

mankind? No. These things will be disgusting to us.

Now, we are laboring for this purpose. But we are in a world of temptation, and we are more or less mixed up with the world. These temptations are coming in among us. The spirit of infidelity, skepticism, of spiritualism, etc., is being introduced among us, and our only safety is in being always fortified against these things, so that whatever is presented we shall know intuitively whether it is right or wrong. If it is wrong, it will be offensive to us; for when the Spirit of the Lord dwells so richly in us as we are entitled to have it, it will resist the insinuation of evil, and we will turn away from it, instead of being deluded by it. But this can only be accomplished by a constant care and application of the principles of the Gospel. The Gospel ought to be just as fresh before us as the food we have every day. When we are weary from the labors of the day, we sit down to rest. Let the spirit be refreshed as well as the body. We feed the body, we rest it, and we take great care of it; we keep it clean and sweet, that it may not become diseased; and if there is any part of the system that is injured in any manner, we give particular attention to that. So it should be with our spirits. If we find that there is one point of weakness in our spiritual natures, our attention should be directed to that, and if necessary we should have some assistance. We sometimes call upon a physician to attend to a limb that has got beyond our ability to restore. Now, we have our spiritual physicians and helps, and we should call upon them, and have our spirits so fortified that we may be entirely safe. Every man can serve God in this world as well as in any other. There is power in men to resist every temptation there is in this world if they will only develop it. There is power in men to serve God and keep His commandments. Our Father would not be just if that were not so. Truth attends upon all men. The spirit of faith and repentance attends upon all men; and every man who will open his heart to receive faith and repentance can have that spirit; for it is there to come in as readily as the light to come in through the window. It will never stay out of the soul of man, if the soul be open, any more than the light will stay out of that window. If you were to blind the windows you might keep it out; otherwise it will come in. It is so with the windows of the soul. If they are not blinded faith will enter in. Is it not a wonder that there are so few who believe the Gospel? But there is a reason for it. The windows of men's souls have been blinded. Would our Heavenly Father be just to allow the light of the Holy Ghost to come in upon my soul and not upon yours? I say that the Lord is just, and no man who loves the light and will allow it to come in upon him will be refused. This world is full of it, and it is within the reach of everybody that will receive it. But the corruptions and the false traditions of the world have so blinded and shut up the windows of the souls of men that this light cannot come in upon them. The Spirit of the Lord does not compel people to receive it; but it waits upon them and is always ready to enter the souls of the children of men.

Now, I say that these brethren who

have received the Holy Priesthood should be careful, devoted laborers constantly working in public and private, in talking, in reasoning, and in trying to have the Spirit of the Lord increased in the hearts of the people, that we may not be left in darkness; for where there is darkness there is doubt, and where there is doubt there is death and condemnation. The Lord is pleased with those who doubt Him not, but put their trust in Him and depend upon Him. It is not possible for a man to please God without faith and without repentance. And there is no repentance without faith. There is no forgiveness of sins except by baptism; and the Holy Ghost is conferred only by those who have authority from God, and God bestows the Holy Ghost just in proportion to the preparation of the soul to receive it—that is, according to the size of the window or opening of the soul. The reason we are not more fully charged with the Holy Ghost and with the power of God is because we are not prepared to receive greater light. Let us increase our ability to obtain and enjoy the light of the Holy Ghost, because that is the Spirit that will lead us back into the presence of our Father and enable us to be perfect as our Father who is in heaven is perfect. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILROAD.

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THE TRANS-SIBERIAN railroad is being pushed all along the line. Since the breaking out of the Chinese-Japanese war the work has been more earnest, and a large force of men are grading the routes and laying the rails as fast as possible. The original intention was that the road should be finished in 1905. The indications now are that it will be completed long before that time. In my last letter I described the city Vladivostok, the Pacific terminus of the railroad. It was here that the first work was done in 1892. The present czar, who was then taking a trip around the world, had come across Siberia along the line of the proposed railway, and it was with great ceremony that the first stone of this, the greatest railroad in the world, was laid there on the 12th of May, 1891. The road when completed will be more than seven thousand miles long, and it will cost somewhere between two and three hundred millions of dollars. (The Russian estimate is 350,000,000 roubles.) It will give a continuous railroad line from Vladivostok to St. Petersburg, and the probability is that a branch line will now be run down through Corea, and Japan will be brought within a day's ride of this terminus. When this is done the Japanese can make a trip to Paris with a water voyage of less than twenty-four hours. I have already written of my trip over the new Chinese railroad. This line now runs to the city of Shanhaikwan, where the great Chinese wall juts down into the sea. There is a breach in the wall at this point, and though the superstitious Chinaman would hardly permit the cutting of the wall for a railroad, they have allowed it

to go through this breach, and it is now being pushed on into Manchuria. It will eventually reach the Russian frontier, and will probably connect with the trans-Siberian railroad, and then we can go from Peking to Paris by land.

TEA AND SILK.

It is impossible to estimate the changes which this great railroad will make in Asia. The tea trade of Europe will undoubtedly go over it, and the great bulk of the exports from China, Japan and Corea will be carried through Siberia to Europe. As it is now, the fastest steamers are used for the tea trade. The new tea brings the highest prices in the market, and ocean steamers go up to the city of Hankow, seven hundred miles in the interior of China, and as soon as they can load they sail with full steam to London. They go by the Suez canal, and it takes them about forty-five days to make the voyage. The Chinese have already planned a railroad to the center of the tea districts from Tien-Tsin, where their new military railroad begins, and the tea will be shipped right north to Siberia, and get to Europe within fifteen or eighteen days. Tea carried overland is said to be much better than that which goes by water, and this will make a revolution in the tea trade of the world. At present the foreign trade of China amounts to about three hundred million dollars per year, and the bulk of this is made up of costly articles like tea and silk. These can pay high freight rates, and they will undoubtedly be shipped by rail. There are now in the neighborhood of six hundred million people in China, Japan and Corea. There are about four million in Siberia, and this road has the trade of nearly one-half the world to draw from.

THE ROAD AND MANUFACTURES.

It will probably make Russia a great manufacturing nation, and the Russian iron will be shipped over into China. There is no iron better in the world than that of the Ural mountains, and the Chinese are ready to pay high prices for good iron. Most of their tools are now made by hand, and they must have the best of raw material. At present a large part of the iron used in China is made up of cast-off horse-shoes, which are sent out from Europe by the shipload. The Chinese make razors, knives and all kinds of implements out of this iron, and there is a great demand for it all over the empire. There are great iron deposits in different points along the Trans-Siberian railroad, and big factories will spring up at all these points. The Russians are good mechanics, and they have vast iron works near Moscow and Tula, which make as good hardware and guns as you will find anywhere in the world.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE.

As the line is now planned and is being built, it is to run from Moscow right through the southern part of Siberia, making an almost straight line through this immense territory to the city of Vladivostok. It goes through rich gold mines. It taps vast areas of rich soil, and it will probably build up an empire in southern Siberia. The first section of the road is at the west. It begins in the Ural mountains, and there is an army at work building it. The next section is to run from the town of Omsk, on the river Obi, and the contractors are also at work here. In the middle of Siberia there is another