

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

NO. 11.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1860.

VOL. X.

[From the Weekly Wisconsin.]

TO BE A WIFE.

With glad footsteps I've been tripping
On life's journey, day by day,
Dancing, bounding, in the flower path,
Winding near life's great highway.
But I now must change my footsteps
To the stately tread of life,
For I've been a careless maiden,
But I soon shall be a wife.

Through the happy vales of girlhood,
Gleefully my steps have strayed,
Gathering all the lilies, growing
By the fountains where I played;
But I now must cease my idling,
And commence the work of life,
For I've been a careless maiden,
But I soon shall be a wife.

There's a tear for thee, oh girlhood,
'Tis the last these eyes shall shed,
For the woman's life is nobler
Than the girlish life I've led.
Here's a sigh for home and mother,
Dearest things in girlhood's life;
But I've found a tie still dearer,
Since I am to be a wife.

'Tis the last time I shall pillow
On this couch my girlish head,
These the last sweet tear drops, that my
Girlhood's eyes will ever shed.
Tears may come, but there will ever
Be another by my side,
For to share with soft endearment,
Every tear-drop of his bride.

Here I'll kneel me, for the last time,
For to utter girlhood's prayers;
After this there'll be another
My devotion e'er to share.
Even now, there comes between me
And my prayers for higher life,
Thoughts of one who will to-morrow
Call me first, his own, his wife.

HATTIE TYNG.

REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, Tabernacle,
April 3, 1860.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

I have been happy in hearing the brethren bear their testimonies to-day, and I have a word of consolation and comfort for you.

I hope to live to see the day when the Lord will bring again Zion in its fullness, when the watchmen will see eye to eye. This period of time is very desirable to every good and faithful person, and I hope to see it before I lay down this tabernacle to rest.

I can say to the brethren, I do not think that I have ever heard a more satisfactory testimony from them than I have to-day. An observation made by br. George Halladay is true, that if a person suffers his feelings to rise above the natural level of his capacity, they will sink in the same ratio. He wished us not to consider him an enthusiast, I do not know that I have heard a person to-day that I thought to be enthusiastic. A firm unchangeable course of righteousness through life is what secures to a person true intelligence. The brethren to-day have advanced a great many ideas which are true, manifesting an interesting and instructive variety. I am highly gratified with the remarks I have heard.

We have very scanty ideas concerning the great plan called the plan of salvation—the system of doctrine, ideas, and practices that pertain to all the intelligence that exists in eternity. Very small, minute, and abstract ideas and principles are given to the children of men in relation to it, because they can bear but little—a little here and a little there—as it is written by the prophet, “line upon line, and precept upon precept.” If you can receive one line to-day, it may prepare you to receive another to-morrow pertaining to the things of God. I am very happy and rejoice much, because I believe that I am now looking upon men and women who are steadily increasing in knowledge, firm in their integrity, truthful, and lovers of virtue in their hearts; though some, as has been observed, give way to temptation, are overcome by the enemy, and are led away. This we expect. As many as will be faithful to their calling, and manifest their faith by their good works, will find that they belong to the elect; and every one that forsakes his covenants and his God, and turns away from the Holy commandments delivered to them, will find that they belong to that class who are reprobates. God has given us ability to do good or evil. According to certain principles inherent in the organization of the people, they can believe the truth, or disbelieve it and believe a lie. They can falsify, or cling to the truth. They can continue to do good, or forsake it and commence to do evil. Every man is capable of doing either good or evil, he has his own choice, and will be judged by his works.

We will see the time when it will be said to us, as written in the New Testament, “Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee.” I partly judged a man who spoke here to-day, from his own mouth. I have not much to say about him; let God be his judge, and yours and mine. If you wish to receive and enjoy the favor of our Heavenly Father, do his will. If you wish the fellowship of his Saints, hurt not the wine and the oil, nor seek to destroy them, as many do. The man I have alluded to has sought diligently to destroy the oil and the wine—to destroy the virtue, truth, and holiness of this gospel. He who lifts his heel against the Lord and against his anointed, will find himself a poor, pusillanimous, weak instrument in the hands of the devil to accomplish his designs.

It is thirty years to-morrow since Joseph Smith organized this church with six members. What is it now? Almost every nation, kindred, tongue, and people that would receive the gospel has had the privilege—it has been proffered to them—and thousands and hundreds of thousands have been baptized into the church, and the Lord will call his own out of this people, and will prepare the Zion that is spoken of for them to dwell in. If we wish to enjoy the Spirit of Zion, we must live for it. Our religion is not merely theory, it is a practical religion, to bring present enjoyment to every heart.

