

The Last Foolish Mormon.

BY W. W. PHELPS.

TUNE—"The last Rose of Summer."

Oh! the last foolish Mormon,—
I wish he was gone
To the banquet of Bab'lon,
Where wicked ones spawn:
To enjoy 'his forever'
In one woful spree,
That the saints in these mountains
Might henceforth be free.

And the last silly woman,—
I wish she was fled—
That the rest of the queenhood,
Might honor their 'head':
While the truth, as in heaven,
That prophets reveal—
And the leaven—might 'leaven'
'Three measures of meal.'

And the last war of nations,—
I wish it was done,—
That a peace, everlasting,
Might greet ev'ry one:—
So that angels and spirits
Might mingle with men,
As they do with our Father
In glory,—again.

And the last sin of satan,—
I wish it was gone,—
For the hour of redemption
So brightly doth dawn,
That the angels are whispering
Glad tidings again,—
And the spirits of Zion
Refreshes like rain.

And the last noble system
Of more than 'one wife,'
'Tis the law of J-hovah,
To multiply life:—
For the increase of kingdoms
Like sands round the sea,
Or the stars full of people,—
For by it we be.

And the last train of hand-carts,
I wish it success—
As a plan of the prophets
To gather the blest—
As the true sons of Joseph,
With banners unfurl'd
And a priesthood with power
To cope with a world.

JOURNEY FROM FLORENCE TO
G. S. L. CITY.

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG:

DEAR BROTHER:—We left Florence (Winter Quarters) K. T., on the evening of the 3rd Sept., accompanied by Elders C. H. Wheelock, J. Van Cott, G. D. Grant, W. H. Kimball, Joseph A. Young, C. G. Webb, W. C. Dunbar, James Mc. Gaw, Dan Jones, J. D. T. McAllister, N. H. Felt and James Ferguson; G. D. Grant being selected as captain of our company.

The rear of our season's emigration had started on the road, with the exception of Elder Wm. Walker with 10 wagons, laden with a portion of P. E. Fund baggage.

Previous to leaving Florence we sent Elder Jos. A. Young back to ascertain, if possible, the whereabouts of Elder Walker. He rode back 50 miles, and, learning that Walker's train was yet some 25 or 30 miles in the rear, returned to join us for the plains.

Elder E. Snow accompanied us to our camp, 3 miles west of Elk Horn, and on the morning of the 5th, having completed his business with us, returned to the States.

We overtook our rear company of wagons, in charge of Captain I. A. Hunt, during the forenoon of the 6th, and nooned with them about 10 miles east of the Loup Fork. He has in his company 240 persons, 50 wagons, 297 oxen and cows, 7 horses and mules, and some 4 church wagons. The majority of this company have light loads and good teams, and are generally well provisioned. They would probably ferry the Loup Fork on the 7th.

On the evening of the 7th we overtook Elder Edward Martin, about 40 miles from the Loup Fork, with the rear of our P. E. F. Emigration for this season. He had with him some 576 persons, 145 hand-carts, 7 wagons, 6 mules and horses, and 50 cows and beef cattle; also one wagon mostly loaded with church goods. His company was in most excellent spirits, and, though he had the greater proportion of the feeble emigrants, the health of his camp was very good; and he was able to average about 100 miles a week, without fatiguing his company.

Here, from a company of returning Californians met the previous day, we learned of the increased hostility of the Cheyennes, and that they had already made a successful attack upon A. W. Babbitt's ox train. Of the four teamsters in that train two were killed and one wounded; and a woman named Wilson (as was presumed from the tracks) was severely wounded and taken prisoner, and her child, about two months old, was murdered. The wagons were plundered, but, as we subsequently learned, most of the property was retaken by Captain Wharton of Fort Kearney.

Refreshed by our short interview with Captain Martin's company, we drove about 10 miles further and found br. Hodgetts' camp. This company is composed of 150 persons, 33 wagons, 84 yoke of oxen, 19 cows and some 250 head of heifers and other loose cattle. This includes br. Thomas Tennant and family, with 4 wagons and 1 carriage. Br. Hodgetts' company, though generally pretty heavily laden, were in good traveling condition and making excellent progress.

On the 9th inst. we met with two brethren,

from br. J. G. Willie's company of hand-carts, in search of 30 head of cattle that had strayed from their camp about 50 miles in advance.

Accompanied by br. James Ferguson, we this day visited Capt. Wharton at Fort Kearney, and received a confirmation of the news of the attack of the Cheyennes upon Mr. Babbitt's train. The troops had made an attack upon a Cheyenne village and killed 10 warriors. This increased the rage of the Cheyennes, and from that time we were informed that they had divided into war parties for the purpose of attacking small parties of emigrants.

