

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BY

ELDER ORSON HYDE,*In the Temple, St. George, on the
5th of April, 1877.*

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

I have not language, my brethren and sisters, to express the feelings and emotions of my heart on coming into this Temple yesterday morning; I could not describe them if I were to undertake to do so, and consequently I will sum up in short by saying that the sentiments of my heart were, Thank God for such a place in which to worship and to reverence his high and holy name.

We have been listening this morning to very interesting and truthful remarks; and I have felt edified, instructed and comforted in my feelings. And I think, if we all remember our prayers in the season thereof, in sincerity and truth, that our light would shine before us according to our needs and wants. It is too often the case that this important duty is neglected. I look at the rivers of water, I trace them to their source, and I find that many times the places where they originate are small and oftentimes hidden from the popular gaze. But, notwithstanding, they flow down and the waters increase, until by tributaries the main channel becomes a mighty river. So our prayers in private and family circle are secret and retired from the public, but they keep the fire burning upon the altar of our hearts. And it is not often that persons who faithfully attend to this duty walk in darkness, it is seldom that they apostatize and turn away from the faith, especially when we couple our solemn prayers with a short sermon or lecture of comfort and of peace to our wives and children, sanctifying our prayers by words of consolation, and then we have a little heaven on earth. And I have noticed that those who do this can generally give a reason for the hope that is in them. Where these things are neglected, however small they may appear in the estimation of some, there is a want of the vital principle that feeds the soul, that keeps the leaves and branches green, that imparts beauty and loveliness to all nature.

I have thought that if we were a little more punctual in the discharge of our obligations one with another and to all men, it would be the means of opening wider the door of light and truth to all pursuing that course. It is too often the case that we sometimes contract duties and make promises to discharge them when our present condition and future prospects are altogether too slim to justify our doing so. Yet we feel we must go in debt to supply our immediate wants. And when the time comes for payment to be made, it is not at all an unfrequent chapter in our lives, that at that particular time we were not so well prepared to meet the obligation as we were the day we made the contract. This I apprehend is a barrier to our success and our prosperity. And I feel that if there was more punctuality manifested by us in paying our obligations than now exists, we would have more confidence in one another than we already have. I do not recommend any person to take his neighbor in hand and say, "Pay me that which thou owest me." So far as my memory serves me, in such cases as when persons owed me who failed to pay me according to promise, and I believed them honest, and upright in their feelings, seeking not to take advantage; I do not recollect ever having crowded such persons or putting them to the least inconvenience. I think it is good and honorable on the part of the creditor to establish his name and character by showing mercy and easing the burden of those who may be indebted to him. For there should be a disposition on one part to avoid contracting debts, and a disposition on the other to be as lenient as circumstances permit, to move away all the obstruction we can from the path of each other's prosperity. However small these matters may seem, they are important.

At the time our Prophet and Patriarch were killed, or at least soon afterwards, when the Twelve returned to Nauvoo, their immediate circumstances were not altogether agreeable and pleasant or profitable. But suffice it to say we

had a meeting, a conference, at which President Young was the centre of attraction. On his arising to speak, and as soon as he opened his mouth I heard the voice of Joseph through him, and it was as familiar to me as the voice of my wife, the voice of my child, or the voice of my father. And not only the voice of Joseph did I distinctly and unmistakably hear, but I saw the very features of his person, the very features of his countenance, and if I mistake not the very size of his person appeared on the stand. And it went through me with the thrill of conviction that Brigham was the man to lead this people. And from that day to the present there has not been a query or a doubt upon my mind with regard to the divinity of his appointment; I know that he was the man selected of God to fill the position he now holds.

I have found in my experience that there is a good deal in a man's having confidence in himself. A person having little confidence in God and more in himself is not good; the capital stock should be in the Lord our God, and the smaller portion in the creature operating. When the Lord created man, I believe he placed in him a portion of himself, that is a portion of every qualification that he himself possessed. And in our sphere we are to act independently, but under and by the power of those principles of natural inspiration. There is a good deal of natural inspiration in man; and when that is touched by the finger of the Almighty, it makes the cup a delicious one, it makes the mind truly enlightened.

