

REMARKS

By Pres. Heber C. Kimball, Bowery, May 31, 1857.

[REPORTED BY GEO. D. WATT.]

Br. Brigham has expressed my feelings in regard to our journey to Salmon river, so far as he has spoken upon that subject. The trip was considerably fatiguing, for our travel averaged nearly two hundred miles a week, which left but little time to rest only when our animals were eating. Yesterday and the day before I felt sick, and I told Br. Brigham that I felt as though I was sore and afflicted from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet. That expression conveys an idea of my physical feelings and still I have recruited, for I am now eight pounds heavier than I was when I went away.

As for the country north, I am satisfied with it, for were we to go a great way beyond where we were, it would not be an easy job to touch us, for we got pretty nearly to the end, and there was no way to get further with wagons, but by crossing the Rocky Mountains to some of the head waters of the Missouri. But with all the poor country I have seen during our journey, much of it is far beyond that part of Vermont in which I was raised until I was eleven years of age, and had I always remained there I never should have personally known but what it was a beautiful country, for people are prone to think that the regions they are brought up in are the most beautiful in the world. I have been back there twice, and have never found in all my travels through these mountains so rough a country as where I was born, and I presume it was so where Br. Brigham and Joseph Smith and many more of the Elders of the House of Israel were born; they came from a rough, hard country.

After receiving the gospel the Lord has so ordered it that we have come to where he has led us, because at present there was no other place. We have come into the mountains to become inured to hardship, privation and want, and to raise up a posterity that will become hard, substantial men to bear off this kingdom to every nation and kingdom upon the face of the earth. That is why it is so, and I am thankful. I would not change these mountains for any portion of the earth I ever beheld, until God has accomplished his designs with us here. When he has done this and when we have overcome and kept his commandments, these mountains and these valleys are ours and all the earth in the four quarters thereof and we can go and come at our pleasure, and that day is not a great way off, for many generations will not pass away before that time will come.

I do not fear the world; we are here in the mountains and in the valleys and are as secure here as though we were in heaven, because if we were there and did not keep the commandments we would have to suffer the consequences. When Lucifer sinned against God and his commandments he was cast out, with all those that sustained and upheld him in his rebellious course. Many suppose that when they get to heaven they can sit down upon flowery beds of ease and have nothing to do, I never expect that day. It is just so with a great many when they come here, they suppose that everything is going to be prepared for them, they suppose that they will sit down in ease and eat and drink and wear, and that there will be no person to trouble them. We have come here to become inured to work, to build temples and improve upon the elements that God has placed around us, that we may become more skilful on to-morrow through the experience of to-day. What I do not do to-day when the sun goes down I lay down to sleep, which is typical of death, and in the morning I rise and commence my work where I left it yesterday. That course is typical of the probation we take. But suppose that I do not improve my time to-day, I wake up to-morrow and find myself in the rear, and then if I do not improve upon that day and again lay down to sleep on awaking I find myself still in the rear. This day's work is typical of this probation, and the sleep of every night is typical of death, and rising in the morning is typical of the resurrection. They are days' labors, and it is for us to be faithful to-day, to-morrow, and every day.

Brethren, this is the course we have to take; it is a progressive work from one day to another and from one week to another, and if we advance this year we are so far advanced in preparation to better go through the next year. If I have one thousand bushels of wheat laid up this year, can you not understand that I am better qualified to lay up two thousand bushels during the next year? And then in the succeeding year I am better prepared to add four thousand bushels to my amount on hand, and then eight thousand, and so on.

My feelings are for us to wake up as a people, every one of us, and instead of taking a course to throw away our substance let us gather together, for so sure as this people will do this they will be blessed, and God will hold the nations by the bit as you hold a horse. If we are faithful, he will do it, mark my words. God will hold the world by the bit, and they cannot help themselves. If we will do right from this time henceforth they never can move or take a step against us but what they will fail in it, and I know it. It is for us to do right, to walk humbly and keep the commandments of God, repent where we have done wrong and do wrong no more.

