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FACTS.

That "darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people," and that mankind, in their proneness to evil, have "changed the laws, transgressed the ordinances and broken the everlasting covenant" is strongly manifested in the constant interference by the evil with the good. At first thought one would naturally conclude that in matters of faith and worship, which ought of right to be left between each one and his Creator, if two persons could not agree they could at least agree to peaceably disagree.

The rational and good are satisfied with advancing their views, practicing the precepts they inculcate, and leaving others to coincide with their belief and follow their correct example or not, as they may prefer. And this course is in harmony with man's agency, man being required to do good, but permitted, if he chooses, to do evil.

On the other hand the wicked and self-righteous, constantly disregarding Hudibras' truism:

"A man convinced against his will,
Is of the same opinion still,"

are continually interfering with the faith and worship of their neighbors, villifying, traducing, bemoaning and misrepresenting in affairs that are none of their business.

When Satan said, "Evil, be thou my good," and preferred reigning in hell to serving in heaven, he laid a deep and cunning scheme to pluck this earth and its inhabitants from their Creator, and most zealously are his followers in their blindness, aiding and abetting his plan for thieving on a grand scale. And in this our day millions upon millions are fancying in their ignorance, like their master in his knowledge, that they can break the Scriptures, continue the kingdoms of this world subject to the kingdom of darkness, banish all goodness, retain all evil, and subject the souls of all men to eternal misery, unmindful that

"Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again."

The eternal years of God are ours.

But error, wounded, writhes in pain,

And falls amid its worshippers."

The best and purest will find full employment in withstanding the numerous and varied allurements and powerful aggressions of the adversary and his followers; and nothing but the Spirit of the Almighty, "which searcheth all things," and which is alone to be obtained and retained through faithfulness and obedience to His commandments, will enable one to overcome, and, through overcoming, entitle him to the greatest of all blessings—the gift of eternal lives, and to an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of our God.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUNG.

Our sympathies are strongly with the young. We see in them not merely little boys and girls, or growing youths full of buoyant spirits, mirth and glee, but future men and women, who will be called upon in a few years to fill the role of active members of the great human family. Many of them will be required to occupy places of trust and importance, and all of them will have high, imperative duties to perform,

which, to a great extent, they will be qualified or unqualified for according as their early years are employed and their present opportunities taken advantage of.

Much is said about the responsibilities and duties of parents, and the subject is of sufficient importance to be dwelt upon frequently and pointedly; but in developing that early independence of character, and consistence of action with correct principles, necessary to form great, good and noble men and women, much depends upon the young themselves. They may have the best of examples, correct precepts taught them, the advantage of a liberal education, and opportunities for early success in life, yet waste their most precious years by frittering away their time, forming evil associations, acquiring bad habits, and sowing the seeds of future uselessness and misery instead of future usefulness and happiness.

We would like all the young to realize that in every hour of their lives they have the right and privilege to do good; and that if they start early and seek earnestly to acquire knowledge and lay the foundation of good, upright, honest and industrious habits, they will the sooner qualify themselves for filling the positions of citizens, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and becoming honored and honorable members of society. There are not lacking instances within our own knowledge, of individuals having stepped forward, in what might be termed the years of childhood, and embraced the Gospel in the face of contumely and scorn, and in some cases bitter persecution. Some of these have become honorably known in the Church, the same independence of character in doing right, which led them early to take this step, marking their future up to the present. And there are a multitude of instances in our own day, and scattered over recent history, of youths who in the face of the most disadvantageous circumstances have made themselves honorable names in the earth and acquired lasting and well-earned fame.

Whatever has been done, that is good, by the young of any people, should be emulated by our growing youths, that they may, at least, equal if not excel them, when they reach the years of manhood and womanhood. Greater things, in the future, will be required of our young men and young women, our boys and girls, than of the young of any other people or any other generation. Better opportunities are afforded them for obtaining a knowledge of the truth, than the young of any other time or people have enjoyed; consequently their responsibilities are proportionately greater.

