

men and women. Why were they baptized? Because it was essential to salvation. How could they fulfill all righteousness without it? How could they be born of the water without it? How could they receive the remission of their sins without it? Then again, when the apostles that were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

"Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only (they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost."

This shows clearly the order of baptism and the laying on of hands for the Holy Ghost. We also receive the sanctifying efficacy of the blood of Christ, which follows the water. It is frequently remarked that we say nothing at all about the blood of Christ. Why, how could we be sanctified without the blood of Christ? There has to be a preparatory work to make us fit for the Holy Ghost, for it will not dwell in unclean tabernacles. Consequently we have to repent, and we will never repent unless we believe.

It we want to be in the service of the Almighty and to be called by His name, it is necessary that we should accept of these principles. The Apostle John tells us:

"There are three that bear record in heaven the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: these three are one.

And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood and these three agree in one."

We are baptized in water, after which comes the sanctifying influence and power of the precious blood of Christ, which sanctifies fits and prepares us for the reception of the Holy Ghost. These principles are eternal. Wherever you find a man having authority of God to preach His Gospel, he will preach these everlasting principles. Jesus Christ has revealed these principles to the inhabitants of the earth, and He has told us how to baptize. It is essential that a man should be commissioned of Jesus Christ in order that he may preach the Gospel and officiate in the ordinances of the House of God. The glad tidings of great joy that we take to the nations is that God has spoken, that He has organized His Church with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. We testify unto the people that we are living in the hour of God's judgment, and that the angel that John saw flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to men on the earth, crying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come—we testify that that angel has flown and has committed unto us the Book of Mormon, which contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel.

This is the message that our young men have to go forth and declare to the world. They may not know much about

it when they go out, but they soon learn something of it, because they are taught of God. They receive a witness and a testimony from Him, and they are able when questioned to give an answer for the hope that is within them. Perhaps if they were highly learned and were orators, it might be said that they were trained for it, just as they are in other systems. But the Lord has His own way of accomplishing His purposes, and He takes the weak things of the world and things that are naught, and sends them forth to preach His Gospel. They come back, after two or three years in the missionary field, having wonderful testimonies of the power and blessing of God, in fulfillment of the promises made to them by the Apostles who set them apart for their mission. They testify that the Lord has been continually with them, and that the signs follow the believer. In over forty years' experience in this Church I have seen the sick healed time and again in a marvelous manner by the power of God. I can bear my testimony in common with my brethren, that God has spoken from the heavens, that He has restored His Church to the earth, that the signs follow the believer, and that Joseph Smith was no impostor, but a true servant of God, ordained from before the foundations of the earth to usher in the dispensation of the fullness of times. So we can safely offer to the world this glorious Gospel, and all who live its principles are improved in every respect. If they are good, it makes them better. We also understand the truth of what the Lord said to Ezekiel:

"When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive."

It is a source of great joy to the repentant sinner to know that he need not any longer be in doubt, or be dependent upon somebody else, but that he himself can obtain this light and truth that is enjoyed by the Priesthood, because he will become a priest himself after a while. The disciples of Jesus Christ are to become a nation of kings and priests to God and His Christ for ever and ever. Therefore, there is something to be attained to. People ask us why it is that we send out our missionaries. Is there anybody else that teaches these principles, or that has the authority to administer in the ordinances of the house of God? Is there anybody but the Latter-day Saints that has the authority to go into temples and officiate for the dead? Why is it, my friends, that you cannot open your eyes and see the glory and beauty of Zion? Why is it that you cannot see the house of God that is erected here unto Him, and see the patient workers that are officiating in the ordinances of the temple for the accomplishment of God's purposes? How is it that you cannot understand our testimony when we tell you in such simplicity that God has again spoken from the heavens? It is to your interest to embrace the Gospel and to be one with us. It is to your interest to be officiating for your dead kindred and friends, and accomplishing the purposes of Almighty God. If you reject these principles, how will you feel when you go into the spirit world and realize that you might have been associated with the Church of God upon the earth and been a blessing to your progenitors, but you would not accept of it, and

went with the multitude, who cried, "false prophet!" "vain delusion!" How will you feel when you realize that you have shut the gates of heaven against yourselves by rejecting the loving, kindly message of our Eternal Father to His erring children? You are His children, in His likeness and image; you have precious souls to save, and this message to you is the most important message that you ever heard. If you want to be kind to yourselves, you will investigate these principles; you will appeal to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, and ask Him if these things are not so, and He will reveal it to you. But you will have to give up the pomp and vanity of this world; you will have to give up the wickedness that there is on every hand, and be determined that you will serve God and keep His commandments. And if you think we are not as good as we ought to be, come and set us a better example; cast in your lot with us and show us how to more perfectly live the principles of the Gospel than we are trying to do. We are weak and fallible creatures; we have been taken from all classes of society; we are ignorant and uneducated in many ways, and we say and do things that perchance may look rather strange to you; but I want to tell you that our hearts are right before God, and we love Him, we love our wives and our children, we love our friends, and we love the world, as our record will show in the thousands of miles we have traveled to preach the everlasting Gospel to them. I know you can be put in possession of all the light and intelligence you desire if you will accept of these principles, obey them, and humble yourselves before the Lord, and ask Him if these things are true. If you will do this, I promise you that you shall know, and that you shall be redeemed from the darkness that covers the earth and enjoy the light, but it will depend upon your subsequent integrity as to your overcoming and enduring to the end.

My brethren and sisters, let us strive to live the principles of righteousness; let us be like a light set upon a hill, that cannot be hid; let us be the salt of the earth; let us cease our fault-finding and backbiting, or taking any course that would be a stumbling block to the stranger that visits us, and let us be what we seem to be—the saints of the Eternal God. I pray that His Spirit and blessing may be upon us unto this end, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

WHERE IRON IS KING.

WASHINGTON, December 30th, 1896.



WRITE today of the wonderful development which is going on in iron-making in the south. I have visited the mines and furnaces in Alabama and else-where. There

has been a revival of business since the election of McKinley and the indications are that there will be a steady increase in the output from now on. I spent some time at Birmingham, which, you know, had such a boom not long ago, but which is now doing business on a