

man who holds on because he lives the truth, he will be faithful to his covenants come what will; such a man will be benefited by the reformation. I know that many of us have been in sin and under condemnation, yet to-day the honest-hearted man or woman before me will say 'I thank God that my sins are forgiven, that they are blotted out from the Lord's book of remembrance.'

I feel to bear my testimony to this work and to say that I feel thankful that I have the opportunity and privilege of being identified with this people, to share alike in their joys and sorrows. When President Young said, 'all your sins are past, gone into oblivion,' I felt thankful to God and to him; the brighter future was given me to improve upon, and I feel that it is my right to make the best possible use of it.

Brethren and sisters I do not feel that it is for me to occupy all your time, but there are still a few other ideas in mind that I wish to lay before you. I feel thankful for my position in the Church and kingdom of our God. I believe that I have a better position and standing in your estimation than I truly deserve, but with all my weaknesses I desire to live and to be a consistent Saint, and I realize that it is a day of watching and of prayer. I wish I could tell what I think upon this subject, but suffice it to say that we must mind our prayers, our tithes and our offerings. It is for us to obey 'Mormonism' in all its bearing, never to shrink from any duty that may be imposed upon us.

I hope that if any of my rich relations die and leave me seventy-five thousand dollars that I shall have the same spirit and feeling that I now have, and that is, to consecrate all to the glory and advancement of this kingdom. It is but putting it out to usury; let us remember to do it and to perform our every duty as Saints.

Some of my brethren who labor on this Rock think it is rather tight times with them; but this thing I do know that the man who has labored faithfully on the Public Works from the beginning and staid there all the time comes out the best at the last; this I have learned by observation. Hence I have learned that it is not your calling or avocation alone that is looked at, but live so that your conduct will be approved and all will right.

I feel glad to see so many here this morning and to see before me men who have done much for the gospel's sake. I hope that we shall all be faithful to our trust.

We have come from England, France, Scotland, Denmark, Switzerland, and from almost all nations; we come with our peculiar notions of civilization, government and refinement, and therefore much allowance must be made for our follies and short comings. I hope that those who do come in future will come for the love of the truth and nothing else.

This much I do know, and realize that the man who lends his ability, his education and all that he has to the interests of this kingdom, and to the welfare and prosperity of Zion will be blessed, but unless we feel that all we have is identified with the Church and kingdom of God it is of no use staying with this people, we had better leave before the cold weather sets in. It is no use for a man to try to cover up his sins, for it is the honest soul that God loves; although they have committed sins if they will be honest and forsake their sins, God is merciful to forgive. Let us be consistent in all things and we shall prosper and be blessed.

Without giving expression to the thought of the ability and power with which this people have been governed and controlled I would venture to say that there is more unity and peace in Utah than any where else on the globe. With all our short comings and waywardness, I realize that this people are easily governed. When I have seen our leading men send word to the antipodes, dictating how to govern affairs, seen the wisdom manifested in their policy towards the barbarous tribes around us, and in thousands of other instances, I have asked where comes all this power and knowledge? Certainly not from books, nor from schools, but it is the inspiration of God to man. A man that does not see this is as blind as a bat.

I tell you I see boys and girls that have been raised in 'Mormonism' growing up inspired with the spirit of their parents; they are not of the 'kid glove aristocracy.' These boys are ready when called upon to do anything, and they are invulnerable as the rocks of Gibraltar, and old Nicholas would have given S-bastopol to those 'Mormon' boys sooner than to England and France.

I wish I had been born one, but I was not; yet I believe I have the gist and the root of the matter in me.

I would to God that there were ten thousand of those boys born where there is but one. I care not whether they know Aristotle, Cicero, Demosthenes or Ptolemy; I tell you they will use up their enemies any where.

These are a few of my thoughts and feelings and I rejoice in my religion and the comfort it affords me under all circumstances.

I feel interested in the success of the 'Carrying Company,' and hope to live to see the day when it will have one hand in the Atlantic and the other in the Pacific and drop some of the good things in Utah.

Brethren and sisters, may you all be of the true gift; and may we all feel that we possess nothing but what is incorporated in the interests of 'Mormonism' and that all we may have of power, or of riches belongs to the dictator of this glorious cause; and may our all be there when the earth is purified, and becomes the inheritance of the Saints.

Sisters, bring up your children right, teach them right principles, not the incorrect principles of the world.

