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CARD TO THE ELDERS.

To the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

DEAR BRETHREN—Certain parties who appear to be anxious for authority, and who desire to take advantage of the prominence and actions the dignity which attaches with the Elders of this Church would give them, have sent to representative Elders of the Church challenges to hold discussions upon the doctrines and the validity of the authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. People of this kind in California and elsewhere have of late been very persistent in demanding an acceptance of their challenges—the question, for details, as they put it, being:

First—Was Brigham Young the lawful and legitimate successor of Joseph Smith, the Seer, in the prophetic office and presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

Second—And is Utah the appointed place for the gathering of the Saints in the last days, as spoken by the Prophets of old, including Joseph Smith, the Seer?

We take this public method of saying to all our Elders that we consider it entirely unnecessary for the vindication of the principles of the Church, or to prove the authority of the Priesthood of the prophetic authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to resort to any such method for their vindication. We leave this for the Lord to prove and sustain, and we think it fully in keeping the claims of our Church or the Priesthood to the arbitrament of man. The Lord has said, "By their fruits, ye shall know them;" and in these we confidently point, feeling satisfied that the people who are seeking for truth and looking for the evidence which the truth always furnishes, can more readily obtain this knowledge by calm investigation and close observation than by controversy.

It is our counsel, therefore, that our Elders who may have received and accepted such a challenge take no steps whatever towards meeting the challengers, but that he leave them entirely alone.

No Elder in such a position need feel that any responsibility or discredit will attach to him for declining any discussion into which he may have been drawn; such responsibility we freely assume. We wish it to be further understood that this is our counsel to all of our Elders at home and abroad.

Your Brethren,

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

DECORATION DAY.

The thirtieth of May, set apart as a holiday in honor of the heroes who died to over that the Union might live, is a day on which to patriotic citizens, as far as the stars and stripes are waving, gentle chords are touched, stirring vocal symphonies of love, patriotism, loyalty, reverence, and the day will be kept sacred as long as admiration of valor exists in the hearts of American citizens.

The origin of the day as a national holiday is due to so much one that is ascribed to a woman. Mrs. Martha S. Kimball, whose death at Philadelphia April 21, this year, was announced in the News, was visit to the South soldiers' mothers while decorating the graves of the Confederate soldiers. This gathered the inspiration that led her to communicate with General Logan on the subject and which finally resulted in the issuing of a date for Decoration day. The idea once adopted, the nation readily responded to the call to carry it out. It was the time that needed to give expression to the feeling of gratitude and love to those who fell for the country. And now, as years roll by, the evidence is manifest that the signification of the day will become more and more substantial to its true nature.

A notion sometimes attends the graves of the fallen heroes is a great generosity and the lesson implanted on the minds of young and old on this day are such as are of lasting benefit. No more eloquent appeal for the patriotism is contributes than the view that whisper from the dead, in the dulce tones of those who slumber therein. That voice from the graves tells of the glory of living and, if need be, dying for a good cause, and it stimulates the people to maintain the institutions of this country and the liberty so dearly bought. And more than that, it speaks of the immortality of man with irresistible force of argument. It is impossible to think for a moment that the mortal of dust that surrounds us with the green sward is all there is of those good men, whose earthly career was cut short on the battlefields backed in their blood. Can it be possible that such deeds of heroism and patriotism are to find no other reward than the now withering flowers strewn on their graves? The idea is impossible to entertain.

If Decoration Day has any lesson to teach more prominent than any other, it is this, that there is a hereafter in which virtue will be rewarded. Our fallen heroes were deprived of the enjoyment of many years of life, their opportunities of development were restricted by the cruel instruments of death, but a Just Creator, a living Father has surely some means of compensating His virtuous children for such sacrifices. The grave spoke of Him who conquered death and gave a promise of immortality to the world.

This year the celebration of Decoration day comes with a more than usual solemnity, because the country is in commotion and men's hearts fail within them for fear of what the future may bring. Such fears may be well founded, yet the thought should not be lost sight of that even the darkest hours may bring forth blessings. There are still patriots in this country as true as any of those who died and are ready to respond to a call to save the country. Men may be found upon its list, but patriotism lives in the hearts of the people for ever. As they emergently arise before will be found able to cope with the situation and solve any problem that may arise. This is one of the great lessons of the day on which we decorate the graves of our dead.

MONOPOLISTS' WORK.

The dispatches indicate that the bloody work of last week in the Connellsville coke region of Pennsylvania is liable to repetition, and the difficulty is as far from final settlement as ever. In the event of such an unfortunate proceeding as further conflicts, it is quite probable that the miners will be again the principal sufferers, as in the desperation of their situation they resort to more battles and thus compel the state authorities to take vigorous means to suppress disturbances. The mine operators, however, are in a position to keep within the letter of the law and invoke the aid of the sheriff of their side in the contest.

Rising beyond the immediate circumstances which precipitate the conflicts there, and which are insignificant to the effects of a more distant cause, and looking at the matter from a dispassionate standpoint, it appears plain that the mine operators in southwestern Pennsylvania must bear a great measure the burden of responsibility for the awful conditions which exist. To constitute the purpose which in spite some of the operators it is necessary to make just a brief review of the events which led to the present disturbances. The people will remember the Homestead troubles of three years ago, when H. C. Frick, manager for the Carnegie company, was severely shot and dangerously wounded. Mr. Frick at that time, was regarded as not free from culpability in causing the trouble there by his oppressive measures toward workingmen. He has recovered from the immediate effects of the bullet wound received then, but whether he has learned the duties of moderation toward the working classes may be judged by subsequent events.

There are in the Connellsville coke region, according to latest reports, 17,115 ovens, with an estimated weekly productive capacity of 116,790 tons of coke. Of the ovens, 9,145, or more than half, belong to the H. C. Frick Coke company. A large proportion of the remainder are under its lease and control. It will be thus seen that the Frick company practically controls the business. If it chooses to raise a controversy in wages, other operators must do likewise, or close the ovens. The work is then regarding the price, and when the Frick company raised a protestion to the other most of it, with it has become a sort of unwritten law among the producers to simply follow the lead of that large corporation, and conform with it, to preserve themselves.

In February, 1891, the Frick company raised the price of coke 25 per ton. Generally this figure was lowered until in September last, it was selling at $1.75 to Chicago & Milwaukee consumers and $1.65 to Pittsburg and adjacent points. In October another rise to $1.85, and in January last still another to $2.15, all of these being made by the Frick company, and causing some of the smaller operators to close down towards the end of the year. In this manner there was an excess of coke, and as the strongest element of local monopoly became obstinate by them. Then comes the issue here which led to the present strike. The Frick company refused that the new price of coke necessitated a reduction in wages, but the miners refused. The Frick company then proceeded to close the ovens, and finally the miners were driven out of the general