

REMARKS

By President Brigham Young, on Monday, Dec. 2, 1867, at the opening of the High School, established by the Chancellor and Regents of the University of Deseret.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

The morning is damp, and our room not very comfortable, and it is likely our exercises will be short. The Bishops and leading men of the city should all have been present.

In the early part of the year 1832, I think in January, Brother Joseph Smith, the prophet, commenced a school, denominated the "School of the Prophets." It was so called, because it was expressly designed for the education of the Elders of Israel in the science of theology, and the design was to connect with this branch every other branch of useful learning. The circumstances which led to the bringing forth of the Word of Wisdom took place in that School of the Prophets. Brother Joseph Smith had a small room over his kitchen, which, if I recollect aright was about ten feet by fifteen, where he held the school. The members of the school were in the habit of using tobacco extensively, which became very offensive. The prophet began to reflect on this disagreeable habit of the Elders, and sometime after, how long I know not, he inquired of the Lord, and the "Word of Wisdom" was given. I was not present at that school, but I was conversant with many who were. That school broke up, as high as my memory serves me, in the latter part of February, or the beginning of March following.

We now propose starting a school which will embrace every department of a useful and practical education. It will be dictated and controlled by the Chancellor and Regents of the University of Deseret, the whole being under the guidance of the Holy Priesthood; and hence, it may properly be called the "School of the Prophets." Our school will commence in this house, and it will grow and multiply its departments as our facilities, or room for classes shall increase, for the education of the old, of the middle-aged and of the youth. I expect through the faithful exertions of the brethren, and the blessings of heaven, this institution will be greatly prospered. We should improve our minds in the knowledge of all truth that is now known to the children of men, and constantly seek in addition to this, wisdom that comes from God.

This is not a common and unimportant meeting. I expect to see nothing in this school that will be contrary to the most refined attainments. We have met to establish a school for the Elders of Israel, that they may be instructed in the things of the Kingdom of God. We expect this school to continue and extend until our faith and union are one. I am not a learned man, after the learning of this world, although I am not ignorant of the nature of the learning that should be disseminated among the human family. An education in mathematics, philosophy, and the sciences is incomplete without the knowledge of man, the design of his creation, and the object of his Creator in fitting the earth for his habitation, as it was, as it is, and as it will be. The first lesson for the Elders of Israel should be the study of themselves, and to learn God; for to know God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, is eternal life; and then to learn how to apply our lives constantly and faithfully to His service and requirements, which will result in leading us back into His presence; for this is in reality the great object and purpose of man's existence here. From this great leading branch of a true education grow all truths in science and in art, which pertain to the world we inhabit and to the animate and inanimate substances which compose its fullness.

From the different classes in this school, persons will be selected to form a class to be instructed in theology, that we may learn to be of one heart and of one mind, both the teachers and the scholars. The First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the Twelve Apostles will be scholars as well as professors in this high school, learning first to know the mind and will of God, and then to distribute this knowledge freely to those who are capable of receiving it, that the students may be educated in theology or the science of life—of life that was, that is, and that is to come. As soon as practicable, every branch of learning essential to the attainment of a complete and finished education, will be introduced into this school. Elder David O. Calder has been assigned

the preceptorship of the mercantile branch of education in this college. He will commence at once to give lessons in the different branches of this department of learning, viz. Book-keeping, Commercial Calculations, Penmanship, Business Correspondence, Commercial and International Law, Banking, Insurance, Exchange, Brokerage, Commission, Jobbing, Forwarding, Railroad, Expressing, Telegraphing, Phonography and Post Office. Other branches will be introduced as the school enlarges and the facilities for teaching increase, among which we may name Geology, Chemistry, Languages, the science of Physic, or the healing art, which will lead into the study of Natural Philosophy, Botany, Anatomy, Surgery, etc., to a knowledge of the nature and functions of every part of the human system, the causes and character of disease and the remedies to be applied. There are very few indeed, if any, who know how to administer proper remedies to the sick, for the effectual destruction of disease, and the restoration of sound health, unless they are instructed by revelation from God. Some will, doubtless, have time and patience to enter into and continue the study of the advanced branches of Mathematics; but the more common, and generally useful branches of education, will be taught in this school, and we more particularly call the attention of the elders to these. While we are thus engaged in the pursuit of this class of knowledge we will still continue our practical lessons in agriculture, and horticulture, and in the development of the beauties of the floral kingdom; increasing the qualities of our meat-bearing animals, taking advantage of the experience of others, and improving upon all the blessings which our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us. All these different branches of education, which will be introduced into this School of the Prophets, will be at all times under the supervision of the Priesthood, which, under the Almighty, stands at the head of all things.