May 'Mormonism' lead you all to industry, that you may make these valleys teem with flocks and herds and the blessings of life. May you all feel this one thing that if you are faithful over the mammon of this world you will receive the reward of the faithful in the next,

but if you squander your substance and are unfaithful in these things, who will trust to you the true riches of the kingdom? That which you sow you will also reap; remember this. And may God grant that you and I may reap eternal life, in my sincere prayer, in the name of Jesus: Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder James McKnight, Bowery, G. S. L. City, May 3, 1857.

[REPORTED BY LEO HAWKINS.]

Brethren and sisters, it is a pleasure to me to stand before you this morning, looking upon you as I do, as Saints of the Most High God.

I have often, while meeting here together with you, and listening to the instructions of the servants of God, inquired, what was it that brought us together here? It is very seldom in the world that you see so large a congregation of people assembled in one place, but here we assemble from week to week and from year to year, a great people, for the purpose of receiving instructions. I have asked myself what was the cause of all this? Why do we assemble? What has brought such a people together? And I have come to the conclusion that nothing but truth, eternal truth, could ever unite or gather together a people from nearly every nation and tongue under heaven, as we are gathered here in these mountains.

It certainly is not that we may gain worldly wealth, or worldly influence, or worldly power, or worldly gratification, or worldly pleasure, or anything else that may be termed of a worldly character. I do not conceive that such motives would bring such a people together from the ends of the earth. Well, what is it, brethren and sisters? For my own part, and I believe that I shall speak the feelings of almost every person, it has been to gain that true riches which God has promised to all them that will obey the gospel and keep his commandments.

We sometimes forget these things; and many things that we do assuredly know at one time, by and bye, through the course of circumstances, we forget. The mind is so constituted that it needs to be continually posted or kept in motion, or else the things that we know to-day, unless we are reminded, to-morrow we will forget them.

We see that men are liable to be forgetful by the course some have taken this spring, in going from our midst; some we have thought were as good Saints as we are, and have borne as strong a testimony as any of us ever did, and have seen as much of the work of God so far as their experience has gone, and have had powerful manifestations by the Spirit of God and by the power of the holy priesthood and have testified of it, yet you now see them going away. It has made me think I would have to watch myself and see that I did not forget the things that were committed to me through obeying the gospel, and that I should go forth more faithfully in the discharge of the duties that were required at my hands.

Thus far I have been enabled to preserve within me the testimony that this work is from God. I have never been without it. Well now, I have thought, how shall I retain that testimony always within me? How shall I take a course that I may not go as I have seen others go? Is it my desire to go that way? Would not I revolt?—Would not every feeling of my bosom revolt at the idea of apostatizing from this church? It would. And there is not a man that has embraced the gospel in sincerity, with the love of it, but would revolt at the idea of leaving this kingdom; every sentiment is, we do not want to leave this kingdom; we feel that we would rather lay down our mortal bodies, for we leave everything that is good when we leave this kingdom; our existence on the earth is then of little importance. I will tell you, brethren and sisters, those who are now leaving our midst are an example to us.

I have asked myself what I would do, and the course I would pursue in striving to keep within the circle of this kingdom, to keep myself within this church; and I have said in my heart that I would seek to live humble before God, and obey the voice of his servants. I do not know any other way; if there is any, it has never been revealed to me.

If we live humble before God we are in a condition to receive the manifestations of the Spirit of God continually and we are submissive to its teachings and willing to be dictated by it, but if we are not dictated by that Spirit, then, brethren, we are just like a ship without a rudder; there is no safety for us. Without the teachings of the Spirit of God we cannot know whether the gospel of the servants of God is true or not. We may say we are willing to listen to the counsel of His servants, but we need the Spirit of God to witness to us that what they counsel us is the will of God, then we will be secure.

My testimony this morning is that this is the church and kingdom of God, and my feelings are all the time, and my prayer to God is that rather than he would suffer me to forsake the covenants I have made and apostatize from his work and from his kingdom and prove traitorous to his servants, that he would take me away from the earth. I do hope that He never will let me see the light of this sun out of this kingdom, never; and I desire to take such a course continually, seeking faithfully to do the will of God, and so walk in the light of his Spirit, that I may be enabled to honor the Priesthood, that I may do everything required at my hands, with an eye single to His glory, and the building up of His kingdom.

