

REMARKS

By Elder Wilford Woodruff, Bowery, Sunday Morning, Sep. 27, 1857.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

We are glad to see the brethren return home from their long missions, or short ones; we are glad to greet them, to hear them talk, to see their faces and to hear their testimony that the Lord has been with them. These things are a pleasure to us who remain here in Zion. There are a multiplicity of evidences that God is with this people and that the Lord has been with his Elders, wherever they have been, from the beginning of this work.

There has been something peculiar connected with the Elders of this Church from the beginning. You may take the rest of the world, politically, temporally, spiritually or any other way, and there never has been such an example in the eyes of heaven, earth or hell as has been in the Elders of this Church in preaching this gospel to the nations of the earth. The hand of God has been in the work from the beginning, and it is in it yet, and the hand of the Lord has been with them to succor them all the time. The revelations given from heaven through Joseph concerning the Elders have been fulfilled to the very letter.

There are many things that are consoling, and one is, to know that the Lord is with us, that he does reveal his mind and will in the ordinances of the house of God and through the administration of blessings whether by Patriarchs or by the Twelve Apostles or in the endowments, we find those blessings are fulfilled to the very letter.

The brethren to-day have spoken in reference to the blessings that are given to our brethren when they go out on their missions to the various nations of the earth. I remember the day very well when we blessed those missionaries that went to India and to Europe, and I must say that I never had such a variety of feelings as I had at that time.

In blessing br. Luddington I recollect that I was roused, and I well remember that I could see nothing but seas, waves and storms. The seas appeared to be heaped up and I knew that he was going to see storms and be exposed to troubles and dangers, but there was one thing that we did bless those brethren with, that I rejoice in, and that is that they should return home again.

Well, our words have all been fulfilled to the very letter, and this gives us consolation. If we go forth and have the Priesthood and Apostleship upon us, the Holy Spirit of God, though it may not be visible, yet it does dictate to us, and it is so in ordaining, it is so in going to battle against the nations of the earth who have given their consent to the shedding of the blood of the Prophets.

Br. Brigham feels calm and serene as a summer's morning and in his desire to save Israel he wishes to save also the lives of our enemies, if possible. Why is he so calm and steady? It is because God is with him, and though armies are approaching and ready apparently to swallow up this people, yet he and his brethren feel calm and the Lord reveals unto them by the Holy Spirit how to govern and control this people. They have had a long experience in proving the Almighty God, who holds the destiny of the Saints and the sinner, and has he ever failed us? No, never.

Some of our brethren have told their trials here to-day and they have said that they have not done much, but the greatest work they have done has been in saving themselves, but this is not all they have done; they have done something else; they have accomplished the purposes of God in India as much so as though they had baptized every king and queen in those islands; they have literally fulfilled the revelations of Jesus Christ in carrying the gospel unto them, because those nations could not have been left without excuse and the earth prepared for the judgments of God if those Elders had not gone and preached to the people of those nations. No matter if they had not have baptized one, yet they are as much justified as we who first went to Herefordshire, England, and baptized 20 or 30 priests in a day; they have fulfilled the commandments in carrying the gospel to the nations.

It is no testimony to me that a man is not faithful, because he has not baptized numbers of princes, lords, governors and kings, not at all. The Lord has sent them there, he has tried them and put them in strait places, but has he left them? No, he has not. Has he not brought them forth? We have had the testimony of br. Musser, who is here, and we see that it is the hand of God that has been over them, and we are glad of it, and we do not expect that the Lord will send the Elders out there again until they have other missionaries and messengers that they cannot stone, tar or feather, but messengers that will come with their sharp sickles; then they will find that they have messengers that they cannot conquer nor overcome.

I feel to rejoice in these things and to know that the Lord is at work with this people. We are living in a fast age, an age fraught with great events, and every day is bringing to pass more of the predictions, and more revelation is being fulfilled in one year, now, than has been fulfilled in centuries before. We are living in a day when that flood of revelation is coming to a focus, and that focus we stand in and we are seeing it fulfilled day by day.

The wicked rage and the heathen imagine a vain thing, and they say, 'let us go and take a prey and a spoil, let our eye be upon Zion and let her be defiled.' But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they his counsel. God will work for us and defend us, if we do our duty, and Zion will soon be free. We will not suffer the oppressions of our enemies as we have done.

You need not fear; all we have to do is to be passive in the hands of the Lord and follow the counsel of our leaders and not be particularly anxious

that the Lord should reveal to you or to me his mind and will and intentions concerning our present difficulties, but pray earnestly that the Spirit of the Lord may be upon those men who stand at the head. All we have to do is to live our religion and when the Presidency say 'come here,' 'or go there,' let us be on hand to obey and all will be right.

