

OPENING ADDRESS

Of Brother Orson Hyde, delivered before his class at the Social Hall in this City on Tuesday Evening, December, 14th, 1858.

BRETHREN AND SISTERS:—

Allow me to congratulate you upon this occasion of assembling yourselves together for the laudable and praise-worthy object of engaging in a course of studies in the science of the English Language. I can not withhold an expression of my feelings of gratitude to our Father in Heaven that we are blest with peace, tranquility and health; and also, with the staple necessities and comforts of life. I humbly hope that we are all exercised with that gratitude to our Supreme Ruler which his manifold favors extended to us, so richly and fully demand.

In consequence of the troubles which you and your parents have undergone in years that are past, some, and perhaps I may say, many of you, have not met with an earlier convenient opportunity to acquire the kind of knowledge you now seek. Late, however, as the hour is, there yet remains sufficient time, if well improved, to remove the embarrassments under which you may have labored, and to embellish your minds with jewels that will render you distinguished, whether destined to move in the humble or more elevated walks of life.

A thorough knowledge of our own mother tongue is an important key to that wide field of usefulness which, in this day, more especially invites the energies and enterprise of the rising generation than at any former period in the history of the world. By some, the inspiration of God is considered to supersede the necessity of this and every other science. On this erroneous principle, some of you may act, and require me to impart to you a knowledge of our language without any mental labor on your part. This I would not do if I could; for I do not want this class dishonored with one drone in the hive. I intend to do my duty, and shall expect you to do yours. Although I thus speak, I do not believe that any one of you entertains any such opinion. Persons of this faith will not come here for the object that has called you out. It is true, that God generally calls upon the illiterate or unlearned to bear his name and testimony to the world. In this, the policy of our Heavenly Father differs materially from that of the world. Under his policy none can say that the important truths which the servant of God is required to declare, are the result of his great or superior learning. But the question with me is: must the servant of God always remain an unpolished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty? I answer, No! The Spirit of God directs improvement in every thing that is good and useful. If any doubt this, consider what our leading men were when called; and then consider what they now are! The inspiration of God sometimes furnishes the words, but more generally the thoughts only; then a flow of correct language is highly useful to convey those thoughts clearly and distinctly to others. City creek is a gracious bounty and gift of Heaven to this community; yet, it requires no small amount of manual labor to conduct it, in suitable portions, to every citizen's door. The candle of the Lord was never lighted up in any man's heart to be put under a bushel. It will bring him into public notoriety; and he must, of necessity, communicate with others. If he understand not his own language correctly, he is often put to the trouble of applying to another to correct his sayings; and sometimes under circumstances that are mortifying and humiliating, or suffer an exposure that might be still more unpleasant and annoying to his feelings. A few months of diligent application to the study of Grammar will carry you beyond the reach of all these little perplexities and embarrassments, and place you upon the summit of this science, from whence you may view, at a glance, the wisdom of those who are with you, and the folly of them beneath you, without a second person to explain the one, or point out the other.

There are persons who profess a knowledge of Grammar; and yet, they pretend to say that there are no correct rules of language. Were I to attempt to pass off upon any one of you a base or counterfeit dollar, and being detected in my dishonesty, should attempt to justify myself by saying, "all dollars contain more or less alloy; and my bogus dollar is just as good as any other,"—would my apology be satisfactory to you? No! You would naturally conclude my self-justification to be an index to a heart not wholly fortified by correct principles.

I am free to admit, that since the original Language was confounded at the Tower of Babel, no perfect system of communications has existed on Earth to my knowledge; and consequently, a perfect set of rules could not apply to an imperfect language; but is this a sufficient reason why we should condemn all the rules of syntax which are the result of the combined wisdom and labor of ages, adapted, in the best possible way, to the construction and use of speech? Such sweeping declarations may generally be regarded more as an effort on the part of the delinquent to hide some radical violations of just laws than the display of any real wisdom or merit. We might just as well say that men are of no account or worth because they are imperfect, and hence, go to heaven and deal with them there as they were before they came to Earth and made flesh their tabernacle. Even then, such rabid opposers to any thing that has the scent of imperfection might find themselves disappointed and disgusted even in the presence of the Holy One; for we read that "He chargeth his angels with folly."