A brother on my right told you his experience, that there is no necessity for taking any man's word for the truth of your religion, for it is the privilege of all to have the testimony of Jesus, to have the Spirit of prophecy. I have no greater privilege to enjoy the Spirit of prophecy than you have. I have no better a right to the Holy Ghost than you. If you will live as you are taught, you will walk in darkness no more, but will walk in the light of life. I pray that we may constantly do this; it is my continual prayer. I pray for all whom I ought to pray for, and as I ought to pray for them. Capt. Gibson says that he would pray for everybody in heaven, earth, and hell. I love to see men manifest that good feeling, but I will insure that, if I was in heaven when satan rebelled, I prayed that satan might be cast out. Cast out the dogs and wolves, that will feed on the sheep. Cast all bitterness out of your own hearts, all anger, wrath, strife, covetousness and lust, and sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, that you may enjoy the Holy Ghost and have that Spirit to be your constant companion day by day, to lead you into all truth, and then you will have good doctrine, good feelings, good wives, good children, a good community, and, finally, you will be Saints in the fullest sense of the word, but not yet. I believe we shall be Saints, through the grace of God.

I feel to bless you, to praise you, my brethren, although we are continually afflicted with more or less foul, mean, low, groveling, contemptible spirits in our midst. I do not mention names, but I know where some are now sitting in this house. The Latter Day Saints are improving. To-morrow the Church is thirty years old. We have enjoyed ourselves to-day, to-morrow let us have much more enjoyment than we have had to-day. The constitution of man is such as to be liable to be driven to extremes. He may be compared to a bark on the ocean, tossed to and fro by the influences around. Keep your eye on the compass and steer straight forward, and you cannot sail too fast; but if you get among the breakers and rocks, your bark may upset. Keep your bark straight for the port, and there is no danger of your having too much of the Holy Ghost.

I have hardly heard an incorrect idea advanced to-day, and I consider myself a judge in these things. I judge Israel in their doctrines and conduct, and know whether they are right or wrong. I can say, to my joy and satisfaction, we are improving. I know that I am, when I compare my present power of mind to scope in truth and my power of discrimination with what I possessed, twenty, ten or five years ago. I am almost astonished at myself, and to see the improvement there is in the people. But we are yet children, although we are almost as old as was Jesus when he began to preach. It is our privilege to continue to grow, and the Lord will protect his people and save Israel, and all hell cannot help it.

May the Lord God of Israel bless every one of you, and his humble servant who is speaking to you. Amen.

REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, Tabernacle,
April 6, 1860.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

Yesterday, we had the pleasure of attending a meeting here which to me was filled with riches—with treasures of good. To-day, we have met in the capacity of a general conference, the thirty-first annual conference of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Thirty years ago to-day, the church

was organized with six members. And we will occupy this day in serving the Lord by instructing and encouraging each other, and by testifying of the things the Lord has revealed to us.

Some may suppose that I have the business of the conference pre-arranged, but such is not the case. I seldom take thought for to-morrow upon such subjects. When morning comes, try and be prepared for the business the Lord manifests should be done. I came here in that mind this morning, and knew no more about the manner in which this conference will be conducted, with regard to its details, than you do, until I came here. Since I came into the house my feelings and the circumstances have prompted me to say that we will hear further testimony from the brethren. Yesterday several in the body of the house had the privilege of speaking and this forenoon I wish to have the Twelve, the Seventies, and the High Priests give us five or ten minutes sermons from the stand.

I can testify to you, as I have to many congregations of Saints and sinners, that the Lord has revealed his will from the heavens, bestowed the Holy Priesthood upon the children of men, and made us the happy partakers thereof. Most, if not all, assembled here this morning have felt the divine influence of the Holy Ghost shed forth in their hearts; it has awakened them out of their sleep and out of their ignorance, and begun to teach them eternal things. This work is true. The Lord has bestowed the Holy Priesthood upon the children of men, by which alone they can be prepared to enter into the celestial kingdom of our God.

How many Gods there are and how many places there are in their kingdoms is not for me to say; but I can say this, which is a source of much comfort, consolation, and gratification to me, behold the goodness, the long suffering, the kindness and the strong parental feeling of our Father and God in preparing the way and providing the means to save the children of men, not alone the Latter Day Saints—not those alone who have the privilege of the first principles of the celestial law—but to save all. It is a universal salvation, a universal redemption. Do not conclude that I am a Universalist, as the term is generally understood, although that doctrine is true in part, like the doctrines or professions of all professing christians. As was stated yesterday, by one of those who spoke, when he was a Methodist, he enjoyed a portion of the Spirit of the Lord. Hundreds of those now present have had a like experience in a greater or less degree, before they joined this church. Then, when we inquire who will be saved, I answer, all will be saved, as Jesus said when speaking to the Apostles, except the sons of perdition. They will be saved through the atonement and their own good works, according to the law that is given to them. Will the heathen be saved? Yes, so far as they have lived according to the best light and intelligence they had, but not in the celestial kingdom.—Who will not be saved? Those who have received the truth, or had the privilege of receiving it, and then rejected it. They are the only ones who will become the sons of perdition, go into everlasting punishment, and become angels to the devil.