Let the people be quiet and pray that God may reveal his mind and will to those at the head. We may have our ideas of what we should do in this or that case, but there is no man as well qualified to lead, govern and direct for the salvation of the people as that man whom God has appointed. We have as good leaders as we need. There never was a better leader given to Israel, nor one more capable of leading this people to salvation than Brigham Young; he is filled with the Spirit of God day by day.

If the United States make war upon this people, the Lord will hold them responsible for it, and the measure they mete will be measured unto them again and if they are ripe and the cup of their iniquity full, they will be shattered to pieces, their union broken up and destroyed. They will be visited with thunder and lightning and hail and the judgments of God, and every man that will not draw his sword against his neighbor will be obliged to flee to Zion.

They are sending their armies here to destroy us, but I ask no man to weep for Utah or spend their sympathy for us, not even my relatives or the priests, the doctors, lawyers or editors. No, not even one soul from the president of the United States down through the whole nation, who have given consent to our death, for they will have plenty to bear themselves and they may save their weeping for themselves and their children. The Lord will teach them that their proud looks and haughty feelings will be laid low.

It is right to pray and it is right to keep our powder dry. Pray for the Presidency of this Church, pray for them to have the Spirit of revelation. We have never seen a day when 'Mormonism' was taking such a stride as it is at the present time. They may come over the plains singing their songs about what they will do when they get to Utah, but many of them will find a place in hell before they get here.

There have been many truths taught here to-day. Many who have been here for years do not know or realize the great blessings we are enjoying in these valleys of mountains. Our granaries are filled with bread and we enjoy peace and the comforts of life; we come to the Tabernacle of God and associate with holy men and we should be holy ourselves; if we are not, it is our own fault.

You have all the blessings which the celestial kingdom and laws of God impart unto men on the earth, while the gentile nations have suffered ruin, wickedness and abominations of every kind to increase in their midst until they are ripe for destruction. Do they not thirst for the blood of the Saints and every man who is righteous? Do they not delight in wickedness? They are full of wrath and anger and they are ripe for the damnation of hell; yes, the nations of the earth are ripe to-day.

Then we should be faithful and diligent in all things committed to our charge. Even though the Lord has suffered some of the brethren to go through strait places, in days which are past and gone, and he may still call us to go through strait places, yet he will sustain us when we trust in him.

The Lord has suffered some of our prophets and apostles to be martyred, and what for? That the cup of the iniquity of the nations might be full and that his servants might be crowned heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ to a martyr's crown.

Through the persecutions of the enemies of truth many of the Saints have been worn out, but as a body, the kingdom and people have been led off as victorious conquerors. We stand now and hold the keys of the American continent, we stand in the strong chambers of the mountains and can the Lord God give us the victory? He can and he will, and he has been preparing us for this, by pouring out upon us his Holy Spirit, uniting the people, who have been willing to repent and forsake their sins, and I hope we shall continue faithful to the end.

I am glad and my soul rejoices in these things, and I believe that the people are ready to shoulder their guns and walk into these canyons and line them from here to Fort Bridger in defence of the Constitution of the United States and the rights which both the laws of God and man guarantee to us.

We have had to stoop to our enemies heretofore and bear many things from them worse than death, but if there is anything that give us joy and consolation, at least, I can speak for myself, it was when I heard the brethren say, 'you are free! Brethren you are free and you may prove yourselves before God and men that you are willing to defend yourselves against tyrants and oppressors.'

When I heard this, I was full of joy, and who would not be? Who would not rather die than bow down to the yoke of the enemy? It would sweeten death to a man to know that he should lay down his life in defence of freedom and the kingdom of God rather than to longer bow to the cruelty of mobs, even if the mob have the name of being legalized by the nation.

I thank God and I rejoice that this people are determined to be free from mobocracy and oppression and that they are determined to have peace, if they have to fight for it; and if the yoke is ever put on again, it will be ourselves, and I say God bless this people and the missionaries that have gone to the nations, no matter whether they have baptized one or a thousand, if they have done the will of God.

Notwithstanding the lightnings may flash, thunders roll and earthquakes bellow, the Lord will extend his hand over his servants and protect them as he has done those that have returned unto us. And the Lord will remember our brethren that are on the plains, and let us remember

them in our prayers, that the Lord may be on our side, and let us be on hand and be ready at any and every call, and the kingdom will spread abroad and it will smite the image not only on the toes but on the head; which may God grant for our sake: Amen.