There are some, also, who affect to place

more confidence in their own literary acquirements than many others can conscientiously do. They often resort to the Greek and Latin languages to justify any aberrations of theirs from the known and established rules of the English Language. There are just as many imperfections in those languages as there are in the English,—all languages inheriting similar effects from the great confusion. Hence, if you show the "cloven foot" in the English Language, you cannot hide it under the folds of the Greek or Latin.

Some of you, my friends, may have a limited knowledge of Hebrew, Greek and Latin—some a pretty fair knowledge of German, French and Spanish; but permit me here to suggest one important rule or caution to be observed by all who wish to be thought correctly educated. Never volunteer the introduction of a foreign language in conversation with the unlearned! If you do, you may be regarded as novices; and in the light of "Holy Writ," as heathens and barbarians. Moreover, such pedantic or ostentatious claims to superior knowledge are palpable breaches of good manners. He that is at war with the rules of the English Language cannot fail to give unwelcome evidences of the fact in his speech and writings.

We are bound, my friends, to deal with men as we find them, perfect or imperfect; and we are also bound to use their language as we find it, and as they use it, if we put ourselves in communication with them, with the hope and expectation of doing them good, and of guiding their actions. We are met for the purpose, my brethren and sisters, of acquiring this very kind of knowledge; and I trust that you are all sufficiently impressed with the importance of this branch of learning to stimulate you to that diligence, patience and perseverance in applying yourselves to its acquisition, that cannot fail to secure to you the object of your pursuit.

Permit me here to speak to you in much plainness: to become thorough grammarians, requires much mental labor! The lazy and inactive mind cannot penetrate far into the intricacies of language. You must give to this branch your undivided attention if you expect to progress with the rapidity that you desire. It is worthy of all the attention you can give it. How often have I heard men say: "I would give a thousand dollars to understand the rules of language and their proper application to practical use." Consider now, that in the short space of fifteen weeks, (a season of the year in which you can do little else to profit) you may be led by the hand of your teacher gently forward in the pursuit of this study; and at the expiration of the term, you may continue your progress alone without an instructor to take you by the hand. Suffer no sloth, inactivity or ordinary business to prevent your attendance at every lesson. If you will all be diligent between lessons and labor for yourselves as faithful as I intend to labor for you, you shall be able, at the close of this school, to march boldly forward, without further aid, to the most elevated heights of Grammatical science.

I cannot flatter you with the expectation that you will know it all at the close of this term, lest your disappointment should so far re-act upon your minds as to induce you to cease your efforts to learn. There is no end to the path of science and improvement.—Learn all you can in this world that is good and true, and it will only form the basis or Grammar of that higher order of education that awaits you among the classified millions that have gone up to celestial institutions through the rugged and thorny way that has been sanctified and honored by the footsteps of Him who "taught as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

I am pleased to see you all apparently cheerful and light-hearted, buoyant with hope and expectation, indicating feelings good and true—warm and kindly. Virtue and integrity, with due respect for others, according to station and circumstances, will secure to you a continuation of that glow of charity and goodwill which now animates your breasts: and when you shall bid adieu to Earth, may your garments be clean and white, thoroughly washed in the blood of the Lamb, and meet with a kindly welcome in your Father's House! I will try to be with you there.—Heaven bless the pure in heart, henceforth and forever.

