

those blessings that have been necessary for us, when we have asked in faith. What a blessed and glorious privilege is this! When we are in trouble, in the midst of affliction, and harassed by our enemies, we can go unto Him, who is the Author of our being, unto Him who created all things, who has the power to control our enemies, and pour out our souls in prayer and in supplication, and feel that the record has been made, that the incense of our hearts has ascended acceptably unto God, and is treasured up there, and held in remembrance by His Holy Angels in His presence. What a glorious privilege is this that we have, as a people, and as individuals, no matter how bowed down in sorrow, no matter how deep the affliction that may be around us, this is an unfailing source of strength that God has given unto us, and to this may be attributed the wonderful preservations that we have experienced from the beginning.

How diligently our enemies have sought to destroy us, to destroy the Holy Priesthood from the earth and kill the Lord's anointed! How often has it seemed that they were just upon the point of closing upon us, when it seemed that no earthly power that could be exerted could save us from destruction! To whom shall we attribute these wonderful deliverances which we have experienced? Shall we attribute them to mortal power? O, no, we have learned too well how weak and futile is mortal power; but what is it attributable to? To the faith that God has implanted in us through the revelation of the truth unto us. It is attributable to His having rent the veil of darkness that has covered the earth and revealed Himself unto us. It is attributable to His having opened up the channel of communication between Himself and us. Yes, there is a channel of communication between this people, the men and women who compose this people, and the throne of our Father and God; and our prayers have ascended acceptably in His ears, and they have been registered on high, and they will be answered in their time. There never has been a prayer offered up in faith, meekness and humility, from the day this church was founded until now, but has reached the ears of the Lord, and is registered in His presence, and will be fulfilled, sooner or later, upon the earth we inhabit, upon our posterity, and upon the wicked who have afflicted us. Is not this a glorious consolation? Do not your hearts swell with gratitude and thanksgiving to God when you reflect upon this? It has been as a wall of strength surrounding us; it has been greater than the munitions of rocks and the lasting hills that have been reared like a mighty bulwark around our homes. The prayers of the faithful servants of God, which have been exercised from the beginning in behalf of Zion, have been a tower of strength. Shall we call ourselves Latter-day Saints, and fail to appreciate and make a right use of the privileges and blessings which our God has given unto us? If we do, we are unworthy of them; and if we continue to do so, the privileges and the blessings which we may enjoy will be withdrawn from those who do so and given to those who appreciate them, and who are more worthy of them. You may depend upon that, as surely as you may depend that night will come in the course of a few hours when the earth has performed its diurnal revolution.

If I were to ask you to-day, my brethren and sisters, what you would take for your standing and your privileges as Latter-day Saints, is there anything that you could name? Is there anything on earth that would be sufficient in your estimation to induce you to barter off the standing you have in the church of God, and the privileges you enjoy as members of His church? There is nothing. You would say, if the wealth of the world were to be laid at your feet in exchange, you would spurn it as a thing of naught. But Satan does not tempt us in that style; he knows better. He understands our nature more perfectly than this. The experience he has gained in the past has enabled him to understand the best way of approaching the human heart, how he can best beguile us and insidiously lead us astray by temptations that are most affective. If a man who was in the enjoyment of the Spirit of God one year ago had been told that yesterday, on the 7th of October, a trifling temptation would be presented to him of a certain character (and that at the time he would think contemptible) and he would yield to it, he would be astonished; he would scarcely believe it. "What! will I barter the wealth that God has given me, the wealth of the gospel, the wealth of freedom which is contained in it? What!

will I barter the joy, peace and happiness that I now have for so contemptible a temptation as that? Will I do it? No; I will not." Yet the year passes away, and the 7th of October comes to hand, the temptation is presented, and the man who thought himself so impregnable in the truth, and thought that he could not be tempted and seduced from it, falls a victim, and to what? to the wealth of the world? No; but to something that is so truly contemptible, mean and low, that it is a matter of astonishment to everybody who knows him how he could be overcome by it.

By this we see the power of Satan, the knowledge of Satan, and his cunning. He understands the avenues through which he can approach us best; he knows the weaknesses of our character, and we do not know the moment we may be seduced by him, and be overcome and fall victims to him. Our only preservation is in living near to God, day by day, and serving Him in faithfulness, and having the light of revelation and truth in our hearts continually, so that, when Satan approaches, we will see him and understand the snare that he has laid for us, and we will have the power to say; "O no; God being my helper, I will not yield to it; I will not do that which is wrong; I will not grieve the Spirit of God; I will not deviate from the path that my Father has marked out for me; but I will walk in it." Can we do this without the light of the Spirit? No; we cannot see where the path upon which we have entered will lead to, we cannot tell what the results will be; but when the light of the Spirit of God illuminates our minds and we are enlightened by it, we plainly see the results; and if we do not see them at the time, the Lord soon reveals them to us, and shows us that if we continue to take that course we will grieve His Spirit and fall victims to the adversary.

