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[For the Deseret News.]  
THE FOLLOWING LINES ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO THE MISSIONARIES OF 1863, FROM G. S. L. CITY TO EUROPE.

[BY E. B. S.]

Go forth, ye sons of Zion, go,  
And in your lives, truth's saving precepts show.  
Should a sinful snare for your feet be spread,  
Fly—fly with the speed of the lightning's tread—  
Haste—haste from the track where the scorpion lies—  
Approach not the den where the adder lies.

With promptness of returning day,  
Here, thousands, when you're far away,  
With heart—with faith and purpose, fixed and true,  
Will bend the knee, and pray to God for you.

With wisdom, the secret of conquest lies;  
Be pure and be humble—be just and wise;  
And you'll walk in the light which salvation spreads,  
And bright garlands of honor will crown your heads.

Great Salt Lake City, April, 1863.

## REMARKS

By Elder EZRA T. BENSON, Bowery, Monday afternoon, April 6, 1863.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

I feel thankful for the opportunity of meeting in conference, for I feel that thereby I may be posted and instructed in those principles that are necessary to qualify us in the building up of the kingdom. I need not say that we are a blessed people, for we all know it, and to some extent we realize it. At least I can say for one, or in other words I can speak for myself. So far as I am concerned, I can realize, and I fully believe more than ever I have since I joined the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, that God our Heavenly Father is with this people, and that His hand is over us to preserve us all the day long; and as Saints of the Most High we ought to be grateful to the Giver of all good for the many tokens of His beneficent care.

If we inquire after the welfare of the Latter Day Saints, we are told that all is peace and quietness. How did we come by these glorious principles of life and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost? Where did they emanate from? They came from God our Heavenly Father, by embracing the gospel of Jesus Christ, in faith and in sincerity. And our testimony to this effect has been felt from the rivers to the ends of the earth. And by carrying out these principles the gospel has brought thousands into these valleys.

There is no necessity for the work of the Lord to stop in its present condition and circumstances. Why so? Simply because the kingdom of God as an organized body is just like the introduction of the doctrine of plurality of wives, it has got a first rate good start, and I know that the devil and all the emissaries from the infernal region cannot stop it. The devil don't like it, but he cannot help himself, for the work of God will roll on as long as there is an opposing power upon the earth, and then it will continue to spread after every species of opposition is banished from the earth.

The church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has been organized thirty-three years to-day, and according to the success and spread of the gospel of the Son of God at the time when it was first presented to the human family, if we may judge comparatively, it will not take thirty-three years more to redeem Zion and to usher in that reign of righteousness and peace which we all anticipate, and for which we all pray most devoutly.

In the days of Jesus, there was just as much opposition as there is to-day; then the work had just commenced—it was in its infancy, and did not God our Heavenly Father bear off His kingdom then? He certainly maintained it till he saw that the priesthood could no longer remain upon the earth. He did then and He bears it off to-day and will so continue until His kingdom triumphs, and those who get under the wheel will be crushed to powder.

My testimony is, that this is the work of God, that it emanated from the Father of light, and I know that it will roll forth and prosper until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. I know that God is able to make the wrath of man praise Him, just the same now as He was in the days of the prophets of old.

Who can frustrate the work of God? It is written, "The wisdom of the wise shall perish and the understanding of the prudent shall be hid." It is verily so in this age and generation; for we see the Elders of Israel going forth without purse and without scrip, preaching by the power of God the peaceable things of the kingdom to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and they confound the gainsayer and put to silence the fault-finder. Then, when I see the wisdom that is displayed through the ministers of this church I ask myself the question are we doing our duty as Saints? Because if we are not, it is time we were waking up to a sense of our obligations to the Almighty and to His cause.

I am fully satisfied that we are the happiest people upon the face of the earth, and it has been brought about by our union and by our faith in God; but have we been doing the best we could to live our religion, according to the best light and knowledge we have possessed? If we have, we have within us the satisfaction of having done our duty.

Now, the order is to call a number of missionaries to go to the European nations, and we are selecting our young men, the sons of the Apostles and Elders of Israel, so as to give them an experience in preaching the words of life, and that they may feel their dependence upon God our Heavenly Father. These young men are going to gather the people home to Zion that they may enjoy the society of their brethren and friends here in the valley of Ephraim, and participate in the blessings of that counsel that is so liberally imparted unto us by our leaders.