Brethren and sisters, I have all confidence in the Lord our God—I say all confidence, perhaps that calls for a little qualification. At any rate I believe in him, and that he is just, wise and merciful. If I did not believe he was merciful, I could not believe my own eyes while looking upon this vast congregation of his people, assembled in this isolated place, here in the southern portion of our Territory.

I tell you how I feel in relation to the matters that have been spoken of here to-day. If I had more confidence in myself, and in my own ability, limited though it may be, I could venture farther and do more, and perhaps overcome my natural timidity and become a more efficient agent in the hands of our Father of doing good. This I desire with all my heart. I can say that what little I possess of this world's goods are subject to the orders of my superiors in the Priesthood, myself and all that I command are at their dictation to be used in the service of our God for the advancement of his Kingdom. I labored with my hands until I reached my seventieth year, when I had to cease working; and for the last two years I have not been able to do anything, not even to cut a stick of wood or fetch a bucketful of water. But I feel thankful that my health is as good as it is, and that I have lived to see this day, and to behold this elegant structure reared to the honor of our God, and to have the privilege of meeting and joining with so many of my brethren and sisters to worship within its walls.

Brethren, I rejoice in the service of God, and I want to continue in it; and if our religion had no more consolation than it now affords, it would be ample to inspire us to honor it and to live it. I look around me and see a great many heads as white and many whiter than my own. I oftentimes wish, Oh, that I were again active and able to work manfully and energetically in the cause of truth! But no; like many others of my age, I am subject to rheumatism and pains in my limbs, which at times disable me; I have commenced to feel the infirmities of increasing age and years; and so many of us now, after these many years of toil, have to struggle with the going down sun of our earthly existence. But we have the consolation of knowing that our mortal body will not always impede our progress, we shall not forever suffer its inconveniences; we are gladdened in the hope of either laying down this mortal tabernacle or undergoing that welcome change which will free us from all afflictions and annoyances. And we hail the day when we shall be free from sorrow and death, to forever rejoice in the joys of everlasting lives. But while we remain let us struggle on, and continue the good fight of faith until we are called home. I calculate, the Lord being my helper, to do the very best I can. How long I may

live I know not, neither do I feel much anxiety, feeling as I do that I am in the hands of my Heavenly Father, who will do with me as seemeth him good. But yet if I could be spared in health, I would like to live to see the adversary bound, to trouble and harass no more the children of our God; I would like to live to see myself entirely redeemed from the traditions of our forefathers, which we have inherited through entailment, and completely baptized in the elements of life everlasting. These are my heart's desires. I pray that God may continue to bless us and help us to walk day by day in obedience to the requirements of heaven. Amen.

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 24.—The patent office fire originated from spontaneous combustion among a lot of non-patented chemical matter stored in the attic of the Ninth Street front. No fire was made in the conservatory to-day, nor had any been made in the building. The principal loss falls on the patent office. The original copy of the declaration of independence, and relics of General Washington were saved, also the Franklin printing press; nearly all of the specifications and original drawings of the patent office are saved, and from these models can be reproduced if necessary. Many clerks of the Interior Department, Land, Patent, Indian and Pension offices have been ordered on duty to-night as sorting books and papers, and drying those which have been damaged by water. Military are on guard duty at the building, where they remain until the records and public property are secure. None of the Land Office records were destroyed, but many damaged by water. The records of the application division, the office which first receives applications for patents, and of which papers no copies were made, were saved. The most valuable models saved were those relating to sewing machines, fire arms, printing presses, locks, safes, etc. The models of reapers, mowers, and various agricultural implements were destroyed. A temporary room will be erected at once. The damage to the building is variously estimated at from \$30,000 to \$50,000, while that from the destruction of models and other valuables belonging to the patent office is almost incalculable. The arches which formed the ceiling of the second story and upon which the floor of the third story rested, are so badly damaged by heat and water that they must be torn down. The marble of the outer walls is considerably discolored and cracked. It is supposed that the fire had been smoldering beneath the room which was not fire proof for some hours before it was discovered. Two or three fires occurred in the neighborhood, caused by sparks. The loss was small.

