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TWILIGHT SONGS.

When night falls early, and the street lamps
throws
A dusky arabesque on floor and wall,
While in its deep alcove the firelight glows,
And sparrows give their drowsy chirping
call.

A few faint notes, then stronger, fuller chords
Arise: for lithe white fingers touch the keys;
And old heart-songs—how well we know the
words!—

Ring out, awakening varied memories.

Now gay Scotch songs, ballads of love and loss,
Or huntsman's lay with bugle-note refrain,
Or rallying cry of soldiers of the Cross,
Or trumpet call to battle on the plain.

Falling, at length, as fast comes solemn night,
From brighter airs to hymns of sage and
saint;

"Abide with me," perchance, "Lead, Kindly
Light,"
Or some serenely rippling minor plaint.

So, for the later lamplight, and the talk
Of books or work, we have a keener zest;
The guest a song hears on his homeward walk,
And by its benison all the house is blest.

F. D. Stickney.

DISCOURSE

*Delivered by President George Q. Cannon,
in Manti, Sanpete County, on
the Evening of Feb. 15, 1891.*

Reported by L. L. Dalton.

Brethren and Sisters, I shall rely upon the Lord to suggest to my mind such things as will best meet the needs of the Saints here present tonight, and satisfy their desires in coming together.

I feel it a great pleasure to be here with you, and it is a pleasure I am well prepared to enjoy, because it is one which has not fallen to my lot very frequently of late years.

It does me good to get away from the every day cares of business, and meet in conference with the Saints. It is very comforting, encouraging and strengthening to me; it does me good in body, mind and spirit. I do not recollect that I ever attended a better conference than this of these last two days in Ephraim; and I doubt, but I may be wrong, if the people in general feel the benefit and blessing of it as I do.

I am glad to feel and to realize that there is no decrease of the

Spirit of the Lord among us, but on the contrary. I feel inclined to say there is more of it manifested now than formerly; and it is a testimony to me and should be a testimony to all of us that the Lord has not turned away His face from His people. He has not forgotten us, and is not slow to hear our prayers.

We have, it is true, our tribulations, and they are different from those we had in former times. Once our persecutions came in the form of mobbings and driving, hunger and nakedness, and these things tried the faith of many; of some so sorely that they turned away from the truth, they fell into darkness, and left the Church which they once delighted in.

Our recent trials have been in the shape of imprisonments of our brethren, and confiscations of our property; and these things are hard to bear; but if there is any apostasy, and I suppose there must be some, on this account, it is good to know that it has not been extensive.

I am aware that there is a disposition on the part of a few, to make comparisons between things past and things present, to the disadvantage of things present; and to conclude that the Church is gone astray, that it has been allowed to drift without the guidance of the power of God.

The manifesto has been a stumbling block to some, and other things have tried the faith of the Latter-day Saints in varying degrees, but I think they should not.

I am rather pleased that we should have these things to contend with, because I realize that they are necessary in order that we may gain strength to stand, not alone, but by our own faith in the Lord and with His help.

He seems determined to teach us to rely on Him and not on our own strength, nor on the strength and wisdom of man.

If there ever was a time when the Saints stood in need of an individual, personal testimony of the truth of the Gospel which they have embraced, it surely is now, and they must have it or there is no security for them.

The sending of so many of our brethren to the penitentiary was well adapted to test their faith and that of their families, and I am glad to say they have stood the test nobly, both men and women; I am glad to say I do not know a case where the women

have failed to be true to their faith and their cause, to their devotion, courage and singleness of heart. And I have for myself this testimony to bear concerning the Latter-day Saints. The Lord has accepted our offerings, our sacrifices and our integrity; He is satisfied with us as a people and has recorded our deeds in the heavens, and laid up blessings in store for us. I do not say that each individual's record is entirely clear, but I speak of the people as a whole, and I repeat that the Lord is satisfied with us and our efforts; and now it remains for Him to deal with our affairs. I know He loves us and pours out His Spirit upon us and blesses us with light and understanding, upholds, comforts and strengthens us, and enables us to bear our afflictions with patience and fortitude. I have this testimony, and each of you, my brethren and sisters, may have it if you seek aright.

Every individual has a right to a personal knowledge of the truth, and of the mind and will of God concerning his own personal affairs. Our Father does not ask you to walk in darkness, nor by another's light, but it is His good pleasure to give each one of you the light of His Holy Spirit in your own souls.

By this light you have a right to examine all things, that you may hold fast to that which is good. It is your privilege to know for yourselves, not only if Joseph Smith was a true prophet, but whether Wilford Woodruff is God's own choice of a leader in His Church, if the Twelve Apostles are approved of Him, and all things whatsoever which concern you to know.

I would not give much for a Latter-day Saint who does not know these things, because the want of this knowledge proves that individual slothful and lax; but they who have it are awake and active, ready at all times to put a shoulder to the wheel and aid in rolling forth the great work of the last dispensation; and herein lies the strength of the latter-day work.

I can testify that the Lord makes known His will and pleasure continually, and every step taken in the general conduct of affairs in the Church is by His direction; and He will continue to lead His people and love and bless them, whether any one man lives or dies.

In the days of Joseph Smith, many of the Saints were so firmly persuaded