

power over the earth. Do you wonder then that there is hatred and bitterness manifested; that the servants of God have had to watch continually to guard against the attacks of the enemy; that the blood of Joseph and Hyrum, David Patten, and others has been shed, and that the Saints, whose only crime was desiring to serve God in truth, virtue, uprightness and sincerity, have been persecuted and afflicted all the day long? I do not wonder at it; there is no room for wonder in the minds of those who understand the work in which we are engaged.

This power which is waging a warfare against us, would shed the blood of every man and woman who profess to be Latter-day Saints and who try with all their might to live their religion, and honor the holy Priesthood. There is no excess of cruelty at which they who are influenced by it would stop, no length to which they would not go to accomplish their damnable and hellish purposes. Why? Because the devil was a murderer from the beginning—he has murdered from the beginning; he prompted the first murder, and he prompted the last one. It was he who prompted men at all times to shed the blood of innocence, and seek by so doing to stop the work of God. He induced Judas to betray and shed the blood of Jesus Christ—to shed the most precious blood that ever flowed in human veins. He it was who stirred men up to commit these murders, impressing them with the false idea that some great advantage would result from such crimes, and that they would be able to check the progress of the kingdom of God, and arrest the purposes of Jehovah. And it is the same power which is at work to-day and that suggested to men to shed the blood of Joseph, and instilled into their minds the thought that, if they could kill him, they could thereby interrupt the work of God. But, as we see, instead of accomplishing what they expected, they have only forwarded the purposes of God our heavenly Father.

In suggesting to men to shed the blood of Jesus Christ, and the blood of innocence in every dispensation and age when God has had a people on the earth, the devil has shown great ignorance and blindness; and God has through His superior wisdom and power overruled all these acts for His own glory, and for the accomplishment of His own purposes, and the salvation of man upon the earth. We shall have his hatred to meet, and no man need suppose for a moment that Latter-day Saints can avoid it, for in so doing he deceives himself. As long as there is any power on the earth that can be wielded by Satan we shall have to encounter these things and contend with them; and any man not connected with us who imagines that this continued and unceasing warfare is going to discourage us, or cause our determination to roll forth the kingdom of God to slacken in the least, deceives himself. He knows not the men who are engaged in this work, and the power which God has bestowed, and the light and intelligence He has imparted to us respecting this conflict in which we are engaged. God has reserved spirits for this dispensation who have the courage and determination to face the world, and all the powers of the evil one, visible and invisible, to proclaim the gospel and maintain the truth and establish and build up the Zion of our God fearless of all consequences. He has sent these spirits in this generation to lay the foundation of Zion never more to be overthrown, and to raise up a seed that will be righteous, and that will honor God, and honor Him supremely, and be obedient to Him under all circumstances.

The experience that we have gained in this respect in the past is only a foretaste of that which is in the future. Those who started in this work with an understanding of its nature, made their calculations that, if it were necessary to lay down their lives, and sacrifice everything that is near and dear to them, they, with the Lord's help, would do so to break the yoke of Satan and free mankind from the thralldom of sin that has so long oppressed them. There is no doubt that many have had their lives shortened through the cruelty of their enemies; many have been spoiled of their goods, and have been called upon to make sacrifices, if we may term them such, but in our view they are not sacrifices, yet we cannot express the idea better than by using this word. The difficulties which we have encountered in the past in this respect we shall doubtless meet in the future; with this difference, that the kingdom of God is gaining power and strength, the people are gaining faith and experience which enable them to endure far more than in former days.

This morning br. Geo. A. Smith alluded to circumstances in the early history of this people, which caused those who called themselves Saints to apostatize. While he was speaking I contrasted the difference in my mind between the Saints to-day and then. There is a very great difference. Many apostatized then from trivial and foolish causes; they were so ignorant of the nature of the work of God. Now it is somewhat better understood, and apostasy is not near so common as then; people begin to understand the mind of the Lord. The adversary has less power and influence over the Latter-day Saints than he had in that early day. The kingdom of God is becoming more consolidated, and it yields greater influence every day; and it will be so from this time forward until the priesthood shall prevail.

The hatred of the adversary will not be lessened by the lapse of time; in fact, I sometimes think that he will make more desperate exertions; he will arouse all the inhabitants of the earth by his influence, and by slanders and lies, and storms of vituperation; and by his mists of darkness, endeavor to becloud the understandings of mankind, so that they will be deceived respecting this work. We have these agencies at work here.

