

## Poetry.

## LINES

Written by sister E. R. Snow and presented to br. Breneman B. Bitner, in memory of his wife Mary E., who died September 20, 1866.

As a soft-beaming star, from the view is withdrawn,  
So the gentle, the loving, loved Mary has gone;  
To her loving young husband, the choice of her heart,  
With affection she clung, and she linger'd to part.\*

Love echoes her mem'ry in accents as sweet  
As the breathing of zephyrs that placidly meet  
In the calm evening twilight, in spring's beauty,  
where  
The effluvia of roses, embalms the fresh air.

She was young—she was lovely—a pattern of grace—  
The sweet spirit of Jesus illumin'd her face;  
Her words were effusions that flow'd from the heart,  
Untainted with guile, and unmingled with art.

To each sacred injunction she nobly did yield,  
And thus honor'd the principles God has reveal'd  
In His plan of salvation, His infinite plan  
For the full salvation and glory of man.

We most tenderly lov'd her, and struggled to gain  
A reprieve from death's summons, but all was in vain;  
Her life-sands were number'd—and finish'd,  
and though  
We prayed and entreated, the lov'd one must go.

Let her husband cease mourning, and be of good cheer,  
And perform every duty in faithfulness, here;  
He will thus, to a fullness of blessings attain,  
And enjoy his dear Mary's affection again.

E. R. SNOW.

## DISCOURSE

By President D. H. Wells, delivered in the Tabernacle, Great Salt Lake City, April 6, 1867.

[REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.]

It is with pleasure, brethren and sisters, that I rise before so goodly a congregation, realizing, as I do, that at least a great majority of them are those whose bosoms throb responsive to my own in regard to the interests of the great work of the last days, and the principles of life and salvation which we have received. I feel thankful to meet with so many whose aims are the same as mine, who have enlisted under the same banner, and who have covenanted that they will bear off the kingdom, and walk in obedience to the laws of life and salvation which the Lord has revealed in the last days for the guidance of the children of men. Have we not taken upon ourselves these covenants and obligations? Have we not, as Latter-day Saints, received the truth, and entered into covenant with the Lord that come what may we will obey Him, and thus prove to Him that we are His children? If I understand the principles of "Mormonism," which we have espoused, we have incurred these obligations. All who have gone into the waters of baptism have undertaken to walk in obedience to the principles of the gospel of salvation. If it is not this that has brought us together, and that has made us a people and a power in the world, I would like to know what it is. Herein, I apprehend, is the great mistake which our enemies make, who seek our overthrow. They regard our faith as only delusion, falsehood and humbug. Instead of bringing against us serious arguments, or endeavoring so to do, their cry is continually "humbug" and "delusion." Some may have attempted to argue against us, thinking they had truth for their premises, but they have found their efforts of no avail, because we had a greater amount of truth than they. So it will ever be with those whose efforts are to impede the work of the Lord, for truth is mighty and will prevail. Eternal truth will stand like the rock in the midst of the ocean; the waves may beat around it, but they who attempt to sail their barque over it will meet certain destruction.

It has been so in the history of the world, as the records of the past will prove. Christianity had more truth in it than Paganism, hence it prevailed over it. So with Mahomedanism, and the corrupt and erroneous systems among which it sprang into existence; and so it was with the Reformation.

When the Reformers struck out against the Catholics, their principles contained more reason, truth and virtue than were contained in Catholicism; and hence, although the Catholics did their utmost to suppress the Reformation, they failed, because truth was mightier than they. So it is in our day with the gospel which has been revealed from heaven; although the enemies of truth are continually bringing their batteries against it, their efforts are unavailing. If they could array against it a greater volume of truth than it contains, then they might hope to see its speedy end. But they cannot do this, for the gospel circumscribes all truth. And they should hide their heads in shame, acknowledging that there is intelligence, wisdom and truth in the midst of this people.