Here we met a returning Californian who had escaped from one of their assaults, with the loss of his wife killed, and his boy, some 3 or 4 years old, taken prisoner.

Capt. Wharton declared himself incompetent to afford any protection to emigrants, and had some doubts of his ability to maintain the post, for want of troops. Mr. Babbitt had left Fort Kearney for Utah a week previous, accompanied by Thomas Sutherland and a driver.

As we were leaving the fort for our camp on the north side of the Platte, a discharged soldier came to Capt. Wharton with the news of another massacre by the Cheyennes. This soldier had accompanied Thomas Margetts and James Cowdy, and their families, from Laramie, and on returning from a buffalo hunt, when about 125 miles from Fort Kearney, found the wagon plundered and the murdered remains of his traveling companions.

The soldier's account of the affair, as given to brs. Willie and Atwood, will give you the particulars and is as follows:—

STATEMENT

Made to James G. Willie and Millen Atwood, of the Fourth Hand-cart Company, by a man who gave his name as Henry Bauichter, and who came into their camp on the morning of Monday, September 8, 1856:

"I am a discharged soldier from Fort Laramie, which I left on the 29th of August, 1856. After traveling about 30 miles I overtook a wagon with two mules and two horses, one an Indian horse with a white face, the mules alone drawing the wagon, which was accompanied by two men, one of whom gave his name as Thomas Margetts and the other as James Cowdy. The former of these men had a wife, and the latter a wife and child. They came, as they stated, from Great Salt Lake City, and were on their way to the States.

About 70 miles above this point, or 125 miles above Fort Kearney, I and Thomas Margetts went out on horseback in search of buffalo, on the 6th of Sept., and between 1 and 2 p.m. I soon killed a buffalo, upon which Margetts returned to the wagon to fetch some things for carrying away part of the animal, while I staid behind to dress it.

On Margetts' return from the wagon he filled one utensil, principally with tallow, and started again for the wagon, and I remained to fill another utensil which Margetts had brought. This occupied me about half an hour, when I also started in the direction of the wagon, noticing, before reaching it, that the cover had been stripped off, and that neither mules nor horses were to be seen.

On my arrival I discovered on the ground the bodies of Margetts, Cowdy, and Cowdy's wife and child all dead, except that the child was crying and bloody. I could not see any wounds on any of the bodies, but an arrow was sticking in Cowdy's thigh.

The wagon, the hinder part of which was on fire, had been completely ransacked, and all that was of any immediate use taken away.

I looked round for Mrs. Margetts, whom I could not find. The feathers from a bed had been strewn on the ground by the side of the wagon, but I could not see the bedtick.

I saw, at some considerable distance, 12 men or more, apparently riding very fast, who were, as far as I could discover, Indians. None of the bodies were scalped.

The buffalo which I killed was over the bluff, about a mile and a half from the wagon, but I did not hear any report of fire-arms during my absence from it.

Not feeling myself safe in the neighborhood of the murders, I escaped with my horse, and with the loss of my discharge and other papers, and about \$300, a gold watch and other things, which I had deposited in the wagon, intending to make the best of my way to Fort Kearney and there report the facts as quickly as possible.

The two horses above-mentioned were ridden, at intervals during the journey, by Mr. and Mrs. Margetts."

On the 12th we overtook and camped with br. Willie's company, at North Bluff creek, consisting of 404 persons, 6 wagons, 87 hand-carts, 6 yoke of oxen, 32 cows, and 5 mules. They were considerably weakened by the loss of their oxen, which they had failed to recover, but were in good spirits and averaging from 14 to 16 miles a day. Here we forded the Platte to the south side, and were followed by the hand-carts. Never was there a more soul-stirring sight than the happy passage of this company over that river. Several of the carts were drawn entirely by women, and every heart was glad and full of hope.

We spent the afternoon of the 15th inst. with br. A. O. Smoot, about 20 miles west of Ash Hollow. There were in his company 88 souls, 42 wagons, 285 oxen, 6 cows, 15 mules and horses, and 1 carriage. They had provisions for 23 days. Br. Smoot lacked drivers, having only 33 men fit for duty. His oxen were in good condition, but his loads were very heavy. Gilbert and Gerish's train of 17 wagons was travelling in company with him.

On the 16th inst., 37 miles in advance of br. Smoot, we camped with br. O. P. Rockwell, who had 5 wagons and 11 yoke of oxen in charge, in addition to three families, viz., Grimshaw, Cook and Barnes, whom he had turned back towards

Laramie, deeming them too weak to pass in safety. Br. Rockwell accompanied us to Fort Laramie, where we arrived on the morning of the 19th. Col. Hoffman received us with much kindness, as also did J. W. Tutt, the sutler. Here we received a small recruit of mules and provisions, and purchased some good buffalo robes for the P. E. Fund passengers in the rear.

