

ly until morning, when we were again called and got up to find her in a very bad condition, struggling for life. We again laid hands upon her and prayed God that the child might be released from her pain, and if consistent with His will, that she might be spared to her parents, who loved her so dearly. The mother seemed as though she could not be reconciled to parting with her. The little one was easier after our administration and appeared to be at perfect rest as compared with her previous condition. I could see that the family were grief-stricken, and that the father and mother did not want to part with the little one, and I went into my room, knelt down and prayed to my Heavenly Father that if it were consistent with His will He would spare the little one; at any rate, that He would not allow it to suffer any more; that if it were His will that the child should be taken away, He would prepare the hearts of its parents, that they might realize His will was being done in the matter. In about half an hour after our administration, Brother David H. Cannon, my wife, myself, and the family were surrounding the little one and her spirit departed from the body; but as death approached, a pleasant smile crept over her countenance, and she went to sleep without even so much as raising a hand or showing any sign of pain. This little occurrence was a testimony to me; and if I had ever had any fear of death before, this would have banished it all. As the time came for the spirit to depart from the body, it appeared as though it could see into eternity; at any rate, its vision must have been a pleasant one. The child was perfectly conscious; had been asking about its kittens and little playthings only a short time before. It was a testimony to me that the vision of that child must have been a pleasant one; and I thought to myself, if after I have done the will of my Father and all that is within my power to do to cause people to repent of their sins and to come unto Christ, the Lord Almighty should take me away in the condition He took that child in, how happy I would be!

My brethren and sisters, we do not fear death if we are trying to keep the commandments of God. Indeed, many times it comes as a welcome messenger to those who have labored long and hard to spread this Gospel, and who have been faithful over that which God has given them. Such people feel happy when death comes; they feel no regret at having their spirit depart from their body. They know that the body will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, clothed with immortality. They know that there will be no sorrow, no sickness, no death there; but that those who have struggled earnestly, in the face of opposition, to do the will of the Father, and have been able to carry it out, they will receive an exaltation far superior to anything that we can imagine in this mortal state of ours. Those who were called to sustain the loss of this little one did not feel to sorrow, only at the separation. They knew that all was well; that He who had given that spirit to that little body had called it away, and that it had filled its mission. I was very much touched on the occasion; not on account of witnessing the little one go to sleep but on account of the nobleness of the mother. She had sat up night after night, going without sleep, until she was almost worn out; still she was not willing to leave the bedside of her little one. She desired with all her heart to save it. She had been through the pain of bringing that soul into the world, and she wanted to rear it in the fear of the Lord, that it might be a useful instrument in accomplishing good in this latter-day work, because her whole heart is with this people.

But to see how resigned she was in the midst of her sorrow showed a nobleness of character which I have rarely seen, and which was more touching by far than to see the little one go to sleep. As individuals and as a people, the Almighty has required that we possess noble characters; that we be self-sacrificing; that we be willing to part with the dearest things on earth, if required by Him. It takes nobleness and integrity of character for our missionaries to go into the world, in the face of all the opposition that they have to meet, and proclaim the Gospel to those who do not believe.