I heard a gentleman remark lately, who himself had just arrived in the city, that he supposed from the reports that were circulated about affairs at this city that all the people here were in a blaze of excitement, that men dare not go out of their houses, and that a certain class were in danger of their lives. Now, we who live here know how false these reports are; yet it shows the nature of the agencies which are at work, and the means wicked men use to becloud the understanding and to stir up the anger of the powers that be—the government and its agents—to take steps to crush, if possible, this people. Doubtless, we shall have this to contend with from this time forward to an increased extent as the kingdom advances and occupies a larger share of public attention and a more conspicuous position among the nations. But with the increase of this disposition among the wicked, there will be an increase of strength, and power, and faith, and experience on the part of the Latter-day Saints.

I often think about our circumstances to-day, and those which we have been surrounded with for some time. Who, do you think, on all the face of the earth could enjoy themselves so calmly as we do with the influences operating against them that we have working against us? We know that men have gone from here with the avowed purpose and determination to do all in their power to stir up the power of the nation against us, and endeavor to get a military force sent here to enforce their obnoxious views. They have boasted of this, and have in anticipation rejoiced over the fulfillment of their accursed hate. Have these things disturbed us as a people? No. I do not know a person in this entire community who has lost five minutes sleep through concern and agitation on these points. We have gone to bed as calmly as though all mankind were at peace with us, and we had not an enemy in the world who sought our injury. What is the cause of this calmness? It originated in the experience we have gained. God has promised that we shall be delivered. We believe His promise. He has delivered us in the past, and He will in the future. It is His work, and it is for us to do our duty and leave events with Him.

Our enemies are only fulfilling their mission, as we are fulfilling ours. They are accomplishing the works they have undertaken; and we are performing those for which we have enlisted, namely—the works of God. They are foolish for taking that path which leads to their destruction, when they might take the opposite course. I have all these thoughts respecting them; but then God gives them their agency, and it is not my place to quarrel with them about the way in which they exercise that agency. If they choose to be the tools of wicked and designing men, and of him who is the father of lies, they will get their reward according to their works. If we are faithful, if we are humble, live our religion, and cultivate the spirit of God and cherish it continually, we will get our reward and in proportion to our diligence. That is a consolation that we have; therefore we have no cause to be disturbed at the wicked; let them fill their destiny, and perform their part in the great drama of the last days. It is necessary probably in the wisdom of God that every man and woman on the face of the earth should have the free and unrestrained exercise of their agency to do good or evil.

In speaking about apostasy, it is a remarkable feature connected with it and with those who favor apostates and consort with them, that they are filled with the spirit of fear. It can be truthfully said of the Latter-day Saints that they are a fearless people. Even our enemies give us credit for this—that in the midst of dangers and difficulties we are undisturbed and not easily appalled. But there is this peculiarity connected with apostasy and apostates, and with those who consort with and favor them: they are continually in dread of some impending danger—some evil that is about to be perpetrated upon them by the Latter-day Saints. Go where you will among apostates you will see this feature in their character; but especially in Zion. Hence, so many stories about destroying angels, Danites, &c., &c., being among the Saints. The moment a man loses the Spirit of God, and the spirit of the adversary takes possession of him, he is filled with fear; for "the sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites." They say their lives are in danger. All the terrible stories that are circulated in the east and the west about the people of Utah have their origin in the fears of the wicked, in the fears of those who have a consciousness within themselves of having committed wrong. No honest man or woman need fear; indeed they never fear. What are they afraid of? They have done nothing to cause the spirit of fear to come upon them. It is only when a man does that which is wrong that he receives the spirit of fear.

This peculiarity has been manifest from the beginning of this Church up to the present time. As was stated here a few Sundays ago, it was exhibited by William Law in Nauvoo. He thought that somebody had designs against his life. His fear had its origin in the spirit of apostasy and adultery with which he was filled. Whenever a man indulges in the spirit of apostasy he begins to be filled with fear. Those who have the Spirit of God and love their religion have nothing to fear; they can meet their brethren and sisters, the angels of God, and even the Lord himself without having that dastard fear with them. In the knowledge of their weakness and their ignorance and doing many things unintentionally they feel sorry, but still they are sustained with a consciousness of doing no intentional wrong.

The spirit of evil takes possession of the wicked; the same spirit that is possessed by the damned; that spirit seizes upon them while they are in the flesh.

The Latter-day-Saints who live their religion, partake of the joys of heaven; the Spirit of it shines in their countenance; it is in their habitations; it is around about them, and all who come in contact with them feel its influence resting upon them. This will increase more and more.

May God help us to cultivate it, and may we approximate nearer to our Father and God, and be able to fight the good fight of faith, not laying off our armor, and bravely resist the adversary, and carry forward this great work until it shall prevail throughout the length and breadth of the earth, and the sound shall go forth that the earth is redeemed, and the purposes of God are consummated: which may God grant. Amen.

