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REFLECTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Fit time is this for each his life to scan,
And square it in accordance with the plan
Of life laid down to guide our erring feet,
And lead them into pastures new and sweet
Fresh from the forge of time another year
Bursts on our view, our homes to warm and cheer,

One milestone more on life's highway we reach,

Which this great lesson unto all doth teach:
That time is restless, and will soon be o'er—
That we are nearing fast that happy shore
Where sorrow, pain and suff'ring, death and sin

May never more our dwellings enter in.

Oh! happy thought that, through obedience here,

Redeemed and glorified we shall appear,
To wear the glorious crown the righteous wear.

And all the gifts of life eternal share.

We do not feel to mourn the lapse of time—
It feeds and fills the soul with hope sublime;
We do not grieve that here we cannot stay;
That all things mortal soon must pass away;
We only feel to praise each passing year
As gifts of grace, to write a record here,
That may approval find with God and heaven

When just rewards shall unto all be given.

Each year time's curtain higher lifts, that we

Our friends and future homes may clearer see;

Each milestone now we reach but serves to tell

That with the faithful all is right and well.

Then let our hearts rejoice, whate'er be tide,

And may our years be blest and sanctified,
To yield us strength and hope, and peace and joy.

And courage in our Master's sweet employ.

We say, "Old Year, a happy, fond adieu,
We gladly, proudly welcome in the new!

Lord, grant us light and strength, that at its close

We may in truth and virtue still repose."

J. CRYSTAL.

REMARKS

By Apostle Heber J. Grant, at the
Quarterly Conference, Salt Lake
City, Sept. 1, 1889.

I am thoroughly converted to the idea that unless we as a religious community exercise the gifts with which we are blessed, improving upon the talents which God has

given unto us, we shall not be able to progress and keep pace with the work of God. I fear there is among many of us too much of a disposition to feel that the knowledge we have received through the Gospel will, independently of our conduct and actions, be sufficient to save us in the Kingdom of God. To my mind the individual possessing a knowledge of the Gospel who fails to exert himself diligently and faithfully for the advancement of the Kingdom of God will be under condemnation. There are no people upon the face of the earth, that I have any knowledge of, who make the same claims and professions as the Latter-day Saints. Inasmuch, therefore, as we profess more than any other people, more will be expected of us; unless we live nearer to the Lord, unless we are more faithful and energetic in keeping his commandments, and more consistent in our conversation and walk in life, I am convinced we shall be under greater condemnation than the world who know not the Gospel.

We heard this morning remarks made in reference to the faithfulness of the Elders of Israel in responding to calls made upon them to go out to the world to proclaim the Gospel to their fellowmen. I have many times reflected upon the ready response that each and all of the Elders give to a call to go on foreign missions, and I have remarked, both in public and private, that it seemed to me there is but one duty devolving upon the Latter-day Saints that is fully and completely complied with by all who are in a position to do so, and that one duty is to respond to a call to go on a mission. If we were as diligent in discharging every other obligation and as ready to make sacrifices in every other direction as in this, we would be more united, more of the Spirit of God and the blessings of God would be enjoyed than at the present time. We find men ready and willing to sacrifice business interests, to leave their families and friends and all that is near and dear to the heart of man, for a period of from two to three or four years, going without hope of pecuniary reward to the nations to proclaim the Gospel, to be ridiculed of many, to be persecuted, to have their names cast out as evil;

and they do this because of the testimony of the truth. Yet many of the men who evince a willingness to devote years of their lives in the interest of the Gospel, after their return will not sacrifice one moment of their own happiness, or devote any of their time and attention in the same direction.

When they were out in the world laboring for the salvation of souls they received the good Spirit, and they returned home with that Spirit burning in their hearts; and there is no class of Elders that have occupied the public stand to whom I have listened with as much interest, none who have warmed up my heart so much as the returning missionary. They come home full of the spirit of their mission, filled with the Spirit of God and love for their fellow-men. And they are not only ready and willing to go upon another mission, but there is no sacrifice that might be required of them but what they would be willing to make. But it seems that in too many cases, in a very short time after their return home, they lose their interest and settle down, confining their labors to their own immediate affairs.

It is clearly necessary for you and me, if we expect to reap the reward of faithful service, to labor diligently whether at home or abroad proclaiming the principles of the Gospel. There is no person who can hope to be active and strong physically unless he gets proper exercise; and the same principle holds good with regard to the health of our spiritual organization. The man that goes to college and takes a course of study in law, must not only apply himself diligently while there in order to graduate in his chosen profession, but he must continue to closely apply himself after graduating, or he will amount to little or nothing as a lawyer. So it is with the man who goes out to preach the Gospel and makes a successful missionary; if he does not continue to exercise himself and interest himself in the spiritual welfare of his fellow beings after he returns home, he will sooner or later lose the Spirit he had while in the missionary field.

There is, in my opinion, a crying necessity for the exercise of the faculties with which we are en-