As the reasoning powers and intellect of a child become strong enough for exercise, it begins to be responsible for their use; and that responsibility increases as they are developed and matured. The duties and responsibilities of the parents do not cease when those of the children begin. The parental eye of watchfulness and care must be over the youthful charge, and the voice be ready to guide, direct, counsel, advise, reprove, correct and mould the youthful habits into right and proper shape. But the child is likewise required to hearken to words of advice and admonition, and to use its own gifts in a way that shall result in future usefulness and honor. Teach children to have faith, and they should exercise faith, that they may realize the blessings resulting from it; teach them to be honorable and honest and they are responsible for the manner in which they apply those precepts. They should early feel that they are somebodies, not in having a silly and inflated opinion of themselves and their importance, but that they are beings of whom much will yet be required—of whom

much is required now in preparing themselves for that future.

We would say to them, Seek the society of those who are wiser and more intelligent than yourselves; seek to enjoy the company of those whose example and conversation will have a tendency to elevate your thoughts and actions. If you do so, you will most certainly strive to become like them. The company that you keep, whether in childhood or maturer years, will unquestionably exercise a powerful influence in forming or moulding your characters. If it be those of loose habits and profane language, no matter how correct may be the examples set and teachings received at home, you will glide easily down to a level with your associates; if, on the contrary, your companions shun such courses and aim at something better and nobler, you will assimilate with them.

But every boy and every girl, every young man and every young woman, should feel that he or she is a living identity, responsible for his or her own actions, and should act as though made to sway an influence for good or evil, everstriving to live so that that influence may be exercised for good. As a consequence, there would be manifested, on the part of the young, a continual effort to cultivate all the powers which they are conscious of possessing, to make themselves respected and their influence felt. This would be the manifestation of a laudable ambition, which every right-minded, thinking person would encourage.

We would not wish to be understood by these remarks, as intimating that our young are not, as a general thing, aware to a great extent of the truths here stated. That they are so, is evident by the progress made, on every hand, in the acquisition of useful knowledge, and in the honor and integrity that characterize them. We simply wish to see the principles touched upon prevailing to a still greater extent, that the young may more generally understand that are responsible, with their parents, for the use of the gifts with which God has endowed them, for their associations and the results accruing from them, for their preparations for future usefulness, and for their obtaining knowledge and growing up to be good, honorable, upright and noble men and women. Let parents when teaching correct principles and doctrines to their children, not forget to point out that they will be themselves held responsible for their actions and the manner in which they improve opportunities.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Elder Joseph F. Smith spoke on the principles of faith, honesty and obedience, and their effects, inculcating the imperative necessity of our being obedient to the counsels of Heaven given through the Priesthood. He earnestly and affectionately addressed himself to the young, warning them against using improper and profane language and exhorting them to cultivate chasteness and purity of speech and action.

Elder G. Q. Cannon followed, reasoning that a course of disobedience leads to apostasy, citing several instances during the life-time of the Prophet Joseph. He spoke of the boldness and freedom with which the servants of God reprove transgression and correct growing evil, and the assurance arising therefrom that the power of God is with His servants. He dwelt on it, being a source of sorrow to see men, for some fancied wrong, or in their eagerness to maintain some imaginary right, taking a course to oppose the Priesthood, exposing the fallacy of the oft repeated saying,—"Well, it was in me and had better come out," when individuals give expression to bitter thoughts, showing that if evil arises in the mind it should be strangled there and should never be permitted to have an utterance. He likewise spoke very pointedly on the baneful effects produced by reading trashy novels and similar kinds of writings which now inundate the country.

Afternoon.

Elder A. F. McDonald occupied the stand for some time, treating upon some of the duties of the Saints, the misconceptions of strangers with regard to us as a people, and the necessity of all Saints striving to build up the Kingdom of God. He said his time was so fully occupied

in attending to his duties as a member of this kingdom that he had none to spare to labor for its enemies, no matter how large the money inducements were for him to do so.