ONCE TO SEE HIM WAS ENOUGH.—When younger, we read, with great veneration, of Roman Senators, picturing them as stately, austere old men, upon whom the people looked with pride and reverence. Then we drew imaginary pictures of Calhoun, and Clay, and Webster, and Silas Wright, wondering if they looked and talked as other men, or whether they were like the sculptured statesmen whose features and picturesque dress the marble cutter had rescued from the ruins of time. The word "Senator" suggested all that was great, dignified and noble, and we thought the American Congress was made up of the greatest intelligences of the nation.

Since then we have learned better; we have seen a Senator; and the real fell far short of the ideal; it was like comparing the iron aboriginal in front of a tobaccoist's shop with a statue of Apollo, a wood carving of a little crook-backed dwarf with the bust of Cicero. We must acknowledge, however, that we did not see him in the Senate. Perhaps, on entering that august chamber he may have been invested with the off-cast mantle of Clay or Calhoun, but when we saw him, he was traveling from place to place, with his sleeves rolled up, arranging "wires" for primary party meetings and setting dead-falls for political enemies. On this lofty mission we saw the American Senator "once, and once only"—that was enough.—[Sacramento Age, June 20.]

SINGULAR QUALITIES OF THE SPERM WHALE.—Sperm whales are of the polygamy class, and are not mated, or go in pairs, as is the case with the right whale. They are of a chocolate color, and when undisturbed, are found in large "schools," which are generally cow whales protected on the outskirts, about two miles off, by two or three enormous male whales, called "old sogers." These sail in among the school alternately, at railroad speed, and sometimes meet with queer receptions from harpoons lying in wait for them.

It is said there are some of these old sogers which are a dread to all whalers, and which are shunned on the least suspicion. The tonnage of a grown whale is enormous. When a carcass of one is disposed to sink, no cable of iron or rope has ever been known to sustain it. When harpooned and not badly hurt, they settle down generally about 1,000 fathoms before they move off or rise to the surface, hence all the lines of the boat are required for paying out.

The head of a large sperm whale will weigh about 85 tons, and 45 barrels of pure spermaceti have been taken from his case, which is a mere vein in his head compared with the remaining part, which consists of four-fifths of the head, and is called "white horse"—a sinewy gristle, which is impenetrable to a sharp ax. Large copper bolts have been found imbedded in the heads of some of them, caused by their attacks and destruction of vessels on the bottom of the sea.

A MODEL PEER AND FITTING REBUKE.—The following letter from a "model British Peer," while it serves to show the shameless vice which rank and wealth enable men in that country unblushingly to avow, is at the same time a fitting rebuke to the toadyism of the benevolent and Christian individuals who are always seeking some man who has no qualification but his rank or notoriety to preside over religious bodies, in order that they may point the world in exaltation to the fact that even the nobility are disposed, when they can do so in a genteel way, to patronize the Lord.

The Earl of Oxford, having been invited to preside at the recent meeting of the Norwich (Eng.) Bible Society, sent to the secretary the following reply:

"Sir:—I am surprised and annoyed at the contents of your letter—surprised because my well known character should have exempted me from such an application, and annoyed because it obliges me to have this communication with you. I have long been addicted to the gaming table; I have lately taken to the turf; I fear I frequently blaspheme—have never distributed religious tracts. All this was well known to you and your society; notwithstanding which you think me a fit person for your president. God forgive your hypocrisy. I would rather live in the land of sinners than with such saints.—I am, sir, etc.,

(Signed) OXFORD.

YANKEES.—Irving tells us, in his History of New York, that William the Testy, in venting his rage at a certain set of Yankees, who had for some time been infringing on the rights of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, and finally, through stratagem, obtained possession of Fort Good Hope, "swore that he would have nothing more to do with such a squatting, bundling, gnesing, questioning, swapping, pumpkin-eating, molasses-daubing, shingle-splitting, elder-watering, horse-jockeying, notion-peddling crew."

Kettle also says:—"While the Yankees are themselves, they will hold their own, let politics twist about as they may. They are like cats: throw them up as you please, they will come down on their feet. Shut their industry out from one course, and it will force itself into another. Dry up 20 sources of their prosperity, and they will open 20 more. They have a perseverance that will never languish while anything remains to be tried; they have a resolution that will try anything; and when a Yankee says, 'I'll try,' the thing is done."