There never was a time when the devil will work harder with this people than now. He will work with men and women and try to stir up contention in this church, and you have got to guard against it with all your hearts. As Br. Brigham has mentioned, there never was a time when the devil will work harder to destroy this people than now, and it is for every man and woman and child to wake up and live their religion and serve their God. Now is the time. Is it a good time? I never saw a better time since I was on the earth than I see to-day. I never saw this people so prosper-

ous, and I never saw the earth with such a carpet upon it as it has this year. In all the lands I ever traveled, I never saw such wheat and oats and barley as are now growing from here to Bear river, and they say it is so in the south, in the east, and in the west. And at Limbi the crops look promising. They have sowed 125 bushels of wheat and other grain at Salmon river.

Everything is flourishing, but how easy God can clip it, even now. He can send the grasshoppers and make a perfect desolation of this year's crop as easily as I can throw this book lid over. Why? Because he rules in the armies of heaven and controls the affairs of this earth according to his own pleasure, and the world know it not. He sends angels and ministering spirits to transact his business, upon the same principle that Br. Brigham sends his brethren to England, Denmark, the States and this way and that. He sits upon his throne and says, Joseph, go and do that; Peter, attend to that, and they do it. This is a natural principle there just as much as here, though the people cannot realize it so sensibly. He sends his Elders and delegates, as we sent Br. Geo. A. Smith and Br. Bernhisel and Br. John Taylor. Br. Brigham did not go, but his authority accompanied those brethren, also the power of God who controls him. If I should tell one of my wives to go to Box Elder and transact business for me, she has more authority in that matter than any king upon his throne, or the President of the United States. Why? Because she goes in my authority.

I go in Br. Brigham's authority, which is the authority of God. What power you have all got, so far as you are faithful. I have heard Br. Brigham say that a Bishop now has more influence over his ward than Joseph had over the church in his day. Joseph could not so thoroughly control the people, for they were wild like bulls; but when he could not make them do what he wanted them to he suffered them to do what they pleased.

I speak of these things by way of encouragement to you, brethren and sisters. You are a good people; I respect you; I have pride in you, when you live your religion, but let us wake up. We have done first rate but we can wake up more and keep waking up and attend to the things you have been told to attend to, and one of them is to lay up stores of corn, wheat, oats, peas, beans, buck wheat and every thing else that can be preserved, for you will see a day when you will want it, and it will be when we shall feel the effects of famine and when the United States have not any food. And inasmuch as we are wise and prudent in this matter we shall have power over them, and they cannot help themselves. And the day will come when the wicked shall not come here to impose upon our good feelings, and for us to nourish them while they are infusing the poison of their corruption in our midst. I have borne and borne that wickedness until I will not bear it any longer. How long have I borne their abuse? For twenty-five years, and the law of the land is that a man is of age when he is 21, and we have served four years beyond that time, free gratis. We are now pretty free, and we will be more free when we are thirty. It will be so, if we will do right.

It takes us all to do right, like the limbs and branches of one tree partaking of the nourishment of the stock to which they belong, and the stock draws its nourishment from the roots. Let us find out the nature of the roots, that we may better understand the trunk and the branches. I have to take the alphabet of salvation with which to learn the first principles of the doctrine of Christ and then, as I progress, I can read all the celestial law by the same letters. We learn the alphabet of the English language, then we learn the spelling book, the reader, the geography, history, and everything by means of the same alphabet.

The first principles of the doctrine of Christ are the alphabet of the celestial law, therefore not leaving the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection. Let us be diligent in keeping the commandments of our God, that we may be saved in his celestial kingdom: Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder Geo. A. Smith, Bowery, May 31, 1857.

[REPORTED BY GEO. D. WATT.]

It is with the greatest pleasure, brethren and sisters, that I have the privilege of beholding your faces, and of hearing the voice, testimony and narrative of our worthy President, Brigham Young. It is not easy for me to find language to describe my feelings and to express my gratitude to my Heavenly Father, and to my brethren and sisters, for the preservation of my life, and for the privilege I enjoy among you on the present occasion.

I went abroad and have been absent a little more than one year and one month to perform a mission which was new to me, depending upon the faith of the Saints and the blessings of the Almighty, that through their faith and my own exertions I might accomplish the work I started out to do; but it came out a good deal like the fishermen in the days of our Savior who toiled all night and caught nothing; still it has been to me a school of experience, as I have had a chance to behold something of the manner, and have observed a little of the principles, the honor and the integrity which rule the actions of the Federal Government of our great and glorious union.