As I said, in the beginning of my remarks, there is wealth in the gospel of Jesus Christ of which we have little knowledge to-day. There is an eternity of truth and knowledge, principle after principle, law after law, until every quality of our nature, of that God-like nature which we have inherited from our Father and God shall be fully developed, until we shall be made capable of associating with God and angels through eternity. The gospel that has been revealed unto us contains the principles that will bring this about. As we progress in it, we will receive additional knowledge, additional light and intelligence, and our souls will be more and more satisfied. I rejoice exceedingly in this, I thank my God for it, because my soul is satisfied in this gospel and I know it would not have been anywhere else. I know there is every good thing for us if we will live the religion of the Lord Jesus.

There is this difference between God and Satan, in the treatment of mankind. Satan is perfectly reckless as to what the consequences may be of anything he may give to the children of men. He will heap temptation upon temptation before them, give them honor and riches and position; and, if necessary, he will give them revelation; what for? To damn them. He does not care anything as to what may become of them; but he offers them all he can control without judgment or discrimination. God does not do so. What is the course God has taken with us from the beginning to the present time? Is there a parent in the congregation who has watched as carefully over his children as God has over us? Is there a parent in the congregation who has withheld improper blessings as carefully from them as God has from us? He has watched over us tenderly and kindly, giving us a blessing here and a blessing there, a revelation here and a revelation there, a precept here and a precept there as we could bear them, developing our experience and knowledge and our wisdom, leading us gently and safely in the path that will bring us into His presence. This is the difference between God and Satan; but I can only give you a little idea of it. Our Heavenly Father is a loving and a kind and beneficent Parent. He, Himself, has trod the path we are now treading; He is familiar with every step of the road, with all the meanderings of this life; for He has had the experience in it; He knows how to guide us and how to time His blessings to our wants; and when you feel impatient and dissatisfied because He does not give you more than you now have, and when you are afflicted and bowed down in sorrow and pain, let the reflection enter into your hearts to comfort you, that our Father and God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, trod the path we are now treading, that there is no affliction

and sorrow that we are acquainted with, or can be, that the Lord has not already had an experience in; and He knows our condition, He knows what is good for us; if we need a gift and a blessing, He knows when to bestow it upon us. This ought to comfort us, it ought to cause us to rejoice and be glad and our hearts to be filled with thanksgiving continually before the Lord our God for His abundant mercy and kindness unto us His children.

Can we think of anything that would be good for us or that we ought to possess, that Satan can offer unto us; that we will not obtain if we are faithful? Will he present unto us a good outfit by going to California or to any other place? If we are only patient, and abide our time, and serve God faithfully He will bestow on us far more than that. There is no good thing that may be presented to us that we cannot obtain in the gospel. We may let our minds range over the earth and think of the greatness and glory possessed by kings and potentates, these things are all embraced in the gospel as a reward for the Saints, who will enjoy even greater blessings than these through their faithfulness. We talk about kings and nobles, and we have admired their glory; but the day is not far distant when there will be thousands of men in Zion holding more power, and having more glory, honor and wealth than the greatest and the richest of the nobles of the earth. The earth and its fulness are promised unto us by the Lord our God, as soon as we have the wisdom and experience necessary to wield this power and wealth. Shall we not be patient, then, and diligent when we have so much assistance given unto us? Shall we not plod unwearingly, and uncomplainingly forward in the path God has marked out for us, when we have the help, the comfort and the consolation which He gives us day by day?

We are not working for that which is in the distance, and toiling for the reward that is far removed, and that we have to look forward to; but we are receiving our reward as we go along, even the rich blessings of heaven, day by day and hour by hour, and we rejoice in them; and if we are houseless and friendless—that is, so far as the world is concerned—we have within us a wealth of comfort and joy that the world know nothing of; they cannot give it, they cannot take it away, for it comes from God. Why should we not be encouraged, then, under these circumstances? If the Latter-day Saints conduct themselves so as to receive condemnation, their condemnation will be most severe, for they have light, they have knowledge, they have blessings the superior of which no other people that we have any account of ever received in the same length of time on the earth. Well, I rejoice in these things. I do not wish to occupy your time any longer. My prayer is, that God will bless you and us all, and enable us to appreciate the great salvation He has committed unto us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Correspondence.