SHIPMENT OF TREASURE.—In 1651 a vessel

came over from England to the colony of Virginia, bringing the following letter to a consignor:

"London, August 21, 1651. We send you a shipment; one widow, eleven maids, for wives of the people of Virginia; there hath been especial care had in the choice of them, for there hath not one of them been received but upon good recommendations.

"In case they cannot be presently married, we desire that they may be put with several householders that have wives, until they can be provided with husbands. There are nearly fifty more that are shortly to come, and are sent by our Hon. Lord and Treasurer, the Earl of Southampton, and certain worthy gentlemen, who, taking into consideration that the plantation can never flourish till families be planted, and the respect of wives and children for their people on the soil, therefore having given this fair beginning; reimbursing of whose charges it is ordered that every man that marries them, give 120 pounds of best leaf tobacco for each of them."

RECIPE FOR DYSENTERY.—As the season is at hand when all classes are liable to be afflicted with dysentery, diarrhea, &c., we deem it our duty to make public the following simple and efficacious remedy, which has been known to us for several years, and which we have repeatedly used with complete success.

It is simply to take a tumbler of cold water, thicken it with wheat flour to about the consistency of cream and drink it. This is to be repeated several times in the course of the day, or as often as you are thirsty; and it is not very likely that you will need it on the second day. We have not only used it in our own case, but have recommended it to our friends in many instances, and never knew it to fail of effecting a speedy cure even in the worst stage of dysentery. It is a simple remedy and costs little.—[Farmer's Gazette.]

TALKING STRAIGHT OUT.—A lawyer defending a criminal at Sonora, attacked the Herald and got this reply:—

"We are no admirer of the legal fraternity—we would abolish their pernicious calling and sweep them away like cobwebs, if we could. Law is cunningly invented and complicated machinery, whereby the educated and initiated contrive to take advantage of the weak and ignorant, and strip them of their rights and property; lawyers are land sharks, non-producers, the bane of society, who fill our legislative halls, make laws to set people at loggerheads, and then reap the benefit themselves. They dread a free press, because they know that it will ultimately uproot the superstition which attaches respect and veneration to their plundering profession."

FACTS FOR THE CURIOUS.—If a tallow candle be placed in a gun and shot at a door, it will go through without sustaining injury; and if a musket-ball be fired into the water, it will not only rebound, but be flattened as if fired against a solid substance. A musket-ball may be fired through a pane of glass—making the hole the size of the ball, without cracking the glass; if the glass be suspended by a thread, it will make no difference, and the thread will not even vibrate.

In the Arctic regions, when the thermometer is below zero, persons can converse more than a mile distant. Dr. Jamieson asserts that he heard every word of a sermon at a distance of two miles. A mother has been distinctly heard talking to her child on a still day across a water a mile wide.

MADCAP BOYS.—To be born, to be a feeble infant, is an ordeal through which all must pass. To be a boy, is an absolute prerequisite to manhood—and boys will be boys, let old and wise people say what they will. They will feel and think and act like boys. They will skate on the ice, slide down hill, be frolicsome and foolish, play all sorts of antics, do a great many things which, to the sobriety of age, will look like folly. But what of that? Who would clothe boyhood with the dignity, invest it with the gravity, or endow it with the wisdom of the finished man? To do so would rob it of its brightness and glory, take away its spring time and plunder it of its flowers.

GRAPHIC.—"I say, Sambo, was you ever intoxicated?"

"No, Julius, nebber. Was you?"

"Well I was, Sambo."

"Didn't it make you feel good, Julius?"

"Yah! Yah! But, oh golly! next mornin', thought my head was a wood shed and all de niggers in Christendom were splitting wood in it."

LET HIM TRY.—The man who pushes aside the paper with his first sip of coffee, and says "there's nothing in it," and who turns up his nose at typographical blunders, might find a profitable exercise in trying to make a paper of his own some evening, and then get the candid opinion of his friends upon its merits.

COLOR.—It appears from numerous observations, that soldiers are hit during battle according to the color of their dress in the following order: Red is the fatal color; the least fatal, Austrian gray. The proportions are, red 12, rifle green 7, brown 7, Austrian bluish gray 6.

A CURIOUS FACT.—It is a curious fact, that children are the best judges of character at first sight in the world. There is an old Scotch proverb: "They are never cannies that dogs and bairns dinna like;" and there is not a more true one in the whole collection.

A bashful printer refuses a situation in an office where females are working; declaring that he never 'set up,' with a girl in his life.

He who marries a pretty face only, is like a buyer of cheap furniture—the varnish that caught the eye cannot endure the fireside blaze.