The total number of models burnt at the Washington fire will not exceed 60,000.

NEW YORK, 24.—The *Times* criticizes adversely the alleged fact that General Howard, in pursuing the Indians, gets no adequate support from General Terry, or other commanders of adjoining military departments. It attributes to this inefficiency the failure to check and disperse the hostiles.

COLUMBUS, 24.—About 1 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in Marsh's cigar factory at Coshocton. Five buildings were destroyed. The loss aggregates about \$40,000; insurance 8,000.

OMAHA, 24.—Ten companies of the Third Infantry arrived here by special train, to day, over the Rock Island road, and left for Montana. They are en route from the scene of the recent riots in Pennsylvania to the seat of the Indian wars.

SAN FRANCISCO, 24.—A press dispatch from Portland, says, the steamer *California* has just arrived from Sitka, Chaplin Collins, of the United States Army, a passenger, brings information of the deplorable state of affairs at Sitka. Since the withdrawal of the troops from that place. There is now no protection either for life or property. There is not a semblance of law, either civil, military, or naval, and no power, whatever, to restrain the lawless element. At present there are not more than 15 white residents at Sitka, besides their wives and children, and to oppose this number are several hundred Indi-

ans. Since the departure of the soldiers the Indians have become very bold and impudent. They get drunk and swagger about town day and night, and have no respect whatever for the rights of the whites.

Several residents informed Chaplain Collins that they were in hourly fear of their lives and property, and that they intended to abandon the country as soon as possible. The collector of customs at that port is powerless, and his authority utterly disregarded. Already the Indians have begun to plunder the government buildings, carrying away doors and windows, tearing down and burning for fuel the stockade about the deserted garrison, and there is no authority to interfere and prevent demolition.

Sitka Jack, the leading Indian chief in that Territory, has notified a number of northern tribes to come down to Sitka, where they will hold a grand pow-wow about the first of October, among the settlers. It is feared this meeting of Indians will be the signal for a general plunder of the town and probable massacre of the inhabitants.

A government steamer was at that port only a few weeks ago, but the Indians regarded it with the utmost contempt, saying they could very easily capture it if they desired. The general feeling of insecurity has completely paralyzed the business of the Territory, and unless the government speedily offers protection to the settlers, it will be totally abandoned.

NEW YORK, 25.—The members composing the California team, who have so distinguished themselves by carrying off the prize in the Inter-State national match, started for San Francisco, last evening, on the 6:45 p.m. train, by the Erie Railroad. They occupied the palace car "Mayflower," which was appropriately decorated on the outside with a canvass painting representing the range at Creedmore, with marksmen in position, and a target in the distance. The picture was appropriate, and will attract attention along the route. Among those present to see the team off were Judge Staunton, Col. Wingate, Gen. Wylie, Gen. Woodward, Major G. S. Leland, and many others connected with rifle practice in this city. A number of the team will branch off at Buffalo and go to Niagara and other points, but the following eight will continue right through, bearing their trophy, the "Soldier of Marathon," with them. Generals McComb, Byrnes, Lebreton, Nash, Brockhoff, Maher, Hook and Williamson. Accompanying them was Major Leland of the Sturtevant House.

WASHINGTON, 25.—The Patent Office building is being put in order, to-day, and workmen are gathering the models out of the debris.

CINCINNATI, 25.—A party of eight colored men became involved in a quarrel last night, at the corner of George and Elm streets. Pistols being freely used, four of them were wounded, one fatally.

ST. LOUIS, 25.—A special from Leavenworth says: A private letter received from Fort Ellis, Kansas, gives an account of a fight between cattle thieves and a party of pursuers, in Cheyenne County, Kansas, some days ago. It seems that a large number of cattle had been stolen during the past summer, and it was finally determined to put a stop to it, and make an example of them. It is said that some 700 head of cattle were run off from Western Kansas and Colorado by a party of twelve robbers, who started north with them. A party of fifteen rangers, splendidly armed and mounted, started in pursuit, and after a hard ride of five days came upon the thieves in the extreme northwestern part of Kansas, surrounded them when at supper, killed seven of them, hung another to a tree, and recovered all their cattle. None of the rangers were hurt, the surprise being so complete the robbers had no chance to return the fire or make any resistance.

