

fields, in order to secure to themselves pure water, and then go out and farm a patch of land with much labor and toil in the shape of plowing, digging, irrigating and weeding, and must so continue until the springs are made to rise up in the deserts or the vapors descend from the clouds to aid in the better cultivation of the soil.

When I was at Washington, in the year 1856, I was asked by Senator Douglas if I did not think that, if skillful farmers were out in Utah, the land might not be made to produce abundantly without irrigation. That showed me how ignorant Congressmen were at Washington in regard to this country.—When the Lord sees proper to break down the barriers that exist, and cause the rain to descend upon the land, he can do it; but until then, he has very wisely provided that we shall take the streams in the mountains to irrigate the soil. If the mountains were covered with beautiful timber, and plenty of grain could be raised without irrigation, there is no doubt but our enemies would overrun us, or at least make us a great deal of trouble; but as it is we inherit the chambers of the mountains, the rocks are our protection, and the oases of the desert, our homes. Here we learn the arts of cultivation and of building; we learn to irrigate the land; we also, in many respects, prepare ourselves for a day when we shall go to the place that has been appointed for the building up of the city of Zion, and for the building of the House which shall be a great and glorious Temple, on which the glory of the Lord shall rest, a Temple that will excel all others in magnificence that have ever been built upon the earth. Who is there that is prepared for this movement back to the center stake of Zion, and where the architects amongst us that are qualified to erect this Temple, and the city that will surround it? We have to learn a great many things, in my opinion, before we are prepared to return to that holy land; we have to learn to practise the principles that we have been taught; we have to study to fill up every hour of our time in industrial pursuits and the acquisition of knowledge, and by economy and patience, prepare ourselves as good and skillful workmen, as builders in the great building which our Father has prepared. And let me remind you that it is predicted that this generation shall not all pass away till a Temple shall be built, and the glory of the Lord rest upon it according to the promises.

There is nothing in this country that is very prepossessing or enticing to strangers, and especially to those who come with a bad spirit. When a man loses the spirit of his religion, he wants to leave the country, in a moment he sees it is a hard country, a miserable, barren, God-forsaken country. I have known many men come in here poor, and even destitute of the necessities of life, in a situation to need help in order to enable them not merely to stay here, but to get food sufficient to sustain life. In three or four years, these individuals would, by industry and good luck, become measurably wealthy; they would become dissatisfied, all at once discover that Mormonism was a hoax, and resolve to leave the country in disgust. Still they were perfectly independent of any assistance, and they were only leaving the country, they said, because they were so oppressed. Notwithstanding they had risen from poverty and degradation to comparative affluence, wealth and independence, so that they could leave the country, into which they were brought by the poor fund, with plenty of mules, horses, wagons, carriages, cows, and many of them with money, yet they say that such oppression they could not endure!

I heard a missionary, who came into this Territory by way of California, say that on his way he met some seven families; they were apostates, of course, and each one went to work to tell him what they had apostatized for; they gave details of the causes and the reasons they had for apostatizing from the church. Finally, the brother turned to one of the company who had not been talking at all, and said to him, what did you leave for. He replied very candidly—"I have been trying to think and I have come to the conclusion that I was treated too well. When I first entered the valley I saw Elder Kimball and he gave me a house to live in, rent free, he supplied me with wood to burn. He said he would employ me; when I wanted to work, he told me to make myself comfortable until I had rested; and then he would employ me. I went to work, but was discontented. I went to work, but not being satisfied, I considered the matter over and concluded that I was treated far too well." Now I consider that man a pretty honest apostate, and I rather think that he will come back again to the church.