My desires are, brethren, to see this kingdom roll forth, and to put forth every energy and faculty that I have, whatever it may be, in my humble sphere to advance the interests of the kingdom of God. I have no other feelings; no matter how far astray I may go at times, it is through ignorance and not a design to do anything that is evil; and every particle of strength or influence I possess, I want it to be devoted to the building up of this kingdom; and all the traditions

that I have inherited, every feeling I have cherished from the early instructions of my parents and from my worldly associations, which are not in accordance with this gospel, I desire that they may be put away from me, and that truth be planted within me, and actuate me in all my conduct.

I did not of course receive such a vast amount of tradition as I would if I had remained longer among the gentle nations, and have had their erroneous principles more firmly impressed on my mind; and I am thankful 'Mormonism' reached me when it did. I am also thankful to God there is a generation rising in our midst that will have very little, if any, of the traditions of the world to contend with; these traditions are the very things that keep us back in our progress and that make reformation necessary. If it were not for our traditions we would walk into the gospel with all the might that is within us, and the devil would have little or no power over us, but our traditions are so opposed to the order of the kingdom of God, that we continually have to strive, and it requires all the strength and faculties that we have to contend against them, and then they overcome us sometimes; but God does not require any more of us than we can do; and I have come to this conclusion, if I do as well as I can, day by day, and use every iota of strength I have, if I continually press forward, I believe that through the strength of God I shall overcome.

We need not be afraid or discouraged at small trials, for we are yet only on the verge of this work; the kingdom, truly, is rolling forth, but the powers of darkness have a great influence over us; and if we lay down our armor now, thinking that the struggle is over, we shall be unable to endure the day of darkness and trial that will come, sooner or later, to every one of us.

Well, brethren and sisters, may God bless you and help each of us to keep his commandments, and be faithful in all things, that we may endure even to the end; this is my prayer in the name of Jesus: Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder Elisha H. Davis, Bowery, G. S. L. City, May 3, 1857.

[REPORTED BY LEO HAWKINS.]

Brethren and sisters, I am thankful for this privilege of bearing my testimony to the truth of 'Mormonism.' I know that 'Mormonism' is true; and I am glad that I have a standing in this church and kingdom, and that I have the privilege of living in the midst of the Saints of God, and seeing and hearing the Apostles and Prophets which God our Father has raised up in these last days.

[Asked a blessing on the bread.] I have lived most of my life, since my manhood, in this church; I know nothing else, I never learned any other doctrine, I never believed any other principles. I have been a member in this church nearly nineteen years, and I rejoice this day that I ever heard the sound of the gospel; I rejoice that my Heavenly Father has been merciful unto me, that my mind was brought to the light, that I could understand and discern the truth amidst the rubbish of sectarianism.

It is the desire of my heart to go on and live my religion every day. I desire to be faithful in doing all things that may be required at my hands and that I may be found progressing in the religion which I enjoy, and which I try to live day by day.

I know that my salvation depends upon my own faithfulness and not upon what another can do for me. I am aware of all this, and feel in my heart to pray to my Heavenly Father for strength that I may be upheld, that I may not go astray.

We are a blessed people, and if we could appreciate the blessings which we do enjoy at the present time, our hearts would melt with gratitude. We are permitted to come here and take bodies under very favorable circumstances, while thousands and millions and hundreds of millions of our fellow creatures are deprived of as favorable circumstances as we enjoy.

The privilege which we have of taking bodies here in the midst of the Saints, of purifying them and preparing ourselves to go back to our Father is a very great blessing. Do we realize it, do we ever think for a moment that we are blessed and favored above the greater portion of mankind? We should thank God our Father every day of our lives for the privilege that we have of being right here, even if we are deprived of some of the luxuries of life.

Some complain and think it is hard because we cannot enjoy all the luxuries of life that many of the people of the world enjoy. But, my brethren and sisters, we enjoy what they do not, what they cannot bear; we enjoy this day what thousands and millions cannot enjoy, they are not so capacitated, their minds are darkened and bound down with tradition and they cannot enjoy what we do—the real enjoyment of intelligent minds—for intelligence cleaves to intelligence and light unto light.

Intelligence and truth flow in the same channel. The mind that is fed by intelligence, light, knowledge and the principles of truth soars above light and transitory things; the person who loves truth above all other things is not over careful about what kind of clothes he wears, or what kind of food he eats, so that it answers the purpose, but greater things are in his view.

If I know my own heart I can say that my soul looks forward to higher and more noble things than transitory earthly indulgence. I expect to enjoy eternal lives, glory and immortality, consequently I feel ready and willing to bear reproach and bear the burden in the heat of the day for the sake of laying up treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal. My object is to lay a sure foundation here and work while it is called day, to labor for eternal life, and not altogether for the things of this world which pass away.