Having embraced the truth, as a people, what course shall we pursue? Shall we turn or falter, or shall we apply it to our lives? When truth still leads the way, shall we fall away or slacken our hands? When the servants of God stand here and mark out the course in which the Lord requires the people, unitedly, to labor in temporal matters, are not their words as binding, and as much a part of the impregnable truths of Heaven, as any that were ever revealed? I cannot see any difference. The Lord is about to establish His kingdom, the kingdom which He has said should prevail over all other kingdoms and stand forever. Is not that a temporal kingdom, and will the Lord not guide and direct in temporal matters for the establishment of that kingdom? If so, is it not the duty of His children to walk in the path He marks out for them, according to their covenants with Him? Is it not the duty of the Latter-day Saints to cleave to that which is good and to reject evil? to keep God's laws and to be guided by His servants in their temporal as well as in their spiritual matters? It is not only our duty to do so, but more, it is our privilege, for it will make us the instruments in the hands of God and His servants, in laying the foundation of that great and glorious kingdom which shall prevail over and absorb all other kingdoms. By yielding to the requirements of the Lord in these matters we consult our own individual interest; and I could not help thinking this morning, that if appeals to our consciences were not sufficient, appeals to our pockets should be; for it is most certainly to our temporal interest, individually, to comply with the teachings of the servants of God in temporal matters.

Do not these principles come right home, and commend themselves to every man, woman and child who has any understanding of the true principles of economy? They need no proof, nor illustration; they are self-evident to all reflecting minds. When a truth is so palpable, should we not walk up to it, and carry it out conscientiously, and as truly as we would any other principle or instruction received through the same channel? I think we should; and I think we will not be held guiltless unless we are united as the heart of one man in carrying it out. When anything is placed before us, the truth of which is self-evident, and which is for our benefit as a people, and for the benefit of the kingdom of God, let us not hesitate, but go to and bear it off, being glad of the opportunity, because it contributes to the strength and power of that cause which we have espoused, and at the same time promotes our own individual interests if we have any.

With regard to the Word of Wisdom, it speaks for itself; it is couched in the most beautiful and eloquent language that ever was spoken, and it stands upon its own merits. If there is any one who does not know what to do about it let him try it, and prove for himself, and see if the promises it contains are not true and faithful. It commends itself to the understanding of everybody; but if we do not wish to keep it for conscience sake, it is not given as a commandment. If our interests merely should bribe us to carry it out, we and our children after us would be benefitted by so doing.

The subject of manufacturing and being independent is a most important one. If we wish for true independence we must pursue the course marked out by him whom the Lord has appointed to be His mouthpiece to this people. Not only has he urged this subject upon us to-day, but I can bear witness that for years he has taken the same course, and

in his own family, and in his financial matters he has guided everything in that direction, as far as he has had power and ability to do so. If there has been any difficulty it has been with the people not sufficiently aiding and sustaining him. I hold him clear and guiltless, in my own feelings, in regard to these matters; he has done his duty in urging them on the people. If we had taken his counsel should we have been any more wealthy as a people than we are to-day? Most assuredly; I might say ten times the amount of money and other property that we now possess would be ours; and we would have known how to take care of it. A great many of the people can make money pretty easily; but they lack the knowledge of how to take care of it. It flies here and there, for this, that and the other, and the first thing we know, it is gone, and we are none the richer for having had it.

The people have been somewhat discouraged in the past in trying to grow wool and produce flax, because there was not the necessary labor-saving machinery here for their manufacture. We need all the labor-saving machinery we can possibly procure; but if we cannot obtain enough to manufacture the wool and flax we raise, let it be done by hand in our houses, all over this city, as well as out of it. These are my sentiments and feelings, and ever have been, and I have tried to bring it about as far as I have had power. I have had a good deal of cloth manufactured in my own house, from time to time, as circumstances would permit. I have tried to keep sheep, and I know that it can and should be done. Suppose that our home-made cloth does cost a little more, one good dress of that kind is worth three or four imported ones; hence it is cheaper after all to manufacture them ourselves, than to go and spend money to buy them. This is my experience, and I expect it is the experience of all who have tried it. We sell a little grain when times are good and get some money. If we go to the stores and spend that money we send it out of the country, but if we invest it in machinery for the manufacture of flax, wool and cotton, we have something in place of it that is a benefit to the whole community.