I have heard men say that the reason why they apostatized was because they were not well treated. Now, I have often thought, when I have been reflecting that this was the work of the Lord; the only means of exaltation, that the loss of such individuals would be felt vastly more by themselves than by any body else. What a satisfaction it would be for such persons when they lift up their eyes in hell, being in torment, to think they might have been in a better place, if they had only been well treated. What a comfort, what a consolation, what a balm, especially to one who is lost for ever, to overcome such temptations was not an impossibility. But so far as we are concerned, whether our brethren treat us well or not, if we keep the commandments of God, keep ourselves in the path of rectitude and our feet do not slip, if we pursue a straight-forward course, if our raiment is clean, though we encounter many difficulties in getting along while in this life,

yet we may trust in the Lord our God, who will exalt the faithful. If we set out in the work of the Lord for time and all eternity, we set out for everlasting increase, for a salvation among the blessed and for an eternal exaltation. If the principles of life are worth anything, they are worth every thing that man can possibly sacrifice or suffer to attain to the reward that is promised. I remember when in Kirtland, having heard Jared Carter say that he had sacrificed every thing that he would be required of him; he said, I have sacrificed all my property once, but I will never do it again. Where is that man? He is numbered in the long catalogue of apostates. If a man should sacrifice all that he has, and then say I will do no more, it is equal to saying I will stop serving the Lord. A man who intends to attain to eternal glory must be constantly awake to the discharge of his duty; he must not suffer his lust for gold, his thirst for wealth or his desire for gain to fill his heart with covetousness, which is idolatry. We can pass over the pages of church history, and see the incidents that have transpired during the days of Joseph and see the fate of every Elder, who suffered lust or love of filthy lucre to tempt him from the path of virtue, their fate should be a warning to all good men. We can see the career of many, and behold their conduct and its results, men took him by the hand, saluted him with a kiss, called him brother, and then betrayed him; yet, I can see their career of hypocrisy, their apostasy and their consummate villainy; I can mark out their path. They were men who did not live their religion; they were not honest with God and their brethren; they were hypocrites; they corrupted themselves and became traitors to that man whom God had inspired to guide Israel. Some of them were regarded as very smart men that had great talents. They labored a little while in the cause, but they were not true to themselves; they were not true in their integrity; they were dishonest and corrupt and in consequence of this they fell in darkness and lifted their hands for the destruction of the Saints of God, and fell from that exaltation which they had aspired to attain to.

The blessings of Providence have been over us from the commencement of this church, the protecting hand of the Almighty has been visible over us all the day long; every step has been guided in wisdom. To take a people from amongst the nations of the earth and locate them in the midst of these mountains, was one of the greatest achievements, over natural obstacles ever accomplished upon earth. To organize a State in the midst of a vast desert, one that could sustain itself and bear up against the powers that endeavor to destroy it, was a feat unequalled by anything recorded in the annals of history.

When I was in Washington and in the library of the capitol, I was asked if the Mormons would fight. I replied that the people that would have the energy to form a powerful State in the midst of a desert, would have energy to defend it. To take persons of various habits, possessing education of different kinds and degrees, men and women speaking different languages, coming from almost every part of the earth; to bring them here and organize them into a peaceful and united people, loyal to the government and laws of our country, was certainly no small task. Then take the Saints that were assembled at Nauvoo, that had been driven from their possessions, hurried away from their homes, and robbed of all they possessed, driven away with a sign on the part of their enemies that they should perish in the wilderness; to take this remnant that was left and bring them with the rest to this land that was pronounced uninhabitable, to make it produce the rich provisions of the earth, and to organize a powerful State in the midst of this desert country, shows the power and wisdom of the Almighty, manifested through the man who leads, guides and instructs the people; it is of such a character that the leading of Israel through the wilderness by Moses, bears no comparison. You go to the Book of Exodus and you find the children of Israel made the most crooked path, where we find that we came straight forward through the mountains right into the land of promise. We have straightened the mountain passes, we have made the rough places plain and smooth, the mountains, as it were, are melting away at our presence. The Prophet of the Lord showed all this beforehand by the power of God that was in him.

After a few years in these mountains, we hear of members of Congress working up, as did Mr. John Thompson, of New York, in 1858, being from the same State as the Prophet Joseph, and was probably in that State when the Church was organized. This astonished Congressmen, having opened his eyes, said, "Mormonism is a stern, ugly fact, and it is half way between us and the Pacific Ocean, and it stands there with ten thousand bayonets daring you to the contest." He had suddenly awakened out of his slumber probably by the remarks of Mr. William W. Boyce, of South Carolina, who said, there are two ways of settling the Mormon embryo, one is peace and the other war, the first is the most humane, the cheapest, and consequently the best; if we choose the second, we make a hell of the passes in the mountains between the Pacific and the Atlantic for the next thousand years. They were just opening their eyes to behold what they had done by driving the Saints from the United States, and refusing to allow them to lodge on the banks of the Missouri. They drove them into the wilderness, and hoped never to hear of them again.