President Young followed in a very powerful and interesting discourse. He glanced at the various sects of Christians with their diverse opinions and views, yet all calling the particular sect to which they belong the Kingdom of God, and pointed out some of the blessings that accrue from obedience to the gospel. He declared that every Saint must have revelation from God for him or herself of the truth of the gospel and live so as to enjoy the spirit of it if they would be saved in the celestial kingdom. He endorsed the sentiments advanced by the brethren who had spoken through the day, and intimated that the Saints are passing through a season of trial, which will test the faith and integrity of many. In the days of Kirtland the word went forth, that from that time the elders should devote all their energies and abilities to build up the kingdom, and it was still in force; those who permit gold or wealth to lead them off to serve individuals who have not the interests of Zion at heart, are proving that the love of riches is stronger with them than the love of righteousness; they are being tried and found wanting.

RICHFIELD, SEVIER COUNTY.—Through very acceptable favors from our friends Wm. Morrison and H. P. Miller, we are enabled to present the following items:

A few families began the settlement at Richfield, on the west side of the Sevier, and about 20 miles south by west from Salina, in the Spring of 1864; they now number 150 families.

In January they began building a stone school house, 36 feet by 22, and opened a school in it on the 13th of Feb., with an average attendance of 50 scholars.

On the 12th of March they began digging an irrigating canal 12 miles long, 12 feet wide and 2 feet deep, and had it completed and the water running in it on the 28th of April, most of the work having been done with pick and spade.

Bishop Nelson Higgins and Dr. J. M. Bohn expect to have their grist mill in operation shortly.

County roads are located, bridges planned, the street crossings of water ditches neatly graded, and the county divided into precincts and school districts.

They are about starting an express to the nearest post office, until the petition for mail facilities is granted to them, which we hope will be soon.

These facts, in addition to the many unmentioned daily labors incident to making new homes in places naturally so uninviting, evidence an energy, unity and perseverance highly commendable, and we trust they will be attended with every desirable result.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.—From the Omaha Republican we learn that the grading will be finished to the Elkhorn, 26 miles west of Omaha, by the 1st of August, and to Columbus, on the Loup Fork, 100 miles from Omaha, by the 1st of November. The bridges for the first 100 miles are also expected to be completed on or before the last named date. The company will soon have four steam saw mills at work on timber for cross-ties, and are preparing to build machine shops, freight house, passenger depot, etc., this season, at Omaha. They expect to begin laying the track by the 1st of June, and to complete the first 100 miles by the 1st of December.

The California papers state the great enterprise is being vigorously prosecuted in that State.

ELDER ROSSKELLY, of Smithfield, informs us, that the new bridge over Bear river, Cache county, has been swept away, and that all the streams in Cache Valley are very high. They will soon have a ferry in operation where the bridge was.

DISTRICT COURT.—Wednesday, 24. In the Holladay case the recognizance was ordered to be forfeited and a scire facias to be issued, returnable on the first day of the next regular term.

Court adjourned sine die, with the direction that the Judge would sit in chambers on Monday, 29th, to hear testimony in the case of Jabez H. Smith, alias Henry Smith, who was arrested on a bench warrant, issued on the same day that the Grand Jury presented an ignored bill of indictment in his case.

Monday.

In chambers the Judge discharged Mr. Smith from custody, and all further criminal and civil proceedings in the case of the alleged cattle stealing. It was stated, upon good authority, that Rosenbaum and another important witness had left the Territory, and that without them the prosecution could not bring sufficient evidence to authorize the Court in finding over, hence Jabez Henry Smith was fully discharged.

ARTESIAN WELLS.—At a meeting held the other evening, the artesian well company decided to suspend operations, for the present, on the ground selected last fall for an artesian well on the north side of the 20th Ward, and to begin sinking one on the public square in the 10th Ward. In pursuance of this order the workmen have removed the machinery and implements to the new field of enterprise. We wish the company all the success they anticipate.