

desired to see us. Accordingly we called at his office, but found that he, in connection with other officials, was waiting upon General Gordon, Senator from Georgia, who was going to lecture that night on the "Last days of the Confederacy." To say the least we were very anxious to know the object of this notification. On the morning of May 2nd we began to fast and pray and call upon the Lord for strength and for His Spirit to go before us and remove all obstacles, for our loins were "weak," and to surmount difficulties so great required meekness personified. Directly after nine o'clock next morning we met the mayor, who informed us that complaints had been made about our work in the city and that it had been deemed advisable to restrict us in our work. So far as he was individually concerned, he said there was no desire on his part to interfere with our work of canvass or to rescind the promise given us to preach upon the street corners. A few fanatics had complained, and he, with the council, had determined to quietly ask us to stop further operations lest it should result in a general tumult. We asked him if any neighborhood controlled the whole city, with the civil authorities included, to which he replied, "In a measure it does." A little discussion on the inconsistency of such a law and its final results brought the mayor to the stern realization of his position, and to us he acknowledged that the power was not vested in him nor in the council to compel us to stop our work of canvass, so long as it was done orderly and not for self aggrandizement. But they did reserve the right to themselves to prohibit any man from preaching upon the streets. And thinking our preaching might create an unpleasant sensation if not a rabble, he thought it proper to restrict us in this privilege. "Go," he said, "and complete your labor of canvass and we will insure you protection." He also assured us that if we were successful in procuring a house to preach in he would with pleasure attend our services.

Not more than an hour had elapsed since our fasting and prayers, when the Lord acknowledged our petitions by tempering the hearts of men controlled by bigoted enemies. With a friendly shake of the hand, we parted from our friend, the mayor, and with words of praise upon our lips to Him who is omnipotent we continued our work with renewed zeal, determined to win.

On the evening of May 4th, we called on an influential man, as per his request, and found him prejudiced against the Mormon Church, but very friendly toward us. To justify himself in his position and establish his position as one of consistency he brought forth from his library, with the air of a Pharisee, an encyclopedia, which he declared to be authentic. Perhaps it was in his particular case, for a man born blind cannot perceive the difference between the beautiful light and the darkest hour of midnight. He kindly invited us to partake of his southern hospitality by way of making glorious the inner man. Until 9 p. m. we discussed religious subjects, when the tide turned to educational topics, but came to an abrupt termination in thirty minutes, by our opponent politely informing us that it was impossible for him to entertain us over night as his sister was poorly. It made us feel as though we were in the right place but had entered the wrong pew.

Stepping out in the cool, refreshing breeze we had soon collected our thoughts and straightway wended our way to our hotel. Money we had none, but the Holy Ghost is always rich in blessings, and is never offended when a favor is requested by an Elder of Israel. We informed the proprietor that the bill would be paid by the following evening, which seemed very satisfactory to him, and we were then shown to our rooms. Oh! how comforting and consoling is the companionship of the Holy Ghost! Why will Elders clothed upon with the Priesthood forsake the fountains of all light and follow the tinkling sound of silver or gold whose powers are perishable?

The dawning of the morning, as usual, found us refreshed, and in possession of much vigor; we kneeled down and asked the Lord to pay the debt we had of necessity contracted. Before we were dressed our friend Ernest came in, having come from the country that morning. He at once took in the situation, and going to the lunch counter bought us some breakfast.

All day long the debt we had contracted the night before was before us, and we wondered in what way the Lord would show forth His love to us in meeting this demand. However, we knew it would come, and sure enough, at 4:30 p. m., on entering the postoffice, we met Mr. Ernest, sen., who proffered to pay the bill and also make arrangements with the proprietor to receive us at any time we chose to come. Mr. Ernest also gave us fifty cents and wished us God speed. Our pen is feeble and cannot give expression to the real joy and gladness which filled our hearts.