Today has past for us to submit to be mobbed and driven about from pillar to post by our

enemies; they have now got something else to do. The sword is now passing back and forth amongst them. I recollect when I was a school boy once the master gave two of us a stick and set us to whip each other; the master was compelled to stop us on account of our severity. Our enemies would not take the advice of the Prophet, this nation refused to listen to his counsels, they would not hearken to the word of the Lord which he proclaimed unto them; they killed him and drove us away from our possessions, and now the Lord will suffer them to punish each other for their sins, even as the schoolmaster did the boys, until he gets ready to stop them.

I am very much pleased with the privilege of addressing you. I feel that I am awake to the truth, and I try to live my religion, to bear my testimony to the work of God and sustain the influence of my brethren in rolling on this great and glorious work. My testimony is as it has always been. It is the work of the Almighty, and His hand has guided it, and will continue so to do henceforth and forever, and no power can stay its progress, and he will guide it until it will overcome all opposing forces. It is the little stone cut out of the mountain without human hands, and it will roll forth and grow until it becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth.

When the Prophet Joseph Smith was before the court of Judge Austin A. King at Richmond, Missouri, they wanted to prove the charge of treason against him; it was stated in evidence that he had preached from the prophecy of Daniel where it speaks of the great image and the little stone, and had stated that the stone would strike the image upon the toes and feet and break it to pieces, that then it would become a great mountain and fill the whole earth. Judge King inquired of the witness if Mr. Smith did not say that the little stone spoken of was the Mormon Church. The witness answered in the affirmative. Judge King, turning to the clerk, said "write that down, that is reason." According to this decision the doctrines taught in the Bible were actually treason. General Doniphan replied, by God, Judge, you had better make the Bible treason and done with it. They of course believed that the kingdom spoken of is a figurative kingdom, but we know that God has organized that kingdom, and it will roll forth with power and might until it overcomes all obstacles, and fills the whole earth. Then it will grant shelter and protection to all who are honest and upright and protect them in their religious sentiments, whatever they may be. This will bring about a reign of peace and happiness that the world has long looked for.

Men may speculate and write their squib, they may undertake to write this way or that, yet the Lord has commenced his work and it will spread itself abroad until the laws of Zion are sent forth among all nations, for this work and this people will eventually have the dominion, and no arm can hinder it. Every man that is fool enough to be blinded by Satan will miss the honor, the glory and the exaltation that await those who shall be sanctified and be prepared to enter in through the gates into the city, while those that adhere faithfully to the servants of God, that are always on hand to build up Zion, seeking first to build up the kingdom of God and to learn his righteousness, will rise in majesty, glory, exaltation and dominion.

May this be our case, in the name of Jesus: Amen.

Floods and Storms in California.

There have been, according to reports, some tremendous storms on the Pacific slope since the commencement of November, more severe than ever before experienced there since the discovery of gold in that part of the world. From the 11th to the 19th of November it rained or snowed almost constantly, the storm extended all over the State. The snow in some of the mountainous regions fell to the depth of from six to ten feet, and the amount of water as measured in places, particularly in Grass valley, was over five inches. Many cattle are said to have frozen to death. The Marysville Express states that on the night of the 9th, on the summit of the coast range, between Mono Lake reservation and Round valley, a drove of one hundred and eighty head of cattle perished in a severe snow storm, and other large losses of stock are reported. Rain and snow continued to fall at intervals during the month of November, doing much damage in various places.

On or about the 6th instant the rain commenced pouring down in torrents, and continued for two or three days without intermission, completely inundating Sacramento valley.