We have come here to build temples and tabernacles for the purpose of worshipping our God therein, and if we do not do these things we shall fall short of accomplishing that great work that is laid upon us to perform. Then, I say let us build temples, let us gather up our teams and send for the poor and thereby accomplish the work that God has set on foot in this our day. Notwithstanding we are weak creatures yet we can do something in the rolling forth of the kingdom of God. I wish a great many times that I could do a great deal better than I do, but at any rate I can say that I am trying with all my soul to combat the powers of darkness, and I intend to out-general the common adversary of our souls. Supposing we are united as the heart of one man, then what have we to do with the world? A great many think that we want to fight the world, but I tell you it is all nonsense, excepting so far as that spiritual warfare is concerned, in which we are all engaged more or less. Our enemies imagine that we want to wage war with them, but they are greatly mistaken, for we are only at war with their corruption, with their meanness and their degraded conduct. We are upward, and we have taken steps forward in the kingdom of God, advancing from one degree of light to another, and the world are mad about it, but we cannot help that, our business is to serve God and keep His commandments, and therefore we should endeavor to walk uprightly, remembering that the promise is, "I will not withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly."

Do we expect to realize afulness of these blessings to-day. No, but we expect to realize some of them, a little to-day and a little more to-morrow, and thus go on from step to step and from grace to grace until we find ourselves safely landed back in the presence of our Father in heaven. As regards preaching to this people and gathering up the poor from other lands, I can truly say that I have never seen a time in my experience when there was such a willing spirit in Israel as there is at the present time. I can truly say that we have raised the fifty-three teams this year just as easy as we did the thirty last year, and there is quite a difference between thirty and fifty three. And I feel that this people will be more blessed in their fields, in their teams, in all their stock and in their labor of every kind than they were last year. Did we miss our teams last year? We might miss them from our sight, but the Lord so abundantly blessed us that we scarcely ever heard them mentioned: everything moved on harmoniously during the entire season. The Lord blessed the seed that we put into the ground; He watered the earth from the heavens, and the Saints of God felt amply rewarded for their labors to help to build up the kingdom of God.

Though many may have felt a little faint-hearted because of the war cloud that has hung over us, but which has now burst without doing anybody any harm, yet I feel to say that if we go to war it will be in self-defence, but at present there is no danger of any serious trouble. We delight not in the shedding of blood, and my testimony before High Heaven, before this people and before the nations of the earth is that we are for peace, and we intend to have it, if we have to fight for it. You know it may be possible that a man may have to fight for his religion. This may seem strange, but if a man has got wives, children,

flocks, herds, and priesthood and gifts from God, and would not fight for them, I would not give much for him. I say we will fight like the angels of heaven, and we will call upon our Father in the heavens, upon Jesus Christ, upon the prophets and upon the spirits of just men that have perfected themselves in the gospel of the Son of God, and then by their help we will win every time, and the devil knows it. Is this boasting? No, not one particle, but if we do boast we boast in our God, and in those liberal principles which our Father has revealed unto us.

Brethren, let us attend to our duties, and let it ever be uppermost in our hearts to build up the kingdom of God. The promises have and are still being fulfilled. I have seen the wonder working hand of the Almighty ever since I have been in this church, and I have realized, to some extent, when preaching the gospel, that the power of God has accompanied my words. The Lord has sustained his work wherever the Elders have gone forth preaching the gospel, and he will continue to do so; He will feed them and clothe them, and His work will roll forth under the administration of these young men; the blessings of God will go with them. This is my testimony to you young men who are called to go on missions.

Jesus said to his disciples, "If I go away I will send you another comforter, and when he is come he will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment." This spirit will go with these, our young brethren, and it will back up their words when they stand up and bear testimony to the truth. Then let us all try to keep this spirit within us; let us also labor to build temples, tabernacles, and all necessary public buildings; let us labor to gather the poor and then the Lord will bless us in all things; prosperity and peace will attend our every effort to build up God's kingdom on the earth.

May God bless you, brethren and sisters, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW MILITARY POST.

