

Father. Wherever we look, whether in the homes of the rich, supplied with every comfort and splendor that a Solomon might have envied, or whether we look in the home of the temperate wage worker with its evidences of taste, comfort, art and luxury, we see that in every way the present exceeds in supply every other period that we have any history of, and yet people are unhappy and discontented. The fact is that desires of a selfish heart know no bounds. As we look out, we see the whole world madly pushing and clenching after wealth. A few only being successful, the remainder are envious and scorned because they are not the fortunate ones, and are discontented and miserable.

This is not only the case in the far West, the home of my birth, but it is a universal complaint, and I can see through the wisdom and testimony God has given me, the condition of the world in general, and I also know that only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can or will recall the human family to a knowledge of their position in life.

The Latter-day Saints should not take part in this great struggle for wealth alone, but should remember to strive for a heavenly prize, be weaned from all worldly ambitions, and labor not for worldly things, except to provide that which is decent and useful. In doing this we gain contentment with our godliness, not because we have no ambition, but because our ambition is turned heavenward and absorbed in the effort to lay up eternal treasures. Alas! how many do not take this position! Many have fallen into the errors prevalent in the world, and are deceiving themselves the real enjoyments of life by failing to keep the commandments of God.

I would urge Latter-day Saints to abandon the strife of greed and discontent, and strive for the higher riches and the peace to be found in the promises of our heavenly Father. Let us look at the 6th chapter, 1st Timothy, 6th to 12th verses. "Godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world and it is certain we can carry a thing out, and having food and raiment let us therewith be content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in ruin and destruction. For the root of all evils is the love of money which some being eager for were led away from the faith and pierced themselves through with many pains. But thou, O man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life whereunto thou art so called and hast preferred a good profession before many."

Now if the example of the Latter-day Saints is one of contentment and cheerful submission to present trials to the sure hope of the good times coming; such living examples are valuable lessons for our fellow men. The counsels of the Saints to those whom they may labor among, should be in harmony with their faith. We should point out to our fellow man the real causes of the present troubles and that the only way to escape judgment is to obey the laws of the Lord.

Paul tells us in the 3rd chapter of Acts, 20, 21: "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which [as] before was preached unto you, whom the heavens must retain until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." A great many people think that when sinners are converted, that forms a part of the coming of Christ, and that so He will continue coming until all the world is converted. Then, they say, He will have fully come. I think these folks do not understand the Scriptures on this subject, which declare the reverse of these expectations. We read in 2 Tim., 3 chap. 1-4 verses: "That in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God," and in the 13th verse, that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." This is the condition the human family shall be found in prior to the second coming, as they were when Noah, Job and others who were sent as forerunners to warn the people to repent, or God would punish them. In his day the Almighty sent His servant Joseph Smith to open up the plan of salvation as it existed in primitive days, but the doctrine he advocated are scoffed at, he was offered as a sacrifice for the truth, the Elders have been mobbed, and in some instances have laid down their lives in support of the Gospel.

It is a grievous sight, to see some people, intelligent and to all appearances honest, seeking for the true Church, and yet who will allow themselves to be led astray by those who make merchandise of the souls of men. It is the duty of every true follower of Christ to labor to break down this wall that Satan has built around the people, and to lead the righteous into that straight and narrow path, that will in the end bring them into the presence of our Father.

The missionaries here are doing good work in this field. There has been a great deal of sickness, but the cold weather will, we hope, restore all to perfect health. We are being blessed on every side with friends, and we are gaining ground in the more populous towns from which formerly we were barred on account of so much prejudice.

Your welcome paper comes regularly and is read with much interest by the people of this locality.

P. H. MARGETTS.

### TETON BASIN ITEMS.

DARBY, Idaho,

Dec. 23, 1895.

The weather in this part of the Lord's vineyard has been very cold and miserable all through the month of December so far.

On Saturday evening, December 14th, while Bishop Emanuel Bagley was sitting enjoying the comfort of life at his fireside reading the News, our sleigh loads of young people arrived. E. Bagley then mounted the sleigh and very speedily they drove away to the residence of L. S. Davidson there finding the majority of the crowd, all prepared for dancing, which was engaged in until 10 o'clock. The picnic was passed to the audience.

After about thirty minutes E. Bagley arose and rendered many thanks to the congregation, and told of his early life's experience. The crowd remained there until 12 o'clock, and had a very enjoyable time.

I am pleased to announce that the Y. M. M. I. A. has been organized and will commence meetings shortly, and this I hope it will be a success. E. Smith is president; D. Bagley first, and Andrew Hanson second counselor; G. Bagley secretary.

I am sorry to say that Nancy Nelson and son have been very sick. It is hoped their health will improve soon. President of Blake Rigby was lost from Saturday evening until Sunday morning late, only a short distance from home, in a blizzard on his road from Rexburg attending conference.

I am pleased to hear that U. M. Getup, and wife's health is better today. They have hardly been well this fall or winter.

The infant of Sister Haws has been very poorly.

The cattle and horses can do well on the range yet.

With pleasure I say that Driggs & Kimball are doing a good business and have a great supply of holiday goods in at present.

S. S. Davidson has commenced the construction of a fine house, and expects to be in it and receive it as a New Year's gift. D. BAGLEY.

### A DISASTROUS FIRE.

REXBURG, Idaho,

December 24, 1895.

About 8:30 last evening the people of Rexburg were startled by the alarm of fire, the rear of Durrane, Winters & Co.'s large merchandise premises, having been discovered ablaze and the flames were rapidly spreading. Part of the building broke into the front door and windows, with a view of fighting the fire and to save what goods they possibly could; but just at that moment a slight explosion occurred scattering burning oil all over the interior and setting most everything in the place instantly ablaze, besides blowing out all the windows and dislodging everything from the shelves, throwing them in a confused mass about the floor, making fuel for the already burning sheet of oil.

There was a slight wind blowing at the time which seemed to concentrate its force on the window and door opening, fanning the flames to furnace heat in a very few minutes; in fact so rapidly did the fire spread that the work that in thirty minutes from the time the fire was discovered the entire building was gutted and the contents destroyed or in course of destruction. Nothing was saved, for the willing hands who had entered the building when the fire was first discovered, had no sooner done so than the explosion occurred, driving everybody from the burning building. Some few were more or less cut and bruised by the flying glass and other loose objects, but none of them very seriously.

Last night where stood the fine structure of Durrane, Winters & Co., a monument of thrift and industry, today stands only the blackened walls of rock, and the smouldering embers of \$18,000 worth of the finest stock of