A dispatch from Grass valley, of Dec. 8, published in the Marysville Express, says:—"We are now experiencing a most unprecedented storm, within the last forty-eight hours, up to 6 o'clock this evening, we have had a fall of over eight inches of rain, by measurement. Several bridges on Wolf creek, below this place, have been washed away; also Freeman's and Emory's bridges, on the Middle Yuba. The storm still continues without any prospect of abatement."

A dispatch from Oroville, of the same date, has the following:

"The river is higher here than at any time since the spring of 1853, and is within five feet of high water mark, and rising rapidly. About twenty buildings, including stables, situated on the bar, have been swept away, and considerable damage done to other property. The ferry-house, when carried away, caught and broke the telegraph wire, since which time the poles across the bar have been swept away. The boom at the saw mill gave way, and a large quantity of saw-logs were carried off. It is impossible to cross the river in a small boat. All the ferry ropes are broken, and communication with the upper country is entirely cut off. From present indication, the water will reach Montgomery street by to-morrow morning, being the highest point ever known to have reached."

Marysville was completely inundated, the water rising to a greater height than ever before known. From early on Sunday morning till Monday night, the Feather and Yuba rivers, at the junction of which Marysville is situated, rose at the rate of one foot an hour. On Monday morning, before daylight, the Merchant's Hotel and a block of buildings, in which were several stores, were washed away by the flood. The Express says the whole country around Marysville was submerged. The steamboat Defiance was chartered by the Mayor on Monday, for the relief of the occupants of the different ranches and buildings, and she steamed for miles up the sloughs and over the plains in every direction, rescuing many on her errand of mercy. Three men were taken from a tree, who were surrounded by some twelve feet of water, boiling and surging beneath them. Women and helpless children were taken from second story windows, and even from tottering housetops. Hundreds of families lost everything they possessed, stock, clothing, furniture, and houses, and were left entirely destitute.

As the flood swept over the country without warning, amidst the violent storm and total darkness of night, many lives were lost.

Many small tenements, such as were occupied by Chinamen, small farmers and miners, passed down under the Yuba river bridge on Sunday night, and horses, cattle, and hogs, etc., innumerable. Hundreds of ranches were swept of all their stock, and their crops ruined.

The loss of property is said to have been immense, as all the towns on the river were flooded. The steamer Governor San, passing down on Tuesday, left the river at Marysville as reported, and crossed the plain a direct line to the town of Eliza, although the water had then subsided some four feet.

The Sacramento Union gives a lengthy account of the flood and of the destruction of life and property occasioned by it at Sacramento and vicinity, commencing with a description of the levees that entirely surround the city, and then says:

"At dusk on Sunday, November 8th, the American and Sacramento rivers had risen to a point about 18 feet above low water mark—a point never before attained so early in the season. At about 8 o'clock on Monday morning, it was announced that the levee had given away on the eastern boundary of the city, and that that portion of the city was being rapidly flooded. The report was treated by many, at first, as an idle rumor, but within an hour the fact became generally known that an immense volume of water was steadily advancing from the direction indicated. During the night the water had overflowed and broken down the levee of the American river east of the City Laundry, and had flooded a large area of country southward from that point. An immense volume of water collected in the angle north of Poverty Ridge, and east of the levee which runs diagonally from R and Seventeenth streets to the vicinity of Satter Fort. The water commenced to come through the openings of this levee before 6 o'clock, in the morning, but as the progress of the current was entirely checked by the embankment of the R street railroad, such a mass accumulated in the angle and along the line of the eastern levee that at about eight o'clock it commenced to flow over the top nearly all along the line from R street and the fort, and at various points north of the fort. All the streets south of J were flooded by 9 o'clock as far west as Eleventh and Twelfth streets, and many of them as far as Ninth and Tenth streets. The tendency of the destructive current seemed to be along the southern section of the city—the R street levee damming it up and preventing its natural flow towards Sutterville. Residents of that section of the city, even when notified by their friends, seemed unable to realize their danger until their houses were surrounded by a rapidly rising current.

Before 9 o'clock many women and children in one-story houses were entirely surrounded and hemmed in east of Eleventh and Twelfth streets, and in many instances their calls for assistance were distressing. There were at that hour brought into service, and the only means of transporting this class to dry land,