These matters bear upon you and upon me, and upon every one of us, and it requires united effort on our part to carry them into operation. Let us go to work and bring in our labor saving machinery, and cultivate and manufacture that which the welfare of the community renders necessary. There is a great difficulty to be overcome by some of our people,—their taking unwise courses to gather means. Some will say "I will go here or go there, go this way or that; I can go out on the road or to the mines; I can see an opening to make a little money and help myself." How often has the experience of our elders proven that in almost every case—probably nine out of every ten—those persons who have stayed at home and attended to their business, have made more than they who have gone away and have aided in building up some other place. I appeal to our brethren right at home if this is not the case. There have been many instances where persons have left here, thinking they could do better; and after trying, in some cases for years, have returned penniless; while those who have remained here during that time have been able, by their industry, to become comfortably situated. Such individuals have lost just so much time; and, worse than that, they have lost the spirit of their holy religion, and in some instances have felt so discouraged that they have had to return again to the sinks of iniquity in which they have long wallowed, and have made shipwreck of their faith entirely. This has been the case with a great many. So with our sisters, who were spoken of this morning, marrying out of the church. They will yet weep in bitterness for taking such a course. I caution them against it; it will lead them out of the church, debar them from exaltation in the kingdom of God, and will doom them to a life of bitterness and woe. God, our heavenly Father, had a purpose in view in sending his children here on the earth, and He has revealed that purpose to His servants. Some of His children are beginning to understand, but a great many are yet ignorant and they would do well to be guided by those who have more knowledge than they have, until they come to understanding.

We need more complete obedience in regard to a great many things in this kingdom. The President has said there were many things to lay before the Conference, and I suppose the principle of obedience is one of them, obedience to the servants of the Lord in all things both temporal and spiritual. If we, as a people, have any power and influence in the world, it is this that gives it to us. I know there is a great deal of unity, faith and integrity in the midst of this people; I am glad to see it, and I rejoice over it. It only wants to be extended to some few other matters to produce a united effort in regard to our temporal affairs. There is a great deal of united effort amongst us in cultivating the ground, in bringing water to irrigate the soil, in making water ditches and canals; and there is a great deal of united effort in the disposal of the products of the earth. This is all good and commendable, but we want to carry it out with greater effect, to bring to pass those purposes which are necessary for our convenience and prosperity as a people. We should not patronize those who are seeking to injure us continually. The President has most graphically described the course that some among us pursue. They get down on their knees and pray to the Lord to preserve us from the contaminations and machinations of our enemies—the wicked and the ungodly—and then they will get up and do all in their power to sustain them, expecting their faith alone will be sufficient to prevail. You know faith is powerless without works; let our works go with our faith, then we can accomplish and bring to pass all that we desire in righteousness.

There is no constitutional law that I am aware of against a man selecting where he will trade, nor against his laying by means, and spending that means where he can buy goods the cheapest. If I choose to pay my brethren more for an article than I can get it for anywhere else, whose business is it? The course for us to pursue is to sustain those who sustain Israel and the holy and righteous principles, that the world is warring against and seeking to overthrow. We were brought out of the world to sustain each other and those principles that have been revealed for the guidance of the children of men; and if we are united in all things we will have power and influence sufficient to protect ourselves and to preserve our own rights on the face of the earth. The past history of this people from the beginning shows that we have been trodden down and oppressed; but such treatment is not in accordance with the genius of our institutions and government, because they are based on freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom in religious matters, guaranteeing to all the privilege to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. We know and understand that these are the privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of our common country. Give us these rights and that is all we ask. We are law abiding and the only community who are so, so far as that instrument is concerned. We have not sought to amend it, nor to torture it so as to make it sustain our own peculiar principles, whether political or religious, like the sectarians do the Bible; but we have been willing to let it stand as it was framed. It guarantees to us all the rights we ask for, and God helping us we will enjoy those rights. We expect to hold them, and the Lord is willing to help us; but to do so it needs a united people, a people who will stand shoulder to shoulder in everything.

There is no better government on the face of the earth than that which the Lord has revealed for the government of His people. The organization is complete. It is the government of Heaven; and those who stand in holy places to carry it into effect, and to guide and direct the labors of this people, have been appointed by the Lord Himself. Will we keep or reject this government? I would say by all means let us esteem it a privilege to live under such a benign rule, and rejoice that it has been established on the earth. These should be the feelings of the children of men. Instead of trying to overthrow and trample truth under foot, they ought to rejoice that it has been made manifest, and that it is rearing its head in the earth with a power that can not be overturned nor broken in pieces; and I hope and trust that those who are called Latter-day Saints will be united as the heart of one man in carrying out its precepts.

There is one thing that happened here