FILMORE CITY, NOV., 19, 1865.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

DEAR BROTHER:—The Seventies of Millard County having just held a two days Conference in this city, I beg leave to furnish you with a few items of the proceedings, presuming they may be interesting to your readers.

The Conference commenced Nov. 9th, at 10 o'clock, a. m., Hiram Mace, senior President of the forty-second quorum, presiding. The meeting being opened as usual, President Mace made a few introductory remarks and called upon Francis M. Lyman who delivered a spirited and interesting discourse calculated to arouse the energies of the Seventies, and show them what manner of men they ought to be in order to prepare themselves to honor their calling as messengers of salvation.

William Felshaw (High Priest) followed with a few remarks in relation to the Seventies.

Bishop Callister being called upon, made some pertinent remarks. He felt thankful to the various organizations of the Priesthood of the ward for the manner in which they had sustained him. In this respect he would not ask them to do better. Remarked, that in all the ramifications of the Priesthood our callings are greater than we are, and that it should be our study to magnify them.

Afternoon, 2 o'clock.

President Mace spoke on the various organizations in the church, particularly referring to the Seventies, and remarked that though we meet together

as Seventies yet, we are one with our brethren, citizens of the one great kingdom and subject to one grand Head. The case of John F. Cavannah who had denied the faith, was here presented, and on motion it was voted that he be cut off from the quorum.

Wesley W. Dame was also cut off from the quorum; he having for a long time shown no disposition to magnify his calling.

Pres. Mace continued his remarks, referring to the blessings to be obtained through faithfulness, and spoke on the propriety of attending meetings and calling on the Lord; also the necessity of taking care of our grain and attending to home manufacture, etc.

Pres. John Eldridge made some remarks on the future glory of Zion and the manner in which it will be brought about.

Bishop Callister endorsed the remarks of Pres. Mace in relation to the necessity of our waking up to a sense of our duty. Spoke of the improvements to be made amongst us. Urged upon the brethren the necessity of faithfulness, integrity and energy; also the laying up of our grain, home manufactures, and freighting our own goods.

Friday, 10 o'clock, A. M.

President Amasa M. Lyman delivered an elaborate discourse, in which he took a somewhat extended view of the first principles of the gospel, and showed that the education of children depends, in a great measure, upon mothers.

In the afternoon quite a number of the brethren expressed their feelings in relation to the great work of the last days, and truly some excellent remarks were made, and a good influence prevailed. The meeting being closed in the usual manner, Conference adjourned, *sine die*.

On the following day Bishop Callister called the priesthood together, and transacted some important business, amongst the rest measures were adopted to raise our apportionment of the means necessary to purchase the telegraph wire and insulators for the Territory. Arrangements were also entered into to set up the telegraph poles from the northern boundary of our country to Petersburg, a distance of over forty miles. Meetings were protracted for four days during which much valuable instruction was imparted, and it is to be hoped much good will result therefrom.

Fearing I have trespassed upon your patience and time, I will now close with my best wishes for the prosperity of Zion's cause.

Very respectfully,
JOHN KELLY.

CONFERENCE AT BROOKLYN.—A Conference of the Saints was held in the Adelphi Hall, Grand St., Brooklyn, Oct. 8th, Elder Wm. H. Miles presiding. The Conference met at 10.30 a. m., and after singing and prayer, and the appointment of Bro's David M. Drury and Richard Tilt as Secretaries, Pres. Miles stated to the meeting the objects of the Conference, that they might be instructed in the principles of truth, give an expression of their feelings towards the authorities of the Church, and receive spiritual strength, as well as to attend to whatever business might be brought before them.

The authorities of the Church in Zion were presented before the meeting and unanimously sustained; Elder Miles was sustained as President of the Eastern Mission, with Elder Wm. Parr, and Elder Slater of Cohoes, N. Y., as his counsellors. Some business connected with some of the Branches was then disposed of, followed by remarks from Pres. Miles; after which Elder Parr exhorted the Saints to live their religion and so walk that they could preach to the world by example as well as by precept.

In the afternoon, Pres. Miles made a few remarks, the Sacrament was administered, and the reports of the Branches represented were handed in; after which Elder Parr, addressed the Conference.

In the evening Pres. Miles addressed the Saints on the principle of upholding and sustaining the authorities and the Priesthood of God, pointing out some of the consequences of rebellion against the authority of Heaven. Elder White exhorted the Saints to continue and increased faithfulness, and was followed by Elder Parr also in exhortation.

Conference then adjourned until next April.

AN official report, just published at Constantinople, states that the number of deaths from cholera in Turkey have been barely 11,000, much below what was previously asserted.