

remains of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the poet, philosopher and moralist, and one of America's most gifted sons, discovered that his grave had been opened. The shocking act of desecration was quickly made known throughout the neighborhood, and telegraphed over the country, and an investigation was immediately instituted to ascertain its motive and extent. It was found that the earth had been penetrated as far down as the casket, but that the latter had not been opened. The supposition is that the grave robbers were frightened off before accomplishing their object.

It is surmised that their purpose was to secure the skull of the intellectual giant, whose fame and influence had radiated from a New England village to the utmost borders of civilization. There is something horrible associated with that sort of relic-lore which would impel its devotees to mar the peaceful rest of the ashes of such a man as Emerson, that his skull might be secured and possessed as a curio. Among people of elevated and refined natures, particularly if the spiritual tendencies are properly developed, there prevails such an idea of perpetual association between the immortal part of man and the tenement of clay it formerly inhabited, that the act of disturbing the latter, even though it may have long been reduced to dust, seems like an affront to the departed; and when the motive for so doing is morbid or mercenary, the desecration of a grave produces sentiments of revulsion and abhorrence.

The Emerson family have expressed a desire to have no pursuit of the vandals instituted, probably because the subject is painful to them, and they prefer closing it at once. A tomb of heavy masonry will be immediately constructed, in which to enclose the ashes of the noted sage.

DISCOURSE

Delivered by President Wilford Woodruff, at the General Conference, Sunday after noon, Oct. 6, 1889.

The following passage from the sixty-eighth section of the Doctrine and Covenants was read by President George Q. Cannon:

My servant, Orson Hyde, was called by his ordinance to proclaim the everlasting gospel, by the Spirit of the living God, from people to people, and from land to land, in the congregation of the wicked, in their synagogues, reasoning with, and expounding all Scriptures unto them.

And behold, and lo, this is an ensample unto all those who were ordained

unto this Priesthood, whose mission is appointed unto them to go forth;

And this is an ensample unto them, that they shall speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost,

And whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation;

Behold this is the promise of the Lord unto you, O ye my servants.

President Woodruff then said: I have traveled over one hundred and fifty thousand miles preaching the Gospel to large and small congregations, to saints and to sinners; and I have never yet seen the day, on arising to my feet, that I have known what I was going to say to the people. And this is the case with the Elders generally in their ministrations. You who have attended the meetings of this Conference perceived that we called upon brethren from the right and left to speak to us; and if you have any discernment you certainly can testify that they spoke by the Spirit and power of God.

I have attended Conferences during my whole life, in company with the Prophet Joseph, Oliver Cowdery, the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, with the first Twelve Apostles, all of whom are in the spirit world, mingling with the Gods; and I have never attended a Conference when I have felt better and been more edified in listening to the remarks of the same number of men, than at this Conference. The Elders have spoken by inspiration, and they have declared unto us eternal truths. As I said last night at our Priesthood meeting so I would remark here, no man that God ever made, beginning with Father Adam down through the history of the world, that has ever been called to build up the Kingdom of God, and preach the Gospel, has been able to perform that work only by the Power of the Holy Ghost; neither can any man do it today. We are all dependent upon the Holy Ghost. And what is the Holy Ghost? The testimony of the Father and the Son. It is one of the God-head—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Will the Holy Ghost deceive any man? It will not. When a man speaks as he is moved upon by the Holy Ghost, it is the spirit of inspiration; it is the word of God; it is the will of God. It cannot lie; it cannot deceive. It leads into all truth and reveals to man the will of his Maker.

Jesus instructed His disciples to take no thought what they should eat, or what they should drink. They were traveling without purse or scrip, as many of us have done in our time. The Lord knew they would have need of something to eat; and He knew that somebody would be raised up to supply their wants. He also instructed them to take no thought what they should say when having to appear before magistrates and rulers; for the same should be given them the hour it was needed.

This is the condition of the Lat-

ter-day Saints. The Apostle has said, "He hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; * * * and things which are not, to bring to nought things which are." This has been the case in the dealings of God with man of all ages; and it certainly is the case in this our day.

When I look upon the ten thousand faces of Latter-day Saints before me the present time; and when I contemplate what God hath wrought in establishing this people in the midst of these mountain valleys; and when I bring myself face to face with the wonderful age we live in, and sense the mighty responsibilities that rest upon us, as watchmen upon the walls of Zion, and as watchmen to this generation—when I contemplate these things, if any man under heaven feels his weakness, it is Wilford Woodruff. And in saying this of myself, I know I am expressing the feelings of my brethren associated with me in reference to themselves, as Counselors, as well as the sentiments of the Twelve respecting themselves, and those of every Elder of Israel who appreciates his calling in Christ Jesus.

We have been called from the plow, the plane and the anvil, and the various avocations of life; and without preparation the Elders of this Church are sent forth, by command of Almighty God, to preach to and warn the nations of the earth. Joseph Smith has been referred to by some of the speakers, and their testimony of him is true. A greater prophet than he, excepting Jesus Christ, I do not believe ever lived. In saying this I give it as my own personal views. I don't believe God ever raised up a greater prophet, save Jesus himself. The dispensation he was called to usher in is the greatest ever given to man; and it required just such a man to stand at the head of it—a man who was true to God and his brethren; who was a seer and revelator, and whose faith in God was such that he never wavered or doubted, but persevered himself and encouraged others to move forward in the great work before them. The world called him illiterate and ignorant. However they might regard him, our testimony of him is that he was taught of God Himself and of the angels who visited him; and that he fulfilled certain revelations and predictions referring to this age, as contained in the Bible and other records of Divine truth. And, as has been stated during this Conference, he brought forth the Book of Mormon—the stick of Joseph in the hands of Ephraim—in fulfillment of the testimony of Isaiah, translating that record through the Urim and Thummim, thereby revealing to us the history of the early inhabitants of this Continent. That book informs us that two distinct nations inhabited this land, the founders of both of which were brought here by the power of God from the eastern continent, the first, known afterwards as the Jaredites, tracing their origin to the tower of Babel. They