For some time past rumors have been in circulation that it was the intention of Gen. Connor to establish a new military post at or near Soda Spring, in Idaho Territory, this spring, in order to hold the Indians in check in that vicinity; but so many reports of an unreliable character have been going the rounds that it has generally been considered the rumor needed confirmation. The signs of the times seem now to indicate that there was more truth in the reports relative to the establishment of a new post in that region than was at first apprehended.

We have been informed upon good authority, and believe there is no concealment of the fact, that within ten days two companies—one of infantry and one of cavalry—will be detached from Camp Douglas for the purpose of establishing a new post somewhere in that vicinity, having in view the protection of the emigrants from the east to the western and northern gold fields—a much better arrangement than to establish a camp or to build a fort, from one to two hundred miles distant from the country or haunts of the hostile bands who have been committing depredations and murdering the emigrants passing that way for many years.

There is another splendid scheme, as understood, connected with the arrangement which, if carried out, will be of inestimable benefit, and that is the colonizing of all the scape-graces at and about Camp Douglas, including the recipients of Gov. Harding's executive clemency, their associates and sympathizers in this and the northern counties, at and around the post to be established, for the purpose of building a city, opening farms and developing the agricultural and other resources of the country. It is said, too, with how much truth we know not, that the colonists will be provided with a suitable outfit by the government and receive provisions or rations to last them a year, after their arrival at the destined place, which will, if so, be a very liberal arrangement considering the depleted condition of the National Treasury.

Superintendent Doty is also preparing to accompany the expedition, with the intention, as we have been informed, of establishing his

headquarters at that point. The Idaho country, however, has not heretofore been included in the Utah Superintendency.

## RAIN AND SNOW STORMS.

On the evening of Tuesday the 21st it commenced raining and continued somewhat moderately till after midnight, when the storm increased and became violent, the water literally pouring down till morning without cessation. It was the greatest fall of rain experienced this spring in this valley; and we believe the most general, as the storm extended to all the adjoining valleys. During Wednesday storm—clouds hung over and enveloped the Wasatch mountains much of the day. On Wednesday night it rained considerably, the water continuing to come down copiously till about seven o'clock on Thursday morning, when it gave place to snow, which soon mantled the earth and all things exposed to the storm with a thick and heavy white covering, giving to peach, apple and other fruit trees in full bloom a very picturesque appearance. Fortunately but little or no damage was done to the trees by breaking them down, and the fruit was not materially injured. The storm subsided before noon and the sun shone out warmly at intervals during the remainder of the day. It was more or less cloudy during Thursday night preventing frost, which otherwise would have been severe, as the weather was cold after nightfall. It was stormy in the mountains east and west, more or less during Friday and Saturday, and some little rain fell in the valley. Since Sunday morning the weather has been delightful.

## EXPORTATION OF COTTON.

By the Church and other teams going to the States several tons of cotton, grown in Deseret, will be taken East where it commands, at present, a much higher price than here, rendering exportation profitable. It is somewhat remarkable that, even in the infancy of the cotton growing business, the exportation of the raw material should attract the attention of men engaged in mercantile pursuits, whose sole aim is profit, buying where they can the cheapest and selling where they can obtain the best prices. By the exporting operation a new impetus will be given to the cotton growing enterprise, as most of the cotton in market has been bought up for that purpose; and the probabilities are, that by the time the Pacific railroad shall be completed, large quantities of cotton, tobacco and other products of these valleys will be produced for exportation to the countries where a demand may be created by the operations of war, if peace shall continue to be enjoyed by the Deseretans.

## ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT NEEDED.

The construction of levees to confine the waters of the Jordan within proper limits has been carried on by interested parties to a great extent this spring, and much valuable land on both sides of the river has been rendered arable which was before covered with water. There is another embankment needed badly, as we are informed, on the west side of the stream, at a place known as the Point of the Willows, a few miles below the lower bridge, which will, as we are informed, cost only about four hundred dollars. It is said that a levee about thirty five rods in length would prevent the flooding of hundreds of acres of excellent grass land which is now under water, and save many cultivated farms from inundation during the season of high water, which is fast approaching. The work has been, or soon will be commenced, and if those having claims which will be benefitted by the improvement, will come forward and aid, either by labor or means, it can soon be accomplished. Bishop Davis, of the Seventeenth Ward, will have the supervision of the job, to whom those concerned are referred for further information in the premises.