In the school particularly devoted to the Elders of Israel I shall invite the Bishops, and select others from the Elders to fill the class. There are but few of the Elders in attendance this morning. They very likely think that it is a matter of no great importance, and education is but a dry subject anyhow, and the morning is wet and the roads muddy. Allow me to say that there are very few of the Elders in this room who have eyes to see the importance of this little meeting and the mighty results to which it will lead. We are not awake to this matter as we ought to be, and as I trust ere long we shall be. If we were I do not hesitate to say that we would soon be prepared to go back to Jackson County to build up the centre stake of Zion, and to receive the fullness of the blessings of the Lord which He will bestow on all those who are worthy. Those who manifest a lively interest in the things of God will be selected for an education to fit them for the great work which will be entrusted to them. We have now got a fair commencement for the attainment of those blessings God has in store for the faithful. The First Presidency and the Twelve are agreed, are one in heart and mind, and are better prepared than ever to perform those great and important duties, that are resting upon us. The salvation of the inhabitants of the earth rests upon the Elders of Israel, to build up the Zion of God in the last days, and the sanctifying of the people. This is the work which is before us, and for us to prepare to perform, that we may be ready to meet the Son of Man at His coming. We have established ourselves in these mountains, and supplied ourselves with the substantial comforts of this life, and it is now time for us to look a little more fervently for the salvation of the human family, and our own perfection. I will close these few remarks and call upon others to address you.

Correspondence.

SPRINGTOWN Nov. 25th, 1867.

Editor Deseret News:—As you will remember, I visited the northern sections of our Territory in September last, with the President of the church, yourself, and many others, and was highly pleased with the various localities through which we passed, likewise with the kind reception with which we every where met; yet I must say that I prefer Sanpete as a grain growing district, and for providing all the staple commodities, to any section that we visited; and I suppose that all our presiding officers, would, probably, express a similar preference to their own districts. This

would prove that all are satisfied with their lot.

For the last three years, Sanpete has borne a heavy burden,—has suffered many thousands of dollars loss in stock, besides many valuable lives, which we more regret than all other losses and troubles. Our expenses during the last season will overreach one hundred thousand dollars. From one third to me half of our men only have been permitted to labor in the field at the same time; the balance have been employed in military duty, detached service, &c., to guard against Indian raids and to protect our stock; and I do not think any people can be found who would bear these tasks with less murmuring and complaint than the people here have done.

For some other States and Territories the Government has supplied arms and ammunition, provisions, &c., for the soldiers, and paid them for their services; but we have armed and equipped our own men, and have all been subject to roll-call every morning at sunrise during the whole season; have eaten our own grub, fought our own battles and paid our own soldiers. This has been a heavy draft upon our resources; added to which we have had our county and territorial taxes to meet, the hauling in of three hundred loads of freight from the upper Sevier, and the furnishing of seventy-five horsemen as a guard for about three weeks time just at the beginning of our seeding. But, notwithstanding all this, if we can even now have peace we will in a short time recover, for, as the wound in a young and thrifty tree is soon healed over, so, by the blessing of peace, and the favor of heaven, Sanpete, in a short time will regain her standing financially; and increase and improvement again cheer the hearts of a people oppressed by a cruel foe for the last three years; and her troubles be numbered with the things that are past. Heaven grant that this may be the case!

Why is it that savages, civilized and so called enlightened tribes and nations, contrive every scheme in their power to destroy the Saints of God? I can answer the question but in one way—If I were living in a stately mansion with surroundings corresponding in style and extent with my place of abode, with all the appendages and paraphernalia of an earthly prince, and should see a poor boy without home and friends,—an outcast and forlorn, whose presence and actions inspired me with the secret belief that he was the real heir to all my vast estate, and, that if let alone, and permitted to gain friends, he would eventually dispossess me and obtain the estate; and if I were a selfish man, possessing the spirit of this world regardless of justice and right, would I not naturally heap upon the poor boy all the odium in my power, and would I not exert myself to the utmost to forestall any favors that might otherwise be extended to him.

No person, whose history has reached us, was a greater unbeliever in the mission of Christ into the world, than Herod; yet at the birth of this distinguished personage, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Why was he troubled? because he was impressed with a secret power or influence that He was the heir, hence in his stubborn unbelief he caused the murder of all the male children in the region, with the hope that thereby the Son of the virgin might be destroyed. This secret conviction of that ungodly ruler that Jesus was the Christ, was inspired in him, by the Spirit of the Lord, but in his pride, he rejected those convictions and proceeded to his murderous deeds; and ere long he justly fell a victim to the wrath of God.