On the 23d inst. we parted, at the Platte bridge, with Capt. Dan Jones, who met his brother and remained to recover a cached thrashing machine. Here also we purchased a few more robes for Capt. J. G. Willie's company.

During the forenoon of the 24th, after leaving our camp at Willow Springs, we met Messrs. Hawley, Lambson, Amy and party on their way to the States, and advised them to wait at Laramie for the company of missionaries reported in their rear.

Same day, and near Independence rock, we nooned near Patriarch John Smith and two other brethren, who had come out with flour for the companies. Br. Smith returned with us. The same evening, and about 8 miles further on, we camped with Elder P. P. Pratt and company, all in good health and most excellent spirits, and promising fair for an honorable and successful mission.

On the 27th, 15 miles east of the Pacific Springs, we nooned with br. Wm. Smith and two other brethren from Farmington, with 2 wagons and flour for the companies. We counseled them to cache their flour and go on to meet br. Willie and his company, which they agreed to do.

On the 28th, 3 miles east of Big Sandy, we camped with br. Talcott, who also had flour for the companies. We gave him the same counsel, to go on with his teams to help br. Willie.

On the 29th we camped with br. Croft's company, consisting of 58 persons, 14 wagons, 80 yoke of oxen, 30 horses, and 130 loose cattle; they are principally from Texas and the Cherokee lands. They were healthy and in good spirits, and gave us a most hospitable reception. This was the last company passed by us on the road.

At Bridger, on the 1st of Oct., we were welcomed by Major Burton and a small party of the mountain boys; and on the evening of the 4th were happy to receive your welcome and blessing at home.

Assuring you of our continued exertions to promote the welfare of God's kingdom, and praying that your life may be spared long to God's people, as also the lives of your Council, we remain, sincerely and obediently, yours in Christ,

F. D. RICHARDS, } Agents P. E. Fund.
DANIEL SPENCER, }

MINUTES

OF A QUARTERLY CONFERENCE HELD
IN SPANISH FORK CITY, SEPT. 27,
28 and 29, 1856.

SEPT. 27, 10 a. m.

Present, Patriarch John Young and Elder J. V. Long and Elders Daniel D. Hunt and Joseph G. Hovey, Home Missionaries.

Singing. Prayer by Patriarch John Young.—Voted that Elder Daniel D. Hunt preside over this conference, and that Samuel J. Raymond act as clerk.

Prest. Hunt remarked on the necessity of being punctual in attending meetings at the hour appointed, and of keeping order during meetings.

Patriarch John Young spoke on the necessity of a reformation among the Saints throughout the valleys of the mountains.

Benediction by J. V. Long.

2 p. m.

Singing. Prayer by Elder Long. Elder Hovey spoke upon giving heed to the counsel of God and living our religion. Exhorted the saints to repentance, and to go forth into the waters of baptism for the remission of their sins; to set their houses in order and prepare themselves for the celestial law.

Patriarch John Young exhorted the saints to live their religion, for if they did not they would get into darkness and apostatize.

Elder Long spoke upon "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"

Patriarch John Young made a few remarks upon covenant breaking.

Elder Hunt said that the brethren had spoken by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, and taught the necessity for attending to family and secret prayer.

Elder Hovey bore testimony to the efficacy of secret prayer.

Benediction by Elder Hunt.

7 p. m.

Singing. Prayer by Elder Hovey. Elder Hunt said we had come out to do and receive good, and if we lifted our hearts to God as Saints we would receive the blessings that we have come for.

Elder Long addressed the assembly on prayer, and the blessings attendant upon it.

Elder Hovey followed on the same subject, and exhorted the brethren to make every thing straight before they go into the waters of baptism.

Elder Hunt requested those who wished to renew their covenants by baptism to meet at the Fort to-morrow, at 8 a. m.

Benediction by J. Young.

SUNDAY 28th, 8 a. m.

Patriarch John Young enjoined upon the saints to observe the utmost decorum and reverence, while the sacred ordinance of baptism was being attended to. After prayer and a few preliminary remarks, br. Hovey baptized Bishop John S. Butler and his counselors, John W. Berry and George W. Wilkins, about 400 persons were immersed under the direction of Prest. Hunt, aided by Bishop Butler, Elders Hovey, Chidester and Berry and Patriarch John Young. Confirmation was attended to in the Bowery, by Prest. Hunt and Patriarch John Young, assisted by Prest. James C. Snow, Bishop John S. Butler, Elders Hovey, Long, Carter, Berry, Wilkins, Chidester, Thompson, Hicks, Woodward, Coltrin, Thurber, Bab-

cock and Hawks. The Spirit of God was poured out to a great degree, and peace and happiness characterized the assembly.