It is generally considered in the world that truth bears away the victory, it was in fact laid down by some of the ancient prophets that such was really the case; things have changed a little now a days, but it is an age of improvement. If a man tells the truth he stands no earthly chance whatever, he has got to lie and mix so much lie with the truth that it will hide it almost entirely, or he cannot receive any credit whatever. So it is to a great extent, and instead of truth governing the world at the present time, lies and falsehood govern it as far as I have observed.

It will be recollected when I left the valley

there was a great scarcity of provisions, we were on half rations, and very frequently not half, we were making the best estimate we could to stretch out flour until harvest, and picking up everything we could to sustain ourselves until the glorious day of harvest should come; such was the case with a great many of us, and those who had provisions were dividing it out to those who had none by the spoonful; if they had a spoonful they divided it, and if they had two they were dividing that; and this condition of affairs was proving to the world that brotherly love and affection existed here unheard of and unknown in the history of mankind, except in Deseret, for a whole people to be so straightened for provisions, and at the same time not a solitary person perish of starvation or want—I say such a thing is unheard of in the history of mankind. When this was fairly commencing I went away. It was understood in the States that we were all starving to death. When I got down there I told them I was as short of provisions as anybody else, and consequently had come down where they had something to eat.

I went away from here weighing 243 pounds at the Tithing Office and not being well fed at that, and falling off considerably during the last year previous to going away.

When I got down to the States where the climate did not agree with my lungs, I spent a good share of the winter in doing some of the tallest coughing of any man living; however, I fattened up considerably and got to be quite a decent looking chap. When I left St. Louis I weighed 260 pounds; I thought I was going home in fine order, but behold and lo! all my Missouri and eastern beef I had gathered shook off on the plains, and I found myself the poor, 'lean,' meagre man you see before you. When I got to the Tithing Office the other day I was about seven pounds lighter than when I went away, and I expect I have made that up since I have got home. My health has greatly improved since I left the Missouri river, with my decreasing weight.

I am very thankful that the Lord has preserved me and returned me again to your midst. The news which you probably have received is unimportant, though you have received very little for the last six months, for you know Uncle Sam is poor and not able to carry his mails and the winter has been very hard, and the circumstances have been such that he could not even send out messages or anything, but the rivers all run the same way they did when I was there before, and they run in about the same direction. Railroad collisions, steamboat accidents, fires and freezing to death are just as common as before and a little more so. And another thing I suppose you will be glad to learn the devil is not dead. [Brigham Young: I feel thankful for that.]

A great portion of the people have come to the conclusion, after having been a great many years considering the subject over, that we are a very desperate set of fellows out here. Politicians are a little vexed for they do not know what to do with us. They did not admit any Territory into the Union during this session of Congress; though they did grant a permission graciously to 250,000 inhabitants residing in the Territory of Minnesota to make a constitution.

I have looked on and taken items, thought and reflected, saw how it was going, waiting for an opportunity. You know it was a very modest mission I went down on; I went to Washington to ask permission to enter the Union, and I did not want to go in until I saw a fair chance; I hated to ask and be refused admission. I have rejoiced very much at every particle of news that I could receive from the mountains. I received letters from President Young and others three, four, and sometimes six months after they were written; when they did arrive they afforded me a great deal of pleasure and were a source of rejoicing, especially to learn that the Saints were waking up.

On my way here with the mail I had the additional cause of rejoicing in beholding that a great many sick persons—persons whose lives had been dreadfully in danger—had been lucky enough to escape, and by escaping the narrow chance of a hundred thousand deaths, have been enabled to travel to some peaceable land where they expect to enjoy themselves. But I must say from the little observation I had of them they were a sickly crowd, and when they had an opportunity they vomited freely, and by that process would be able probably to keep along until they got down to the Missouri river.

But we understand they are not agreed. A part of the party would relate their narrow escape, their hair's breadth deliverance, and the other part would pronounce it all a lie, not a word of truth in it; one end of the party would contradict what the other end of it would affirm. If I ever desired anything on the earth with all my heart since I came to these valleys, it was that the Lord would gather out of our midst all those that offend. Every time I met a party I felt like shouting 'Glory, hallelujah.' The work I saw was going on, and I felt to rejoice.

