

them how to work, and to be industrious, though you may be rolling in wealth, and they will grow up to respect you, and your name will go down from generation to generation, through your posterity, in honorable remembrance. The secret by which Joseph the Prophet governed the Saints, as he once said, was that he taught them correct principles and they governed themselves. It is only the sick that need a physician; it is only the criminal that needs the penalties of the law. Honest and honorable men need no officers of the law, no policemen, no justices of the peace, no courts, no lawyers. They live above crime, beyond the reach of the law. The law is not made for them, except to protect them from the criminally disposed. If every man was taught to do right, and did right, there would be no use for courts and for laws such as we have today. It is only because people will not do right that these things are needful, and that we have expensive forms of government and expensive officers to administer and execute the law. Latter-day Saints ought not to be so. They ought to know how to do right, and then do it; and they ought not to have to be prompted or urged to do it, either by the chastisement of God or by the counsels of His servants. Well, says one, if we all do right, then what? Will we all prosper? Yes, we will all prosper. In temporal things? Yes, in temporal things, and in spiritual things. But we may not be without our trials even then. For it is said in the scriptures "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." There are several examples of this in the scriptures. One of them was the eleventh son of Jacob—Joseph. He was a rather remarkable little boy, and his father loved him, and was a little partial towards him, perhaps because he was the firstborn of his beloved Rachel, and Rachel was dead. Jacob erred perhaps a little in the partiality that he showed to Joseph on this account. He may have made a mistake there like some other parents do when they make a favorite of one of their sons. This is a mistake, no matter who the mother of the boy is. Whenever a father begins to discriminate in favor of one son as against another, it begets jealousy in the hearts of the brothers, and possibly hatred toward their fathers. It is a dangerous thing to do. Because Jacob erred somewhat in this matter, the Lord gave to Israel a law on the subject. (Deuter. 21: 15-17.) The Lord endeavored to correct the evil that grew out of what Jacob did in his favoritism, by giving a law on this subject to govern the people thereafter. But Joseph was not only favored of Jacob; he seemed to be favored of the Lord also. He might have been a little better than the rest. We cannot help being a bit favorable towards those that are better than others. Of course, merit should be rewarded everywhere, but we should be just. The Lord favored him, for He had a work for him to do. Like some others that have been reserved to come forth in other dispensations to do a special work, Joseph, no doubt, was reserved to come in his generation to accomplish the mission that he had to perform. But though he was chosen for this work and especially favored of the Lord, he might have felt for a long time as though the Lord had turned His back upon him and did not love him. For

the Lord suffered his brethren to persecute him. They became jealous of him and sought to destroy him; but one of his brothers repented of the cruel thought of killing him and persuaded the others to sell him to strangers, that they might not be guilty of his blood. So they sold him, and he was carried to Egypt, and there the Lord fulfilled His purposes concerning him. At first Joseph had great hardships to go through. He was wrongfully and wickedly accused by Potiphar's wife, because of which he was thrust into prison. If he had been like some of us, he would have said, "If the Lord is going to treat me this way, there is not much reward for virtue." That is the way some of us feel when we are pinched a little with poverty, or sickness, or other misfortune. We begin to murmur against the Lord, and feel that He has forsaken us and is not as good to us as we merit. And we withdraw our affection from the Lord. Joseph might have done this, because he had many occasions of trial. He might have felt in his heart that the Lord was not just, not merciful, and not mindful of His servants; for he seemed to have had some reason for feeling that way. But the Lord saw the end from the beginning. Joseph did not; but he had faith in God, and put his trust in Him; and by and by the Lord brought out what He intended, and made Joseph the savior of his father's house as well as of all Egypt.

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps on the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will."

This is the way in which the Lord often deals with the children of men, and it is not for us to judge Him. We should not complain or murmur when we have afflictions and trials to pass through, or when He chastises us. We should think all the more that we are the loved of God, and that He is feeling after us for our good; to humble us perchance, and to keep us in the right way.

Job was another example. Job was a righteous man, perfect in all his ways. There were none like him in all the earth. Satan observed this, and he appeared before the Lord, and the Lord said, "Whence comest thou?" Satan replied, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." And the Lord said unto Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil." Ah! says Satan, but "hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." The Lord said, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." So a short time after this a messenger came unto Job, and said:

"The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword;

and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

And behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

With all this, Job was not shaken in his integrity. He "sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." And Satan appeared again before the Lord and said unto him again:

"Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

And Satan answered the Lord and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

But put forth thine hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his feet unto his crown.

And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes."

Then his friends came to comfort him, and they began to upbraid him because of something he had done, which had brought upon him the destruction that had befallen him. But Job knew that his heart was right, that he had not sinned, and that he had not denied God in his heart. Therefore, he bore the upbraiding of his friends with all patience; and when his wife came to him and upbraided him for his patience and for his humiliation, and called upon him to curse God and die, he said unto her,

"Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"

This shows the integrity of Job. Here is an example for you and for me. He did not curse the Sabeans for carrying off his cattle, nor the fires of heaven for consuming his flocks, nor the winds of heaven for destroying his habitation and children. He did not swear and blaspheme and deny the Lord because of this. But he said, "The Lord gave, and