The priesthood the Lord has again bestowed upon those who will receive it, is for the express purpose of preparing them to become proficient in the principles pertaining to the law of the celestial kingdom. If we obey this law, preserve it inviolate, live according to it, we will be prepared to enjoy the blessings of a celestial kingdom. Will any others? Yes, thousands and millions of the inhabitants of the earth who would have received and obeyed the law that we preach, if they had had the privilege. When the Lord shall bring again Zion, and the watchmen shall see eye to eye, and Zion shall be established, saviors will come upon Mount Zion and save all the sons and daughters of Adam that are capable of being saved, by administering for them.—Is not this pleasing? Is it not gratifying? Is it not a consoling feeling and influence upon the mind of every intelligent being? Our former views were that the majority of the inhabitants of the earth would not be saved in any kind of a kingdom of glory, but would inherit a kingdom of damnation. Jesus said, “in my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am ye may be also.” In other words, “I go to prepare a place for you who have received and obeyed the celestial law, which I have committed to you.” The celestial is the highest of all. The telestial and terrestrial are also spoken of, and how many more kingdoms of glory there are is not for me to say; I do not know that they are not innumerable. This is a source of great joy to me.

One of the brethren, yesterday, felt so rejoiced under like reflections that he said he could pray for the devils in hell, if it would do any good. It is not for us to pray for them, because they have become sons of perdition.

You may pray for your persecutors, for those who hate you and revile you and speak all manner of evil of you, if they do it ignorantly, but if they do it understandingly, justice must take its course in regard to them, and except they repent, they will become sons of perdition. This is my testimony.

The vision given to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon is the greatest vision I ever knew given to the children of men, incorporating more in a few pages than any other revelation I have any knowledge of. “This is the gospel, the glad tidings which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us,” state Joseph and Sidney, “that He came into the world, even Jesus, to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; that through Him all might be saved whom the Father had put into his power and made by Him who glorifies the Father and saves all the works of His hands, except those sons of perdition, who deny the Son after the Father has revealed him; wherefore, he saves all except them: they shall go away into everlasting punishment.”

Will the Methodists be saved? Yes. Will other sects? Yes. I think you could not now find an Elder in this church who would rise up in a congregation and tell you that John Wesley is wailing in hell. Have the Elders ever preached such a doctrine? Yes, some of them have preached that all the reformers, from the days of Christ and the Apostles until Joseph Smith received the priesthood, must be damned. I do not think that you could now hear such doctrine from any of them.

There is a chance for those who have lived and for those who now live. The gospel has come. Truth and light and righteousness are sent forth into the world, and those who receive them will be saved in the celestial kingdom of God. And many of those who, through ignorance, through tradition, superstition and the erroneous precepts of the fathers, do not receive them will yet inherit a good and glorious kingdom, and will enjoy more and receive more than ever entered into the heart of man to conceive, unless he has had a revelation.

My heart is comforted. I behold the people of God that they have been hunted, cast out, driven from the face of men. The powers of earth and hell have striven to destroy this kingdom from the earth. The wicked have succeeded in doing so in former ages, but this kingdom they cannot destroy because it is the last dispensation—because it is the fullness of times. It is the dispensation of all dispensations, and will excel in magnificence and glory every dispensation that has ever been committed to the children of men upon this earth. The Lord will bring again Zion, redeem His Israel, plant His standard upon the earth, and establish the laws of His kingdom, and those laws will prevail. No law can issue from man or from any body of men to govern and control in eternal things, consequently those laws must come from heaven to govern and control both saint and sinner, believer and unbeliever, and every character upon the earth; and they will be issued according to the capacity, knowledge, and mode of life of the people to whom they are promulgated.

I will now call upon the brethren in the stand to speak, and let you have our testimony, strength and faith, as we received yours yesterday.

God bless you—Amen.

REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, Tabernacle,
April 6, 1860.

[REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.]

I feel very well satisfied with our thirty-first anniversary. The brethren testify to the goodness of our God, and we have had much excellent instruction.

There is one principle I wish to urge upon the Saints in a way that it may remain with them, that is, to understand men and women as they are, and not understand them as you are. You see the variety of mind, disposition, judgment and talent, and variety in explaining and communicating thoughts. There is an endless variety, and I wish you to understand men and women as they are, and not to judge your brother, your sister, your family, or any one, only from the intention. When you know the intention of the act performed, you will then know how to judge the act.

Some may wish to know whether my religion is as good to me now as it was twenty eight years ago. It is far better. Twenty eight years ago last February I went to Canada after my br. Joseph. He was a very spiritual minded man. You have heard him say to-day that he did not laugh for a period of two years. I did not know of his smiling during some four or five years. I well remember his calling upon me, after he had been away preaching more than two years. Would he sit and chat with me? No, because of his serious reflec-