

God. We are created in the image of God. He is our Father; and is it not natural for children to love their father? Then why are we not natural. On the other hand, how unnatural it is to steal—to take that which belongs to somebody else and appropriate it to ourselves. If we had the faith of Abraham, we would not do it. Abraham, when his wife died, was offered a place where he might bury her; but he was so independent, that he declined to have it as a gift, and paid for it. You remember the trouble between Lot and Abraham, because they both had so much cattle. They agreed to separate, and Abraham told Lot to say which of the land he wanted and he would take the balance. Well, Lot took the best, did he not? Was Abraham dissatisfied? No. Why? Because he trusted in the Lord, knowing He could provide for him. And how careful Abraham was to pay his debts. How careful he was not to rob the Lord in tithes and offerings. How careful he was to fulfil every requirement. And every man that has the faith of Abraham has this disposition. He obeyed God because he loved Him, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Now, my beloved brethren and sisters, how is it with us? Do we think that if we can go to the Temple and obtain promises and blessings, we are going to inherit those promises and blessings, when we are disobedient and despise the Being who has given these eternal conditions? When our wives are sealed to us, what is said? These exaltations and glorious conditions that were referred to yesterday by President Cannon, how are they to be obtained? "Through your faithfulness." If we are so dull of comprehension that we cannot consider the great blessing that is conferred upon us in having the privilege of these promises, we must be bad y under the influence of darkness; and I would say to all, repent, and turn unto the Lord God. A mighty with full purpose of heart, or we will most assuredly be lost, and the night will come; and our souls will not be saved, because we shall have despised the counsels of the Almighty.

I recognize, in the First Presidency and the Apostles, the representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ; and when we find fault with them, we find fault with Him. A friend of mine said to me the other day: "Brother George, I find that the brethren who read the *DESERET NEWS* seem to be perfectly satisfied and in pretty good condition." I have seen a paper lately that I would not have in my house on any condition, and I would consider a man my enemy who would send such a paper to me. I do not want any literature that would defile my children. I want them to have literature of an exalting tendency, that will be of benefit and good to them, cultivating faith and showing them the value of a well-spent life.

Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife.

Do we want to be under such baneful influence? God forbid! I think if there ever was a people that required to repent, it is the lukewarm among the Latter-day Saints; and I will tell you why I think so. I travel sometimes with the First Presidents of Seventies, and I hear the complaints that are made that they cannot get some Seventies even to attend their meetings, much less to magnify their callings. Some Elders are the same. They seem to have no interest

in the Kingdom. The presidents ask what they are to do with such men. They have visited them time and again, and they will never do anything. For shame! that men should have so little value of Priesthood or the everlasting principles of the Son of God, and then expect thrones, principalities and powers. Oh, what a disappointment! All we have is our time, and how some are wasting it! A man that had the spirit of the Priesthood would want to be at his meetings; he would want to hear every word that was said, and be enabled to understand every condition that was needful for him to keep his armor bright, that he might be prepared either to preach the Gospel to the world or to go into the spirit world. Do you not think there is need of some repentance and reformation? Of course, if you do not want this glorious resurrection, there may be no need of it. But I want to impress upon every soul within the sound of my voice, that if you want to enjoy a glorious resurrection you must love God and keep His commandments, and stop iniquity, fault-finding and dissatisfaction that produces doubt and darkens the mind of some to such an extent that they have eyes and see not, ears and hear not, hearts and comprehend not the principles of life everlasting.

I want to bear my testimony to the truth of that which was said yesterday. I am associated with the Presidency of this Church and the Apostles, and I can bear a solemn testimony that there are not men upon the earth that love the principles of righteousness and the heritage of God manifested in the members of the Church of Christ, more than these men do. I know they are the servants of the living God; and I know that the prayers of the Saints are answered upon their heads when they pray that they may indeed be prophets, seers and revelators, and that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon them. I know they are seeking the interests of the Kingdom of God and the establishment of His righteousness, and are enjoying the inspiration of the Almighty. I pray God that the spirit of repentance may rest upon us, that we may awake from our lethargy, and be prepared for the second coming of Christ. Amen.

WITH SHERMAN IN CUBA.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14th, 1897.

It is now ten years almost to a day since Senator Sherman invited me to make a trip with him to the island of Cuba. Mr. Sherman was then president pro tem. of the Senate, and as such, by the death of Vice President Hendricks, he was the acting Vice-President of the United States. Now Mr. Sherman is the head of our State Department, and one of the chief subjects with which he has to deal is Cuba.

The trip which we made had no diplomatic significance. It was merely a pleasure tour for fun and rest. Sherman was tired out after a hard session of Congress, and took a party of a half-dozen senators and friends along with

him. He had with him some of the best fellows who ever came to the United States Senate. There were Palmer, of Michigan, the philosophic millionaire from Detroit, who was afterward minister to Spain; Gen. Manderson, of Omaha, who is now acting as the attorney of the Burlington railroad system; Gen. Anson G. McCook, of New York, then the clerk of the Senate; Mr. Babcock, Senator Sherman's private secretary, and a half-dozen ladies, the wives, daughters and nieces of the United States Senators. We spent some time in traveling through the South before we went to Florida, visiting Charleston, Savannah, and other points. Senator Sherman was the life of the party. He told numbers of good stories, and enjoyed himself like a boy out for a holiday. It was the same with Senator Palmer, who now and then sang a Methodist hymn by way of variation, and with Gen. Manderson, who was the most indefatigable of all our sight-seers.

We met with funny incidents everywhere. We arrived in Charleston shortly after the earthquake, and Senator Sherman was much interested in investigating the destruction which had been occasioned by it. He asked many questions of the people concerning it. I remember one old colored woman with whom he conversed somewhat as follows:

"Where were you, auntie, when the shock came?"

"I was in de church a-praying, sah," the old negress replied.

"And did you not run out?" asked Senator Sherman.

"No, indeed, I didn't, sah, was the hearty answer. "You see, massa, I knowed I was a sight nearder heaven in de church, and I thought if I died I'd get there shuan. If I died outside, I'd be nearder hell. So I just stayed and axed de good Lord to save me, and He done it."

At this the whole party of us laughed, and the old lady doubled herself up into a yahl yahl yahl as she went on.

Another story which we heard at this time is especially applicable to the help which the Cubans need in their present struggle. It was concerning an old negro who was out in the field in Charleston when the earthquake came. At the first shock he was frightened almost to death, and when the earth began to shake and tremble he dropped down on his knees and prayed:

"Oh, Lord! Come and help dis poh nigger. Oh, Lord, come quick! Come yourself! D. n't sen' your son. Dis am no place for chillen!"

We left Washington when it was cold and stormy. When we arrived at Jacksonville the weather was like June. The Senators went about without their overcoats, and the ladies threw aside their sealskin sacques. We spent some time at Jacksonville, and then took a long journey up the St. John's river. This is one of the most wonderful streams of the United States. Near Jacksonville it is like an arm of the sea. The country through which we passed was picturesquely tropical. Live oaks and palmettos lined the banks, and we rode for miles through a jungle as dense as that of the great Dismal Swamp. It was cool and pleasant in the evening and the sunsets were the most gorgeous I have seen in any country. As the sun began to fall the waters gradually turned from