FALSE NOTIONS OF GOVERNMENT VIGOR.—How easy it is to shed human blood; how easy it is to persuade ourselves that it is our duty to do so, and that the decision has cost us a severe struggle; how much, in all ages, have wounds and shrieks and tears been the cheap and vulgar resources of the rulers of mankind; how difficult and how noble it is to govern in kindness, and to found an empire upon the everlasting basis of justice and affection! But what do men call vigor? To let loose hussars, and to bring up artillery, to govern with lighted matches, and to cut, and push, and prime.—I call this, not vigor, but the sloth of cruelty and ignorance. The vigor I love consists in finding out wherein subjects are aggrieved, in relieving them, in studying the temper and genius of a People, in consulting their prejudices, in selecting proper persons to lead and manage them, in the laborious, watchful and difficult task of increasing public happiness, by allaying each particular discontent. In this way only will Ireland ever be subdued. But this, in the eyes of Mr. Perceval, is imbecility and meanness;—houses are not broken open, women are not insulted, the People seem all to be happy,—they are not ridden over by horses, and cut by whips. Do you call this vigor? Is this Government?—[Rev. Sydney Smith.

DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday, December 15, 1858.

Office. WOOD and HAY wanted at the Deseret News

The "DESERET WRITING BOOK" for sale at this office. Price 25 cents.

Advertisements, to insure insertion in the current issue, must be handed in previous to Tuesday morning.

THE Business and Delivery Office of the Deseret News is removed to the north-east room of the Council House, up stairs, where the "News" will be delivered, henceforward.

THE EASTERN MAIL, the only one since Nov. 27, arrived on the 14th inst. The weather has been severe during the two weeks past, and the conductors have encountered very cold storms. We learn, from the party who brought the mail, that seven men who conveyed it as far as the Rocky Ridge Station are severely frozen, and one of them was not expected to survive. They remain at that Station under as careful treatment as can be bestowed upon them under the circumstances. Ten mules were frozen to death in conducting the mail to that Station. The snow on the Big Mountain is said to be very deep; one of the carriers, on being asked its depth, said he did not know, for they could not see the ground.

Mr. Gerrish, Mr. Morehead, Mr. Van Ettan and others were met on their way East, and it is expected they will go through safely.

It is stated that the several mails from this place eastward were making headway.

It seems, from a "Citizen" article in another column, that the severely cold weather, the small police force on duty, and the stern frown of a healthy public feeling are not entirely successful in preventing occasional outbreaks of rowdiness. Though raised Presbyterian, we are by no means of that class which frowns upon any reasonable recreation or amusement, at proper times and places. But if some will drink more liquor than their brains can balance, we have yet to learn by what correct principle they take liberty to infringe upon the peace and rights of others. If a man wishes to get drunk, why not also confine his operations to such acts as will merely injure himself? The answer is obvious, but then he should not complain if his bacchanalian conduct meets public censure and the just rigor of the law, for if drunkenness bore rule in any community, the very drunkards themselves would shun that region.

This rule holds good in every ramification of evil practices, and from the testimony of many proud cities it would appear that the broad-road travelers are becoming very powerful, so much so that Government officials and State and city officials of all grades and parties accuse each other of conduct that should crimson the cheek of any honorable man, and still, in fulfillment of prophecy, the evil tide rolls higher and more uncontrollable.

Our city is not yet so overgrown that persons can commit serious outrages upon law, morality, or good order, and escape detection and consequent unenviable notoriety or merited punishment, a fact which we trust all will bear in mind, and lend their influence to build up at least one city from which they and their children and children's children can hail with that commendable emotion which follows the daring and doing naught but worthy deeds.

ANOTHER MAN FROZEN.—We are informed by Mr. Wm. A. Hickman that on the night of Dec. 2, a young man named William Redman, on his way, in company with two others, from the West Mountain, West Jordan Precinct, was frozen to death. The two others with him received serious injury.

Redman's body was found about 2 miles from Mr. Hickman's house. He was a resident of Platte county, Missouri, brother of Prof. Redman of Weston, Mo., and cousin of Mr. Hickman's wife.

THE THREE PRISONERS. Edward Britton, Richard Jones and J. Dalton, who escaped from the city lock-up on the 6th inst., were recaptured in Ogden by John W. Woolley, Brigham Young, jr., Stephen Taylor and Jason

Luce, about 4 a.m. of the 9th, and by them delivered to the authorities in this city, at 7 p.m. of the same day.

