. There is no happiness that equals it. The pleasures of sin are not to be compared to the pleasures of righteousness. The favor of God is priceless; it is beyond all earthly value.

Allusion has been made to the reluctance of the teachers to visit the people in their homes. If it is possible I would like to say something that would inspire you, my brethren, with a desire to magnify this calling. I want to say in confirmation of all that has been said on this subject, that it is a very important calling, and one that the Lord will hold those responsible for who receive it. We can go off on missions, and be gone two or three years, and we do not think very much of that. Many of our brethren take missions without much reluctance. They feel that it is an honor. Now it is just as honorable in the sight of God, and is as productive of reward, to act as a teacher in a ward, as it is to go abroad and preach the Gospel. Your name may not be published in the papers; nevertheless the Lord, who is the Rewarder of the children of men, will reward you if you labor wherever you are appointed, and do so faithfully. You should not allow your manual labor to prevent you from doing your duty as teachers. Let me exhort you this afternoon on this point. And let me say to the sisters, when the teachers come to your houses gather your families together. If you know beforehand that they are coming, take pains to keep the children at home. Show the teachers proper respect when they come to visit you. The man of the house really surrenders, for the time being, his family into the hands of the teachers; and if the teachers are wise men, they leave the household in a far better condition than they found it, because they will say words of encouragement, and will teach the children; and the words of the teachers when added to the words of the parents will have great influence with the children. Therefore, to have well-governed households you must have teachers. And teachers should go filled with the Spirit of God. They may be able by the influence of that Spirit to say something that will arrest some young person in his career that is likely to lead to evil. Boys and girls may be out late; they may not regard the entreaties and counsels of their parents. Teachers could help create an influence with these children that would be of great assistance to the parents. It is proper that parents should gather their families together when the teachers come. I make it a rule, as soon as I know the teachers are at my place, and I am there, to gather all my family together, and I sit with them; and if the teachers do not ask questions that are searching enough to bring out what I want, I suggest to them certain lines of inquiry; for I want my children to be benefited by the visit of the teachers. I know it is of great good and I am pleased always when they come to my house. I try and give them all the honor I can, and I thank them with a grateful heart for their visit, because I know that they come at inconvenience to themselves very frequently. I do not

care how searching they are in their inquiries. Of course, I would not want them to ask impertinent or indelicate questions. No wise man will do that. But those questions that are necessary to find out my true condition I want them to ask; and I want them to ask each member of my family, and search them, and find out their true feelings. Teachers do come to my house and ask me as freely as they would a member of the Church that held no office. They ask me concerning my faith—whether I sustain the authorities of the Church, whether I believe President Woodruff is the man to lead the Church, what my feelings are concerning the principles of the Gospel, whether I attend to my family and secret prayers, whether I help the poor and pay my tithing, and whether I attend meetings regularly. My Teachers are encouraged by me to ask these questions of me and my family, to find out our true condition; and if they see anything in us that is not right, that they may check it and tell us. This is the way Teachers should do. If men will follow this up, they will get a spirit, a power, a light and a testimony from God that will be of immense advantage to them. I would like to see the Teachers in all the Stakes zealous. Wherever the Teachers are active there is a good condition. In this way the Teachers maintain the morale of the ward; that is, they teach a standard of purity that everyone with right feeling will strive to attain to.

I pray God to bless you, my brethren and sisters. My heart is full of blessing, and with the authority that God has given me I bless you all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

COLUMBIAN PORTRAITS.

NUMBERS of newspapers are publishing cuts supposed to be representations of various portraits of Christopher Columbus. They are as different as they are numerous, and therefore suggestive of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. In one he is given the appearance of a round-featured person with a high forehead and pensive, reflective expression worthy of an astute philosopher. Another represents him as a fat, pluffy man with a double chin and the appearance of one at peace with himself and the rest of the world, and as if he had just satisfied his inward cravings with a generous meal which he had the capacity to digest. A third presents Mr. Columbus as an individual with a long narrow face, adorned with a short beard, pointed at the chin, the caput being set into an immense Flemish ruffled collar. In this picture he has the aspect of a sharp and somewhat raspy man of affairs with a tendency to boss everybody within reach. If anybody wishes to make a selection of these alleged portraits in order to assist in forming a definite idea as to how the great philosophical discoverer of America looked there is no statute on the books to prevent him carrying out his desire. However, neither of the pictures would be taken as a likeness of the same man as the other. As the showman said when asked which was the lion and which the tiger: "You pays your money and you takes your choice."