A few days previous to this, while working on Church street—one of the finest streets in the city—two young ladies drove up in a carriage and stated that their father, Dr. Patterson, desired very much to meet us, saying he was away when we called. Leaving Mr. Ernest we went to Dr. Patterson's and received a cordial reception. He emigrated from Ireland in his fifteenth year and entered the Lynchburg college as a teacher. At the close of the war he took up the medical profession, and for twenty years practiced in Philadelphia, where he met some of our people and read much of our literature. His friendly and hospitable spirit will more clearly be seen in his proposition to us, that if we would build a church here in Lynchburg he would make a liberal contribution for its erection. His wife, Mrs. Patterson, was not so friendly as the doctor. The next morning, as we were preparing to take our departure, the doctor and his daughters alone met us, and the doctor thus addressed us, "Gentlemen, I would be pleased to offer you further hospitality, but Mrs. Patterson is very prejudiced and declares that if such is granted, she will leave on the 2:30 p. m. train." Mr. Patterson is still our friend.

Rev. Lloyd D. D., who is acquainted with D. H. Peery, sen., of Ogden, Utah, gave us a royal reception, as also did Dr. Dillard, a very eminent physician. Mr. Miles, a reporter on the leading paper here, also formed the acquaintance of Joseph Peery, of Ogden, while in attendance at a college in the Old Dominion State, and called upon us at the Central House to get a statement from us as to the object of our sojourn in the city. Many questions were asked

and a true statement of the great latter-day work as performed in this conference went to the press. Thus the Lord removed the scales of prejudice and called a man to represent us truthfully.

Our great object was to have the people understand our mode of travel, and we made it our special business, whenever entering the homes of the people, to inform them we traveled as did the Apostles of old. This reporter calling on us was a Godsend, for we had no other means of informing the public that we had come to their city as the Apostles of old, without "purse or scrip," fully depending upon the friends whom God might prepare to receive us. Of course, if the people are not enlightened on this subject they will naturally believe that we, like them, have a paid ministry. So we deemed it our duty to make the facts known.

Before closing the city, we had the honor of meeting Mrs. Robert Jennings, an honest woman, and a lady of means. We dined with her, and after a brief conversation she offered us the use of one of her empty residences, in which to hold services. And she also promised to seat it with chairs. Accordingly, on the following Sunday we held our services with about sixty people present. This was the first Mormon meeting ever held here, and the people, when taking their seats, showed curiosity in their faces, yet when the gospel truths burst forth from the lips of the servants of God, seasoned with grace, the expression of their faces changed from that of the curious to that of the profound. Though we should be successful in disposing of much literature, hold many gospel conversations, and partake freely of the hospitality of the people, and yet fail in holding meetings, we would consider a great prize lost, and the true medium of friendship-making untouched. The house in which the meeting spoken of was held, was applied for by a renter, consequently all doors were now closed against us, though our friends were still warm and always glad to see us.

Here we can trace the hand of Providence, for no sooner did the Mayor hear of our meeting than his own power was put to the test, and his conscience by direction of the Spirit was made to succumb to our wants and the Lord's will. Monday, May 11th, completed our work of canvass, and Tuesday we made a few revisits to good advantage, but made no special arrangements for entertainment, as we had a place in view that in an emergency was never denied us. We called, all was full, and we had to seek quarters elsewhere. The second friend we called upon also had visitors. They invited us to spend the evening but could not keep us until morning. While walking up the street and reasoning together as to whether it would be wise to call on Hon. Harris, a Banker, Mr. Earnest came up behind us and with a tap on the shoulder said, "go to the Central House and meet me at the Y. M. C. A. at 8 p. m." The electric car passing, he stepped on and was gone, leaving us to ponder upon the goodness of God.

We finished canvassing the city on May 12th, at 11 p. m., and on the banks of James River we attended to an important and Holy ordinance; not in haste or in hatred, but with a heart bleeding with anguish for a people groping in the dark and ignoring the