ARRIVED, Friday, Dec. 10, Judge Z. Snow and Elder Alma L. Smith; the former from his mission to Australia, and the latter from a mission to the Sandwich Islands.

PHOTOGRAPHY.—We have been presented, by br. M. Cannon, Daguerrean Artist, with two splendid photographic pictures, one representing the premises of ex-Governor Young; the other being a likeness of the ex-Governor himself, than which, in point of accurate and life-like similitude, among the great number of daguerreotype, ambrotype and other processes by which artists have sought to retain a durable and correct likeness of him, we have never seen equalled.

The buildings—the "Bee-Hive" and the "Lion" Mansions, the offices, the outbuildings, the walls, the gates, the grotesquely posted pavement, even to the guard-chain, are beautifully portrayed. There is a symmetrical perspective exhibited in the picture which renders it very attractive; and not its least enchanting feature is the scenery immediately around, and the "Great Toe" of the Wahsatch range forms a sublime landscape in the distance.—The gardens adjoining the "Lion" mansion on the west and north are necessarily obscured, the point of observation being from the south-east.

We confidently recommend this beautiful style of pictures to all lovers of the fine arts.

Br. Cannon has also the apparatus for taking ambrotypes in a superior style. He has had long experience in his profession.

THE GLOBE RESTAURANT.—This establishment still sustains its popularity in accommodating the genteel public, and catering with success for the wants of boarders and travelers, in supplying the inner man with all the comforts and luxuries that diligence and money can obtain in this Territory. In addition to his usual ample accommodation, he informs us that he will have a table spread every evening during the winter season.

The spirited proprietor is bound to command patronage and meet success.

We call the attention of farmers to Deputy Q'r M. Gen'l G. H. Crossman's advertisement for sealed proposals to deliver grain at Camp Floyd and Fort Bridger, in August, September and October next, to be found on 3d page of this 'News.'

WIG MAKING.—HOME MANUFACTURE.—We have this week seen a neat, well-fitting and healthy wig, made by Mr. Fred'k Gad, of the 'Globe' shaving saloon. We do not remember having ever seen a better article of its kind. It combines beauty and use, and a lightness that makes it a pleasure to wear rather than that repugnance which many persons manifest against wearing wigs. Those who are afflicted, or annoyed by displaying the bald organ bumps of their craniums to the gaze of every observer, will find that Mr. Gad will be able to supply them with an admirable cover, as well as a useful ornament, in the shape of a good wig. One great difficulty in wearing wigs, we are informed—for nature has still left the wool on the top of our head, the place where the wool ought to grow—is on account of the weight and want of ventilation of the wigs generally in use. Mr. Gad has entirely obviated those difficulties, for the article we examined is very light, and is full of holes which serve as ventilators, and cannot produce undue perspiration, which are great desiderata to the wearers. His wig has likewise a graceful appearance, which would deceive the most critical in knowing whether their own hair or a wig is worn; and is more effectual in supplying the place of nature's head ornament than all the quack prescriptions and perfumers' applications in the world. Mr. Gad is an excellent workman, and prices reasonable.—[Com.]

GAMBLING IN SAN FRANCISCO.—We have been informed that gambling is carried on in this city, at this time, more extensively and openly than it has been since the passage of the severe prohibitory statute by the Legislature. It is said there are several well known establishments, upon the most public streets, regularly fitted up with all the implements and appurtenances of gambling halls, where the business is carried on, almost without intermission, night and day, and where immense sums are lost and won. In town, it is also charged, there are at this time a greater number of professional gamblers who live alone upon the profits of the game or the opportunities for stealing which occur in gambling houses than at any other period since '55, and their impudent and defiant airs, and assumed guise of bravado and daring, not only show that "business" in their nefarious line is unusually good, but that they have little respect for the penalties of the law, and a perfect contempt for the vigilance of our officers.—[Bulletin.]

How many 'Saints' are now living their religion?