If we read the history of our Savior, we can find in him a pattern or prototype; we should take

him as our example and try to follow his precepts. His mind was never occupied with the foolish, light and transitory things that were around him; his thoughts seemed to be elevated and his hopes and purposes were high and lofty; he looked upon the world of mankind with an eye of compassion. He beheld the ignorance of the human family, their depravity and their darkness, their wickedness, their shame and their abominations; yet they were his brethren and sisters, and hence he had compassion, and many times was known to weep, but seldom did he laugh; he did not feel like indulging in levity, for his thoughts were upon great and noble things.

He frequently retired into mountains and by places to pray to his Father. He also considered it necessary at times to fast, or abstain from food. He rebuked his disciples on a certain occasion for being sleepy and drowsy, and for not watching as they should.

I sometimes think if it was necessary for our Savior to fast and retire into secret chambers to pray to his Father for strength and wisdom and for power, that he might not be overcome in the hour of trial, how much more needful is it for you and I to do the same. Or are we so strong and so much in favor with God, that we can live without fasting, without retiring to our secret places to pray to our Father in heaven?

I have heard individuals remark that it was not absolutely necessary to fast, nor pay in donations; tithes and offerings, and fasting or abstinence from food, is altogether a notion. Our Savior felt it was necessary for him to fast, it was necessary for him to pray, and I can testify as an individual that I know of a surety that there is power and influence and favor gained with God by secret prayer.

Our Father in heaven is a merciful being; he is kind and benevolent, and has compassion towards all of his creatures; he has called you and I with a holy calling, and he requires us to perform a great work in the last days. We are weak, we are frail, we are subject to all manner of iniquity, yet we are the best people that exists upon the earth. Our Father had to take the best material he had to perform his work, and he will train us, he will work with us until we do accomplish the thing that he desires, and all things are working together for our good, if we are faithful.

If I can watch myself and place a guard over my own actions and overcome my own weakness and evil propensities, gain the victory and power over myself, I will do well; I then have an influence, and I can set an example that others will see my good works and do good.

We have been in this church, many of us, many years, and have heard much and seen many great and marvellous things; we understand the principles upon which our Father works. He wishes us now to commence work, but he wishes to teach us how to work, to control the elements that are around us and to bring things to pass and accomplish great things.

If our Father should himself do all the work, we should never have the opportunity of learning, hence he requires us to put forth our hands and take hold of things physically and mentally, and with our hands bring things to pass.

Children that have a good father sometimes look to their father to do the work and support them, and get everything that is necessary for their comfort for them, and supply all of their wants. What are such children fit for? They grow up men and women, father and mother do the work; father and mother labor for their food, make their clothes and put them on the children; of what use are those young men and women? What are they fit for? They will never accomplish anything in their lives, because they have never gained knowledge by experience.

Now, our Father in heaven wishes to teach us to combine the elements in their different forms and accomplish certain things. It is not his wish to have us in ignorance all the days of our lives, he wishes to make something of us, to teach us to be men and women, to know how to bring about great things by the power of the Priesthood.

Now the principles of eternal truth are those which God wishes us to work upon, hence it is necessary for us to study well those principles, to discard everything that is not truth; all error, all bickerings, all vanity, all lies, and all things which clash and do not harmonise with himself, and learn to walk in the light of truth.

[Asked a blessing on the cup.] I thank the congregation for the kind attention I have had. My prayer and the desire of my heart is that we may work righteousness, that we may deal justly, walk humbly, do good and be merciful one to another while we live upon the earth. May God bless you: Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder David Fullmer, Bowery, Sunday Morning, May 3, 1857.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

Brethren and sisters, we have heard a great many excellent remarks this morning; principles have been touched upon that will do us all good, if we retain them in our memories and practise them in our lives.

There is one thing certain, if the brethren will keep in their minds the instructions given last Sabbath they will not be left comfortless, but the Lord will comfort their hearts notwithstanding the absence of our brethren, the First Presidency—they will not be left alone.

I feel to rejoice that it is as well with us as it is; this is my consolation and comfort; all my comfort and joy is in what is termed 'Mormonism,' I have none any where else.

How is it that men and women can come here for the love of 'Mormonism,' then in a few months turn round and go back into the society of the wicked from whence they came? It seems a mystery, but still I think I comprehend it. Every spring we have had such a scene as this, men going back before they had time to get well