My brethren and sisters, I rejoice in this work. I rejoice in the hope that we have in a resurrection of the dead—that we will come forth from the grave. Indeed, this is the corner-stone of our belief. It is for this cause we labor. If we labored for this world alone, we would be a most miserable and wretched people. Our hope is not in this world, but in what we will receive in the world to come. When we understand the Gospel, death indeed is robbed of its sting and the grave of its victory. We believe, as Jesus of Nazareth was resurrected from the dead and came forth with His body, witnessed not only by a few, but by hundreds at various times, so also all those who will keep the commandments of God will be resurrected and receive an exaltation and a home in the presence of the Great Master. I am happy to be identified with this work. I am willing, if it be the will of God, to labor all the days of my life in spreading His word. I have a testimony that this is the work of God. I have a testimony that the Prophet Joseph Smith was an ordained servant of the Almighty. No matter what other people may think or believe, that cannot change the opinion of one true Latter-day Saint. Our faith is not founded upon the actions of men. It is founded upon the rock of revelation, upon the foundation of Prophets and Apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone. When we look at the condition of the world today, one crying, "Here is Christ," and another crying, "Here is Christ," how thankful we should be that we have a testimony in our hearts that we have the same organization, with Apostles and Prophets, gifts, blessings and ordinances, the same faith, the same Lord, and the same baptism, that existed in the primitive Church of Christ. How thankful, I say, we ought to be for this, no matter what we may be called upon to pass through for the sake of the Gospel. We are here but for a little while. I view this life of ours only as one drop of water as compared with the mighty ocean of eternity—as simply a preparatory school that we have to pass through to get into the presence of our Heavenly Father, where we progress from one condition to another. We must progress. It is dangerous for any Latter-day Saint to think that he or she can be indifferent to the work of the Lord. We must be either active or inactive. If we do not work for the Lord, we set an example that is a hindrance to others. If, on the other hand, we do a good act, something that is praiseworthy and pleasing in the sight of God, there are others who will see our example and will follow after it.

Now, we have been feasting through the holidays. There are no people upon the face of the earth that live better than do the Latter-day Saints. Today we have come together to learn of the ways of the Lord. In this we show our faith, that men shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God. We are anxious that this work should progress and be successful, and we should lend our little mite towards its advancement; for when all the sons and

daughters of men come before the judgment bar of God, Christ will say that is not all those who say unto Him, Lord, Lord, that shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of the Father. If we are successful in keeping the commandments of the Lord, we shall lay up treasures in heaven. What are the things of this world in comparison with the knowledge that we have that God lives? Would we not rather part with everything that is dear to us in this life than to part with the knowledge which we have that God lives? No matter what our poverty or our persecutions may be, if we have this knowledge we will be happy under all conditions. Many times I have prayed within my heart to God that with all He would at least leave me His Spirit, even though He should deprive me of everything else in this life. I would rather have the Spirit of God than to possess the riches of the world, because that will make me happy and the riches of the world will not, unless I know how to use them. It is only a righteous ambition that the Latter-day Saints should wish to possess homes, and lands and all that will make them comfortable; but most of all we should wish to possess the eternal riches that will be of benefit to us and our posterity in the life to come. Our good acts and our good deeds, noble thoughts carried into actions, are the riches that will go before us to plead for us before the Great Judge, when we are summoned to give an account for the deeds done in the flesh. Let people array themselves against this work and against us; let all the powers of earth and hell array themselves against this work, it will not matter; in fact, it will only cause the work to grow, and make us more united, and should cause our enemies to see that this is the work of God. We do not fear opposition from without; we do not fear anything that can come from the enemies of truth, if we are seeking to keep the commandments of the Lord. If God is our friend, we will be happy; we will rejoice that He has condescended to make us His friends. This is a glorious work. We are told that the Lord is the vine and we are the branches. We can do nothing of ourselves. The branches are helpless without the vine. Let us try to keep in touch with the Spirit of God. Let us, above all, so live that we will be continually in the sunlight of that Spirit. And we will go forth fearlessly proclaiming repentance to the nations of the earth. We will proclaim it at home also. If we have done wrong, we will seek to do right. If we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, we will seek to rectify our course of life in this regard. If we have failed in keeping the commandments of God in other ways, we will seek to keep them. I desire that we shall all remain true and faithful to the covenants we have made with God. We have made them knowingly. We went down into the waters of baptism and were immersed for the remission of our sins knowingly. We knew what obligations we took upon ourselves. If we are not liked for our peculiar belief, let us not return evil for evil; but let us ask God to forgive those who persecute us, and pray that their hearts may be opened, that they may be led to see the light of God as we see it. I am desirous to spend all my time and all the powers which God has given me, in His ministry and in proclaiming His word, because I never feel happier than when I am engaged in doing my duty and trying to do good to others, trying to bring happiness to a home that has known no happiness, trying to bring sunlight to some heart that has not known sunlight for years, and that has dwelt in darkness. We should not grope in darkness. If we do not feel