After sending a succession of prophets to the people, who were all slain by them, the Lord said, "What more could I have done for my vineyard, than I have done?" but he continued and said, "I have one Son, an only Son, I will send him, and it may be they will reverence my Son, but when the husbandmen saw him, they said, this is the heir, let us kill him and seize upon the inheritance." The question now arises, how did they know that he was the heir? By the same secret conviction that was in the breast of Herod, in the breast of Pontius Pilate, and in the breasts of the murderous Jews; and what is this secret influence that begets conviction? Christ was the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world; even His Spirit that knocketh at the door of every heart and beseeches admission. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not, or rather the world would not know Him, because they chose darkness rather than light,—"ye will not come unto me that ye might have life." And so it is with

this generation: they hate the "Mormons," while they are secretly fearful that they are the agents of the Almighty; they know that we are the heir, and hence their desire to cast upon us every odium in their power, and to forestall any favors that might otherwise be extended to us. They claim polygamy as one ground of their opposition to, and hatred of us; another reason they urge for their desire to destroy us, is our alleged opposition to the Government of the country. These are very plausible pretenses for enacting laws against us; but in reality, those who urge them most strongly care no more about them than I care about an Indian pow-wow. This is clearly proven by the corrupt and lewd actions of our would be wise men, of which they are guilty secretly and openly. Yet their popularity defies interference, and there is not virtue and integrity enough left in the Government, neither moral courage, to enact any laws against them; and if the "Mormons" denounced the Government with half the violence that many of our politicians do, there might be some cause of proceeding against us. But although we are outcasts, despised and hated, and compelled to bear the odium of a jealous and unbelieving world; the poor boy will succeed to the inheritance despite all the opposition of the world; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it; the kingdom and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens shall be given to the people of the saints of the most high, and by fires, floods and famine; by wars, pestilences, and earthquakes; by thunder and lightnings and by tempests, will the Lord plead with all nations, even unto utter destruction, if they cease not their hostility to the saints of the Most High God: even so Amen.

ORSON HYDE.

AN EXTINCT RACE.—One of the most remarkable races that ever inhabited the earth is now extinct. They were known as the Gaunches and were the aborigines of the Canary Islands.

In the sixteenth century, pestilence, slavery, and the cruelty of the Spaniards succeeded in totally exterminating them. They are described as having been gigantic in stature, but of a singularly mild and gentle nature. Their food consisted of barley, wheat, and goat's milk; and their agriculture was of the rudest kind. They had a religion which taught them of a future state of rewards and punishments after death and of good and evil spirits. They regarded the volcano of Teneriffe as a punishment for the bad. The bodies of their dead were carefully embalmed and deposited in catacombs, which still continue to be an object of curiosity to those who visit the island. Their marriage rites were very solemn, and before engaging in them, the brides were fattened on milk. At the present day these strange people are totally extinct.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER, 1867.

First Quarter, 4th day, 2h. 52m. A.M.

Full Moon, 11th day, 4h. 41m. A.M.

Last Quarter, 17th day, 8h. 5m. P.M.

New Moon, 25th day, 4h. 10m. P.M.

Perigee 12d. 7h. A.M. Apogee 27d. 1h. P.M.

D	M	W	Th	F	S	S	Signification of Signs.	Sun Rises.	Sun Sets.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		h m	h m
1	S	10	29				Legs & Ankles	7 54	434
2	M	22	20					7 6	433
3	T	4	21				Feet & Toes	7 7	433
4	W	16	34					7 8	433
5	T	29	08					7 9	432
6	F	12	7	5			Head and Face	7 10	432
7	S	25	30					7 11	432
8	S	9	26				Neck & Throat	7 12	432
9	M	23	50					7 13	432
10	T	8	37				Arms, Should'rs	7 14	432
11	W	23	41					7 15	432
12	T	8	50				Breast, Stomach	7 16	432
13	F	23	55					7 17	433
14	S	8	47				Heart & Back	7 16	433
15	S	23	19					7 17	433
16	M	7	28				Bowels & Belly	7 18	433
17	T	21	1					7 18	433
18	W	4	36				Reins & Loins	7 19	434
19	T	17	40					7 20	434
20	F	0	27				Secret Members	7 21	435
21	S	13	0					7 21	435
22	S	25	23					7 21	436
23	M	7	37				Hips & Thighs	7 22	437
24	T	19	43					7 22	437
25	W	1	42				Knees & Hams	7 23	438
26	T	13	37					7 23	439
27	F	25	27					7 23	439
28	S	7	16				Legs & Ankles	7 23	440
29	S	19	05					7 24	440
30	M	0	57				Feet & Toes	7 24	441
31	T	12	57					7 24	442