

prietors of an extensive tract of land in that region, and the Prophet was thereby enabled to secure a place for the Saints to begin to dwell in. He obtained from Brother Wells a portion of the land on which the city of Nauvoo is situated, on reasonable terms. When any little variance arose among the people, he who was then the respected and beloved Squire Wells settled their difficulties and gave satisfaction to all concerned.

I must not now stop, to go into details; but I would like to tell you that he was much beloved by the Prophet Joseph. The fact that Brother Wells was with the Saints in the various circumstances which attended them during their sojourn from 1839 to 1848, in Nauvoo, created in the hearts of all the people an affection for him that has intensified ever since. President Wells—as we know him and loved to call him—had occasion to feel of himself and to be felt of by the Lord.

There is a time in the history of all men who have this Gospel brought to them among the Gentiles when they have to choose that day whom they will serve. As one said of old, "If Baal be God serve him, but if the Lord be God, serve him." In those days when the Saints were being driven out and started for the valleys of these mountains, Esquire Wells found himself brought to this position: He had to sum up the matter and make up his mind whether he would cast his lot with God's people or take his chances continuously with the world, as before. The people had come to love him, and the principles which he had heard had sunk deep into his heart, but the great question of fixing his interest with God's people was not yet determined therein. These things do occur, and we have one grand instance of this in the case of Moses, when it was decreed that all the male children must be killed. He was found by the princess concealed among the bulrushes; he was taught in all the learning of the Egyptians—their mythology, all that pertained to the education of the Egyptians and the Greeks; he was learned in military affairs and became a successful warrior, and the mother of his adoption intended him for the throne. Moses had this before him, but the question arose in his mind, "Shall I cast my lot with the Egyptians and stay with them, or shall I be true to my kin and remain with my own people?" Those troubles which belong to the human mind had their place in Moses, and Paul says, "He chose by the power of faith rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." So with Brother Daniel. He had to leave a wife, a son, a home. These things had weighed in his mind. He summed them up and determined to cast his lot with God's people; and he followed them out to these mountains.

I rejoice greatly in having had the acquaintance of Brother Wells through all the varied experiences from then till now. We have known him as a superintendent of public works right here on this block, building the early part of the Temple, and in other labor. We have known him, too, in the days of pinching want; always careful in his dealings with his brethren, whom

he loved to please, doing them all the good he could; and I have never yet discovered a man or woman who could say that he wantonly lacerated his or her feelings or wounded their hearts. We have seen him as Mayor of this city in the early days, when we had peace here, and also when the disturbing elements began to come in. How true he was in all his management, and how well the city was kept with the small police force which used to exist in it. Peace was so well maintained then that a woman could walk through the streets as safely in the middle of the night as at noonday. We have seen him promoted to the highest military rank known in the existence of a Territory of the United States, and we have seen him with his officers gathering men and means and going to various positions in the Territory to subdue the occasional hostilities which occurred with the Indians. But he was most careful lest there should be any bloodshed, and the aborigines came to learn through his kind though firm treatment that this people were their true friends; for he taught them that it was better to fight them with tobacco and biscuit than powder and lead. His officers all loved him and the longer his association with them, the deeper became their attachment to him. We have known him too as a foreign missionary. Twice has he been to European countries, preaching the Gospel, proclaiming it both verbally and through the press. His acquaintance among the human family was extensive. All Israel seem to know him today, and he knew all Israel; for when he came to be a counselor to the First Presidency, he traveled and labored throughout the length and breadth of the Territory. Some of us have had the satisfaction of enjoying those sacred seasons with him. And how he loved them! How he sought by night and day to interest all God's people! He never appeared to set anything before this purpose of his heart. And then he was called to labor in the Endowment House. My own experience with him enables me to say that we have very few men in Israel who understand and comprehend the law of God and can make so careful and faithful an application of it to the multifarious conditions of the human family as did President Daniel H. Wells. His great experience in this enabled him to do it with love and affection, by which he technically maintained every right and every interest of all concerned.

But I am occupying too much time. I love to dwell upon the virtues and excellencies of such a man, and would like to say to the young men of Israel, "Read the biographical sketch of President Wells and see if you can set your mark and standard, in the years that you may live in the earth, as high as he has done."

As a patriarch he was the father of a numerous family. It is a matter of public notice that he was the father of thirty-seven children, twenty-five of whom are now living, and a couple of dozen grandchildren. Look at this; he at the age of seventy-six leaving this commencement of national and family honor and glory behind him! We have no record that Father Abraham, though he lived to the age of

120 years, left so many souls upon the earth; yet it was promised that his seed should become as the sand of the seashore, like the stars of heaven, innumerable. With such a sowing as Brother Wells has given us, what shall the reaping of the harvest be in the countless ages of eternity? Then he has passed through all the ordinances and attained unto all the offices of the Priesthood. Having now departed, is he not among "the spirits of the just made perfect?" Having been permitted to do work for his dead here, is it not a glorious thought that he can go now and hunt them up and inform them what he has been doing? He was a personal friend of the Prophet, the patriarch Hyrum and all the Apostles who have departed this life one after another, and he attended the funerals of most of them. What joy he must find to-day in meeting and associating with them! Great and glorious have been his labors. Let us contemplate the fact that he is now with a considerable portion of his family there—that he is with the multitude of his generation gone before. Perhaps he has more kindred there than he has left here.

My dear friends and neighbors, widows, and sons, and daughters, all those connected with this good man, I would ask, is not the knowledge of these things a satisfaction to you—one that must assuage your grief now that he has gone? We must all go soon; then why not today as well as any other? Brother Wells having filled a life of such usefulness and greatness, let me ask which of his sons will so emulate the deeds of his father that he will equal his course of life here? Shall we not, with such an example before us, try to do better than we have yet done?

May the Spirit of the Father be upon the sorrowing ones, abide with them, and be ever near to whisper to them words of comfort and consolation; and may God guide them in that honorable course until they reach that happy end to which Brother Wells has attained. We cannot mourn for any sin of omission or commission on his part; but we shall feel his absence keenly. We need more such men; but the Lord will order all these things, and we must acknowledge His hand in whatever may befall us. "May our last end be like unto his;" may our rest be also glorious. May the Lord grant this to all who seek for it, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

The Tabernacle choir sang:

O, my Father, thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place!
When shall I regain Thy presence,
And again behold thy face?
In thy holy habitation,
Did my spirit once reside;
In my first primeval childhood,
Was I nurtured near Thy side.

President George Q. Cannon.

"I will read a portion of section 76 of the book of Doctrine and Covenants:

And again, we bear record, for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ concerning them who come forth in the resurrection of the just;

They are they who received the testimony of Jesus and believed on His name and were baptized after the manner of