

not which way to turn. In this condition of mind he took the Scriptures in hand and began to peruse them, when shortly he came upon a passage in the epistle of James which suited his condition exactly. The passage ran thus: "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

This offer from the Father, said the speaker, inspired the boy with a feeling that he of all persons certainly needed wisdom. He wanted to affiliate himself with a church; which church he knew not because of the strife then existing. The boy then mustered the courage to try the scriptural suggestion and in his humble condition, with a heart yearning for the truth, Joseph, one beautiful spring morning repaired to the woods to pray. The lecturer here read Joseph's account of his first vision.

Continuing President Smith said that this was the first step in the origin of Mormonism. A mere boy, but fourteen years of age the December previous, asked the Father to show him which of the churches then extant was true, that he might join the right one. He was answered by a heavenly visitation of God the Father, and the Son. The Father introducing the trembling boy to His Son, told him to listen to that which He had to say. His remarks to Joseph were that he should join none of them. They were all wrong. They drew near to Him with their mouths but their hearts were removed far from Him. They taught for doctrine the precepts of men, having a form of Godliness, but denied the power thereof. Joseph was told to wait, and in the Lord's own due time He would establish His Church upon the earth—the true Church, with all the gifts and blessings which followed its believers abundantly. After imparting this information the heavenly messengers left the boy to ponder and reflect over what he had seen and heard.

With boyish tendencies, Joseph, a short time afterwards, told a Boston professor that he had had a vision. The gentleman laughed at him and ridiculed the idea, saying that such a manifestation was from Satan, at the same time advising him to pay no attention to it. But the boy was not so easily led; he knew he had been the subject of a heavenly visitation and this knowledge could not be thrown aside or eradicated from his memory. Therefore he remained firm and steadfast to the testimony of that which he had seen and heard, reiterating over and over again that he had seen the Father and the Son, notwithstanding the fact that the people at large ridiculed and scoffed the idea and called the boy a knave and a fool.

President Smith then took occasion to read from Joseph's account of his second vision, wherein an angel appeared unto him three successive times in one night and told him of the great work which he was to be the instrument in the hands of the Lord in restoring to earth again. The angel at this time told Joseph to make known unto his father his second vision.

This same messenger, continued the

speaker, appeared unto the boy the following day. His appearance at this time was occasioned by the boy's neglect in telling his father of his second vision, as commanded by the angel. The boy did not care to disclose the information to his father, for fear that he too, along with the general public, would disbelieve that which his son testified to. The messenger again appeared to Joseph, however, and reproved him for so disregarding the instructions given him. Joseph then told his father of his night's experience and his father blessed him for it. This second vision gave the boy information concerning the coming forth of the Book of Mormon—the book which was afterwards translated by the Prophet from the plates described to him in his second vision.

The speaker then read concerning the first visit of Oliver Cowdery to Joseph Smith after the latter had received the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated. It was on April 15, 1829, when Oliver Cowdery put in his appearance. Joseph laid before Mr. Cowdery his plans for the translation of the Book of Mormon and shortly afterwards an angel appeared unto these parties and conferred upon them the Aaronic Priesthood. The angel commanded them to go down into the waters of baptism, and in obedience to the command they went, Joseph baptizing Oliver and Oliver in turn baptizing Joseph. At the time of being visited by the angel, the heavenly messenger informed them that his name was John; the same John referred to in the Scriptures as John the Baptist. He at that time instructed them with regard to the translation of the Book of Mormon.

President Smith called attention to the testimony of the eight witnesses to the divinity of the Book of Mormon; he cited the gifts and blessings bestowed upon the Prophet and the Church and spoke of the first missionaries sent out to preach the Gospel. Its introduction found the people of many countries before the death of the Prophet Joseph, and after his assassination in Carthage jail, the work continued to grow and flourish until today its adherents numbered many thousands. The success achieved on the isles of the sea was such as to bring many of those people into the Church. The principles of the Gospel had also been heralded to the people of Germany, to South America, to China, to France, Russia and many other dominions.

The persecutions of the Saints were then dwelt upon by the speaker, who showed that notwithstanding they were driven from the town of Nauvoo and the state of Missouri, they were blessed exceedingly of the Lord and prospered, while their enemies perished by the wayside. The Church was established upon the earth for the last time, and it would remain intact, all efforts by the enemy to the contrary notwithstanding. Mobs and mobocracy could wage war as they would; God was at the helm of the Latter-day work and it would stand all the storms that the wicked could pour out against it. Its destiny was mapped out by the Almighty and He would see to it that His purposes were carried out to the very letter.

The Saints numbered hundreds of thousands, many of whom were willing to lay down their lives for the Gospel's sake, while some were lukewarm and could be very appropriately termed "peer devils." The Gospel had developed to a wonder in the earth and it would continue to grow and flourish until God's people were found reigning upon the earth, filling the places now held by wicked and designing men.

The speaker then announced that next week at the same time and place, Elder John Nicholson would be the speaker, his subject being, "Are there any insuperable difficulties to the acceptance of the facts in which Mormonism had its origin." The choir sang, "Glory and love to the men of old." Benediction was pronounced by Elder George Teasdale.

#### FROM YOUNG MISSIONARIES.

The following letters, one from Germany and the other from Florida, were written to the Sunday school in the Forest Dale ward, Salt Lake county, by the Elders named, both of whom were just over eighteen years of age when they left on their mission:

DARMSTADT, Germany, Jan. 8, 1897.  
—My Dear Brothers and Sisters: Since I have been here my thoughts often have been with you, and of the many pleasant and instructive mornings spent in the school. Since I last had the privilege of meeting with you, I have met with many people, and have passed through a number of new experiences. A youth reared in Utah cannot realize fully the many privileges that are attainable to him, until thrown into contact with the outer world, and then he cannot fail to see that God has greatly blessed the people of Utah.

I arrived at the office of the Swiss and German mission, in Bern, the capital of Switzerland, on September 3rd and was appointed to labor in Frankfort-on-the-Main, in Germany. The first two or three weeks I could not talk or understand the language; but by fasting and praying to the Lord for help in learning the language, I was enabled to bear a short testimony in German in six weeks after my arrival.

Twice before I had been here two months I was engaged in conversation and it became necessary for me to use a larger vocabulary than was at my command. Both times words came to me that I had never heard or used and I was enabled to express my feelings and explain our principles in a foreign language. This was a testimony to me that God is willing to answer our prayers and help us at all times.

I have made two long journeys on foot since I have been here, the first was 152½ miles, and the second 172 miles. All along the way we gave out tracts, and where the opportunity offered spoke with the people. In Worms, on the Rhine, I saw the old church where Martin Luther was tried before the Diet of Worms. It is still standing, and the Catholics still hold services in it. I also saw the monument erected there to Luther's memory.

December 1st we received word from our president that missionaries were