Patriarch J. Young made a few remarks on the necessity of keeping the covenants that had been entered into this day, and blest the people in the name of the Lord.

Benediction by J. C. Snow.

2 p. m.

Singing. Prayer by br. Carter. Patriarch J. Young made a few remarks on the anticipated jubilee of the sisters.

Br. James C. Snow followed on the same subject, with some appropriate remarks on the building up of the Kingdom of God and living our religion.

Br. Carter felt to endorse all that had been said, and gave some excellent instruction on the principles of counsel.

Elder Hunt, bore testimony to what br. Carter had said, and blest the Saints in the name of the Lord God of Israel.

Br. Hovey exhorted the saints to be faithful to their covenants.

Elder Long exhorted the Saints to add to their faith, virtue, and to abstain from vulgarity; then to add to their virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, that they may have the Spirit of God all the time.

Br. Duke bore testimony to the truth of the remarks made and exhorted all to keep their covenants and obey the counsel of their Bishop.

Br. Carter, referred to the saying of Jesus, 'My yoke is easy and my burthen is light,' speaking of the celestial law which would not hurt any one, if they lived their religion.

Bishop Butler said that he felt well and had a glorious time at this conference; wished at all times to be obedient to counsel, and exhorted the Saints to follow in that course.

Benediction by Elder Long.

7 p. m.

Singing. Prayer by Elder Hunt. Br. Hunt gave liberty for the brethren and sisters to free their minds, as they should be dictated by the Spirit. Many bore testimony, and the Spirit of God was in our midst.

MONDAY, 29th, 10 a. m.

Bro. Hunt made a few remarks in regard to the good feelings that prevailed during this conference; said that he felt as though angels were in our midst.

Elder J. V. Long spoke upon spiritual gifts and purification.

Br. Hovey felt to back up what brs. Hunt and Long had said; truly the Spirit of God is with you, it was last night.

Bro. Z. Coltrin bore testimony to what had been said, and gave some instruction on family government. Heshannah was shouted by the congregat on.

Benediction by Bishop Butler.

2 p. m.

Prayer by Bishop Butler. Elder Hunt made a few remarks in regard to cleanliness.

Bro. Long counseled the Saints to live faithful, humble and prayerful, that they may receive the blessings that are in store for them.

Patriarch John Young made some remarks on the necessity of paying tithes and bringing in offerings, and blessed the people with health, prosperity and the power of the Holy Ghost.

Benediction by br. Hunt.

7 p. m.

Prayer by J. W. Berry. After remarks by brs. J. Young, Hunt and Hovey, the brethren and sisters had liberty to free their minds, which they did by pouring forth the fullness of their souls for the great manifestations of the power of God. The Bishop and counsel expressed their joy at the proceedings.

Prest. Hunt adjourned conference.

Benediction by br. J. V. Long.

SAMUEL J. RAYMOND, Clerk.

MINUTES

OF A QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF
THE SEVENTIES OF IRON AND
WASHINGTON COUNTIES, HELD IN
CEDAR CITY, JUNE 7 & 8, 1856.

SATURDAY, 7th, 1 p. m.

Singing.

Prayer by Prest. Sam. H. Rogers.

Singing.

Voted that Prest. Sam. H. Rogers preside over this conference, and that George K. Bowering act as clerk.

Prest. Rogers said that, with very few exceptions, the standing of his brethren was good, and thought that those few could be managed without bringing them before the conference. Stated that James Lowe, John M. Davies, Wilson G. Nowers and James P. Anderson had moved to Beaver, and Zedekiah R. Judd to Santa Clara.

Counselor Andrew S. Gibbons reported the Seventies at Cedar were doing as well as they could.

Prest. Sam. F. Attwood reported the Seventies at Harmony, Pine Valley and Santa Clara in good standing, and ready to do their utmost for building up the kingdom of our God.

Voted that James Giman and John Aires act as teachers for the Seventies in Parowan, for the next three months.

Prest. Rogers spoke upon the necessity of discharging our duties, and was followed by Elders Henry L. Cook, Robert Easton, Thomas Devenport, Jehiel McConnell, John White, — Baston, Jacob West, David Cluff, William Lenny, H. D. Bailass, Elias Morris, George K. Bowering, John Thopham, William Adams, and A. S. Gibbons.

Prest. S. F. Attwood made remarks upon the duties of the Seventies, and moved that we meet every two weeks, on the first and third Sundays in each month, at Harmony. Carried.

Voted that the Seventies in Cedar meet at 4 p.m., on every first and third Sunday in each month.