NEWS ITEMS.

THE local editor of the Richmond (Indiana) Telegram recently passed a comfortable corner residence in this city, and from the open windows of the parlors the notes from a piano-forte poured forth, accompanied by the inevitable "Oh, who will care for mother now?" Passing around the corner, his way led by the window of the kitchen, and over the steaming cooking stove, and surrounded with all the appurtenances of cooking, he had the opportunity of witnessing "dear mother" caring for herself and all the family besides. His admiration for the daughter's musical talents underwent a collapse.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Sacramento Union, writing from Idaho Territory mentions the subject of the rival routes from San Francisco to Montana, and as he appears to have traveled over all of them, his opinion is worthy of some notice. He condemns the Columbia and Colorado river routes in toto, and says that by the Humboldt, Chico, or Austin, are the only ones that nature ever intended, and it is for the interests of California to open them.—[Reese River Reveille.

A CHURCH and school-house in Henry county, Ind., have lately been burned because a negro preacher lately held forth in them by invitation.

AN ill-treated wife sued for a divorce in Springfield, Mass., the other day, and the Judge (Justice Biglow) after hearing her evidence as to her husband's cruelty, decided the case in her favor without further ado, and said that in a case of violence by a husband to the wife, he would not hear all the points before deciding in favor of the latter. The woman might forgive cruelty towards herself, but the Court would not.

AN interesting and important decision, touching the responsibility of common carriers, has just been decided at Milwaukee, in which the American Express Company are made to pay two hundred dollars for damage done to a Cremona fiddle while in transportation, notwithstanding the attempted waiver of responsibility exceeding fifty dollars, expressed on the company's blank receipts.

It is stated that a rich gold placer has been discovered in the Franconia Mountains, New Hampshire, within the limits of the town of Lisbon, and a company of Hartford and Springfield men, with a capital of \$200,000 has been formed to work it, every dollar of stock having been disposed of. They have leased six hundred acres for one hundred years.

AN Irish paper says that one unexpected and curious effect of the cattle disease in England has been to raise the value of goats to an extraordinary degree. These hitherto despised animals are now exported in considerable numbers from Ireland, and have been sold in several English counties at from four to five pounds each, the ordinary price being not over ten shillings.

THE Pittsburg Gazette says that a coal company has piled, near Honesdale, in that State, 3,310,000 tons of coal—said to be the largest body of coal ever collected in one heap on the face of the earth. It would require a train over 260 miles in length to remove the stock, or 700,000 carts would be needed, reaching in one continuous line more than 2,000 miles.

THE effect of high rents is beginning to tell on the prosperity of Chicago. Quite a number of business men have left and are leaving the city, for the reason that they find it impossible to sustain themselves under the pressure of the enormous rents exacted both for business places and dwellings.

A TERRIBLE disease has broken out among the mules, in the neighborhood of Helena, Ark., and Vicksburg, Miss., which threatens the most serious consequence. Already above one thousand mules have died. In one neighborhood, near Helena, two hundred died in one night.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., has now 230,000 inhabitants, for whose accommodation there are 91 churches, 32 hotels, 24 newspapers, 9 of which are dailies, 30 public and 54 private schools, 4 universities, 4 medical and 3 commercial colleges, 44 breweries, 11 distilleries and 1151 saloons.

THE marble bed of the Kansas says a Western paper, is immense. It is reached at a depth of from twenty to one hundred feet below the surface, throughout a large extent of country.

WE learn that during these cold nights ice forms a quarter of an inch thick in the neighborhood of Reese River, wherever water is quiet or standing in shallow basins.—[Reveille, May 22.

NORTH-EASTERN Iowa has been visited by a most disastrous storm and freshet. The destruction of property has been great, and one entire family were drowned.

THE dismantling of all forts around Washington was completed April 30, the different garrisons having by former orders been directed to vacate all earthworks in and around the District.

THE Massachusetts State Constable has notified the keepers of restaurants, oyster saloons, etc., in Boston, that they must stop selling of ale at their counters.

THERE is high water everywhere in the Mississippi country, and the plantations in all directions are being flooded. The planters are in despair.

A FISH epidemic is reported at Richmond, Va. Large numbers and all sizes float on the water, and when taken out appear bloated, and die in a few minutes.

THE Missouri River, says the Council Bluffs Bugle of May 3, is unusually high and has caused much damage on the low lands.

THERE was never so much crime in Vermont as now, and the officers say that four-fifths of it is to be attributed to liquor. One county has fifteen criminals, who will be sent to State Prison.