WASHINGTON, 25.—Thirty thousand models were destroyed by the fire in the patent office. The value of the property destroyed in the abstract will aggregate about \$1,000,000, but as a large class of the models cannot or will not be replaced, the actual loss will probably not reach over \$800,000 or \$900,000. The patent office has to its credit with the treasury, over and above its earnings, a sum sufficient to meet this expenditure, but it cannot be

used without an appropriation by Congress.

The bids for printing the backs on the legal tenders and national bank notes were opened to-day, but no award has been made. The price for this work at present is \$18 per 1,000 as against an average of \$3.75 under the new bids. The saving thereby effected, by Secretary Sherman exceeds \$45,000 for the coming year. The saving effected by him on internal work will exceed \$70,000.

The comptroller of the currency says, that the additional circulation of national banks issued during the present month will not be less than \$100,000,000. The indications are that a much larger amount will be issued during October and November for the purpose of supplying the banks with the currency necessary for the movement of the crops.

HARRISBURG, 25.—Anderson Shifflet, for the murder of David G. Lawson, was executed here, to-day. The rope broke the first time, and a second attempt had to be made. Shifflet proclaimed his innocence of the act, in a dying statement and on the scaffold. The scene was affecting in the extreme.

DETROIT, 25.—A fire broke out in a small building adjoining Hart's flouring mill at North Lansing, about 4 o'clock this afternoon, destroying Hart's flouring mill, Parmelee & Co's woolen mill, Scofield's saw mill and several smaller buildings, and for some time seriously threatened a greater portion of the northern end of the city. About 6 o'clock the fire was got under control. The loss is estimated at \$100,000. Partly insured.

BOSTON, 25.—The amount of loss by the robbery of the Cambridgeport National Bank is now known to be \$50,000.

NEW YORK, 25.—The *Graphic* publishes the report that the failure of Rufus Hatch, the well known stock broker, has been announced on the street. He says he will pay 100 cents on the dollar.

LITTLE ROCK, 25.—Internal Revenue Collector Henry has captured two illicit distilleries in the mountains west of the Hot Springs.

ST. LOUIS, 25.—The argument in the McKee case progressed to-day, and will probably close to-morrow. If the demurrer is overruled the case will fail, if sustained, the trial of McKee will proceed at once. Gen. McDonald and Col. John A. Joyce will testify at the trial.

Senator Barnum, chairman of the democratic committee, and ex-Secretary of War Belknap are here, but for what purpose is not known.

BALTIMORE, 25.—The bark *Crick-et*, with 7,400 bags of coffee, for Baltimore and New York, was lost, near Rio Janeiro; loss \$20,000, insured.

CHEYENNE, 25.—At Dawson's tie camp, forty miles from Laramie City, last evening, Tim Ryan, foreman for Dawson, was shot and mortally wounded by one Charley Cowan. A third party, named Snodgrass, then struck Cowan on the head with a poker, felling him. Ryan then arose, took Cowan's pistol, and beat his head to a jelly, after which he fell to the floor and expired.

NEW ORLEANS, 25.—The schooner *Ocean Wave*, foundered off Galveston, losing her entire crew of seven men.

NEW YORK, 26.—A Washington special says, ex-Governor Brown of Tennessee, Vice President of the Texas Pacific Railroad Company, is in Washington, and his presence suggested the supposition that he had come here in the interest of that enterprise. On being interviewed Brown said he was merely passing through Washington on his return from the east and his visit had no significance. He declared unfounded the report that the Texas Pacific managers were working to organize the next House in the interest of the road. On the contrary, they intend to put in no appearance here until after the House is organized and at work, when they will, of course, exert what influence they could to secure government help for their great undertaking, but they would not employ any paid lobby. He also denied there was any truth in the report that Colonel Scott intended to resign the presidency in his favor to conciliate such members of Congress as might entertain objections to Scott.

The *Star* and *Herald*, of Panama, says, violent earthquakes took place at Capija, Bolivia, on the 23d ult., and at Iquique the same day. A few days before at Capiapo, there was a similar visitation, and the