I did not go to Washington putting my trust in man, neither do I come home putting my trust in man; the Almighty God is at the helm; he rules his people, he governs and controls all men, and he can restrain the wicked at his pleasure, but let me tell you if the designs of the spirit of the devil that reigns in the hearts of the wicked against us, prompting them to our destruction, could be executed we would be exterminated from the face of the earth, but God limits their power, and as long as they cannot gratify their whole desires, just so long they may rage and foam, but if you put any trust whatever in man, if you rely on the arm of man to protect you, you will be disappointed. What protection have we ever had from the day we commenced to preach the gospel to the present day? We expect nothing but the arm of the Almighty to protect his people; let us therefore put our trust in him and just let the devil howl.

I had a little serious conversation with Captain Smith at Fort Kearney. The very gentlemanly commander of that fort, Major Wharton, had

nearly lost his eye sight principally by watching for the hostile Cheyenne Indians through the spy glass, and Captain Smith was acting commander. I enquired what is the condition of the dragoons stationed there? He replied they had about fifty horses but their hoofs had come off. How many have you that can do efficient service if called upon? He said they had about ten or twelve in good condition, but fresh horses were expected.

The company of hand cart Elders were an astonishment to everybody that saw them. The traders on the road say that mules are no where by the side of them. I never saw such a pretty sight in my life. We had a meeting with them on Horse-shoe creek, and a better set of men I never saw, and men that were old when I was a boy were as active as boys rolling on with their hand carts, singing and rejoicing.

Perhaps when I get some other opportunity I may feel free without intruding on the time of others to speak more particularly on the things that pertained to my mission. May the Lord bless us and enable us to live righteously and soberly, and rise with the Star of the Morning and enjoy eternal glory is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

THE DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.
GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10.

EXCURSION TO FORT LIMBI.

His Excellency, Governor Young, Presidents Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells and Elders Orson Hyde and Franklin D. Richards with several others left this city on Friday, the 24th of April, to visit the settlement on Salmon river, to rest their minds, to invigorate their bodies, and to examine the intermediate country. The company reached Brigham City on the afternoon of the 25th, attended meeting there during the forenoon of Sunday, the 26th, were joined by Elder L. Snow and others of that city and several from Ogden City, East Ogden and Willow Creek, and in the afternoon passed on to Bear River ferry, crossed over, camped on the right bank and organized by unanimously electing Pres. B. Young, H. C. Kimball and D. H. Wells, Presidents of the company; Elders O. Hyde, F. D. Richards and L. Snow, Chaplains; Robert T. Burton, Captain; J. C. Little, Marshal; Warren S. Snow, Sergeant of the Guard; A. Carrington, Jesse W. Fox and T. D. Brown, Engineers; J. W. Cummings and T. D. Brown, Clerks; with a Captain to each of the five tens. The organized company comprised 115 men, 22 women and 5 boys, with 168 horses and mules, 54 wagons and carriages, and 2 light boats with decking planks for ferrying.

On the 27th and 28th the general course was a little west of North, up Bear river to the ford then deflecting westerly into Malad valley, which opens onto Bear river, and up that valley, crossing several small tributaries to the Malad, also its left hand fork, and camping on the 28th near the head spring of the right hand branch of the right fork of the Malad where the Hudspeth cut-off in the California road crosses. The Malad valley, from its southern extremity to the cross range of mountains between the main right and left forks, has a varying width of from 4 to 10 miles, has a generally fertile soil, a surface peculiarly well adapted to irrigation, is well grassed, tolerably well watered, rather scantily supplied with fuel and timber, and is bounded on the East and West by ranges of low mountains, the points and peaks of the western range being smoothly rounded and covered with grass nearly to their summits. Taken together it is much the best locality for settlement of any observed on the route beyond Bear river.

From the junction with the Hudspeth cut-off the new track made by the settlers in going to Limbi leads northwesterly, and by a smooth, somewhat winding and gradual ascent in about six miles reaches the summit of the northern rim of the Basin, 133.4 miles from G. S. L. City. From this point the descent is rather rapid down the crest of a narrow and rocky spur ridge into Bannack valley, which has a general course N 10 W, averages about four miles wide, is tolerably well grassed in some portions, very sparsely timbered, opens onto Shanghi Plain, (the great desert region surrounding the Three Buttes) and is bounded on the east by the Basin rim and its spur ranges and on the west by a rugged range which blends with the Goose Creek mountains. The Bannack is a small stream with a sluggish current until it is joined by its right hand fork which considerably increases the volume and speed, after which it soon enters the Plain and runs a more westerly course in a narrow, steep-