

says, were his mental sorrows that he resorted to stimulants as a temporary relief. Of course the remedy was worse than the disease, and he went from bad to worse, being "silenized" and victimized variously until his career was about closed, when he fell into better hands, his reason has returned, and he has resumed the practice of the law with favorable prospects of renewed success.

THE OSWEGO STORM.

A FEW days ago the dispatches made brief allusion to a severe storm that occurred at Oswego, New York. Exchanges furnish some particulars. It broke out at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The people were just gathering at a mass meeting in aid of the Johnstown sufferers when the sky suddenly became black and two immense clouds seemed to rise up out of the lake and bear down upon the city. The people abandoned the meeting and rushed for their homes. As the clouds approached the city they were frightful in appearance. They passed over the city three minutes apart and the sun shone brightly between them.

The thermometer fell from 86 to 56. The hail came with terrible force, the stones being of all shapes and sizes. The weather observer picked up one at the signal office that measured $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick. Great damage was done to strawberries and the tobacco crops, and in many fields they were utterly ruined. The second cloud sent down sheets of rain. The streets were filled from gutter to gutter, and many cellars were flooded. The rainfall in twenty minutes was 1 4-10 inches, the heaviest in that time ever recorded there. The air was filled with electricity, and the thunder was incessant and deafening.

The use of the English tongue at the sittings of the Samoan conference was natural and proper; in view of the fact that that language is native to two of the three great nations taking part in the conference. The fact is suggestive of the widespread use of the English speech. It is employed by two of the greatest nations of the earth, England and the United States, and in Australia and Canada, both of which are destined soon to be great nations. It is in use in all the other English colonies and seems to be steadily pushing its way toward becoming the universal language.

REMARKS

By President George Q. Cannon, at a Priesthood Meeting, held at Manti (Sanpete Stake Conference), May 19th, 1889.

REPORTED BY A. WINTER.

We came to this Conference with the hope in our hearts that we should be able to impart instruction unto the Saints who should assemble together. We have desired to be led by the Spirit of God to speak upon such points of doctrine, and to give such counsel, as shall be adapted to the circumstances and conditions of the people. For myself—and I know that I speak the feelings of my brethren—I would not wish to say one word in any of our meetings unless I felt that the Lord would dictate it and accompany it by His Spirit. We have come here with this desire in our hearts, and to say such things to the Saints as shall have a tendency to stir you up, as well as ourselves, to diligence in the things of the Kingdom of God. We are desirous, if there be any evils existing among you, that we should be led by the Spirit of God to speak upon them and endeavor to correct them.

We have already heard considerable upon matters that are of great importance to Latter-day Saints. If these principles be carried out in the spirit in which they have been taught, we shall be a better people, a more godlike people. It should be the aim of every Latter-day Saint to be godly, to understand godliness, and to carry out godliness in his or her life, so that we all shall be like our Father in heaven as near as we possibly can be. Jesus has given us to understand that it is possible for His disciples to be perfect; for He says: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." He did not mean by that that we should attain to the fulness of the godhead in this life, but that we should carry out in our lives and exemplify in our conduct those laws and principles which God has revealed, and which are the principles of perfection and godliness. If we do this every day, we shall eventually be permitted to enter into the presence of our Father and God, and dwell with Him. But unless we take this course we cannot approach perfection. Therefore, the life of a Latter-day Saint is a life of progress—a life of continued improvement. The Latter-day Saint who is living as he should do is better today than he was yesterday; he will be better tomorrow than he is today. If there be any imperfections in his life, he is eager to discover and correct them, that he may become more perfect and more like our Father.

There are a few points that have rested upon my mind since we came into this meeting. I have dwelt upon them in other meetings of this kind. I think them of great importance. In our visits to some of the Stakes and Wards, we have discovered a condition of affairs which has been very painful to us. We

have found a laxity in relation to virtue, and a carelessness in reference to the use of intoxicating liquors. These are great and growing evils in our society. I do not mean in the society of the Saints, particularly; but in our cities and in our surroundings. The adversary is exceedingly eager to lay snares for the feet of the children of men. He aims to destroy us. Angry that his plan was not adopted in the heavens; angry at his failure in the rebellion against God and at his expulsion from the courts of glory; angry at his being deprived of a body, he and those who fell with him have been eager ever since that dreadful time to destroy their brethren and sisters who did not rebel with them. We who are here tonight, as well as all who are upon the earth, kept our first estate. We did not listen to Lucifer. He was a mighty angel; he had exceeding great power in the presence of God. He used his great influence with the family of God to convince them that the plan which he proposed was the better one, and to persuade them to reject the plan of God and his Son Jesus, our elder brother. Failing in this, he has, apparently, declared war against the Father and the Son, and against all his brethren and sisters who were honorable and maintained their allegiance to God. Therefore he is continually spreading snares for the feet of the children of men. And those under his influence are doing the same. Those evil spirits to which President Woodruff alluded this morning, invisible to our eyes, yet palpable to our senses, are constantly seeking to instil into our minds evil thoughts and wrong desires, to prompt us to commit sin and thereby grieve the Spirit of God, and to lead us, as Cain was led, to perpetrate crime which resulted in his becoming Perdition. But there are also angels around us. Though invisible to us, they are continually inviting us and pleading with us to do that which is right. The spirit of God, too, rests upon us and it prompts us to keep the commandments of God. By means of these influences, therefore, we are receiving experience and we are growing in knowledge.

Now, my brethren and sisters, what is the great and damning sin today of this generation? What is it that is causing the inhabitants of the earth to rush on the broad road to destruction? Allusion was made this afternoon to the infidelity of the world, the indisposition of mankind to receive the Gospel. What is the chief cause of this? It is the impurity of mankind. It is the corruption and licentiousness that have grown up in the world, until virtue has become almost a matter of ridicule. To be a virtuous man and a man of the world is to expose one's self to ridicule. Young men are laughed at in the world if they are virtuous; it is considered unmanly. A man of the world, at the present time, would scarcely presume to speak as though he were a virtuous man and not guilty of trespasses of this kind. Of course, I would not say that every man in the world is