

unto the Church of God that were it not for him the Church would suffer material hindrance and be retarded. God has declared that He would not raise up other races and peoples to carry on His work; yet He gives to all his sons and daughters the opportunity of accomplishing good and receiving the reward that follows as a natural sequence. Judas, the man who betrayed his Maker, and who by a false kiss placed Him in the hands of His enemies, by whom He was led to a cruel and torturing death, had the keys of the apostleship placed within his hands and upon his head, and he had the opportunity by the exercise of that right and privilege appertaining to the holy apostleship of gaining all the blessings that were in store for one called to that exalted station. It was the weakness of his nature against which he did not strive; it was the impurity and unholiness of his conscience, his selfishness, his desire for power, his greed for money that led him to that fatal step; and so will selfishness, greed, covetousness and ungodly thoughts lead men today to the depths of degradation if they will not repent and listen unto the commands which God has given and the requirements which He makes of His children. But it is not within the belief of a Latter-day Saint that any man is bound or in any manner trammelled in the exercise of his discretion here upon earth. He is as free as the angels in heaven—as free today as when he stood about the throne of his great Father, and took sides in that great struggle which took place between the sons of God and the followers of Lucifer.

The Latter-day Saints do not say, teach, or think that all those who are not Latter-day Saints are of necessity to be consigned to a place of endless torment and dwell with the condemned. They believe that in the Kingdom of God there are, indeed, many many mansions, and every soul, every spirit will inhabit that particular degree and enjoy that authority for which its own nature fits it best. Yet we think that if a man would reach the highest rank—if he would gain unto himself the boon of eternal life, which is to know God and dwell with Him, he must do not one thing alone but all that God has ever demanded from His children. Man must not be the judge of what is right and what is wrong when his Father speaks. God has said that except a man repents and is baptized by one holding authority he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. That declaration was made without modification; it has never been repealed; and we ourselves do not think it is a dead letter.

It is only those who have not looked into the tenets of this Church and have not examined the professions of this people who say in their hearts that the Latter-day Saints are a selfish people. The man who is selfish is not a true Latter-day Saint; he is not living up to his high and holy name; he is not deserving of that great title until he has conquered self and placed his

time, his talents, his means, his property, everything that he has, upon the altar of his God, and is willing to sacrifice it for the carrying on of His great work.

The belief of the Latter-day Saints is a liberal belief. Having the authority of the Priesthood in our midst, we feel that God demands of us that we should carry these doctrines and preach this Gospel to every son and daughter of His upon earth. Is there another people or sect that has taken upon itself this great mission of carrying the Gospel, without money and without price, unto the sons and daughters of God? Our missionaries do not go abroad because they receive a salary for this labor. They are called to leave their homes for the time being, to neglect the care of their families, desert their business, pay their own expenses and take no scrip with them and caring not for themselves. Is there another people anywhere to be found whose missionaries travel and labor after that pattern? We do not think that the judgment day will be ushered in and that men will be called to give a strict account of their deeds until every one has had an opportunity of receiving or rejecting the name of Christ, and we do not think that the Latter-day Saints should constitute themselves judges as to who should be saved and who is not deserving of salvation.

In the early days of this Church our fathers and mothers left their comfortable homes, many of them locked their doors and left their houses as they stood, deserted kindred and native country, and came here to a wilderness and a desert—a place which was declared to be, as the records of history show, incapable of sustaining any life but that of the known savage. One great man declared with an oath that corn could never be raised in this valley; while another offered a bushel of gold for the bushel of potatoes that could be raised here of a presentable shape. The fame of the Utah products has since spread, and people know that this country is fertile, with every possibility within it of great advancement and almost supernatural growth. They see, only looking with the human eye, the development of a patch of land; they see simply that the water has been taken from its natural courses and spread in fructifying streams across the land; but the Latter-day Saint sees more than that. He sees the hand of God and the fulfilment of prophecy in all this great and miraculous change; he knows that it is for the purpose of demonstrating to the world that the people of God, though driven as they have been from the confines of civilization, can still grow until their name becomes a wonder in the eyes of men.

We think that the power of inspiration exists in the world and that God is bringing to pass His Almighty purposes in the dealing of nation with nation and man with man; that the king who sits upon his throne, the emperor who rules from his Imperial council chamber, and whose edicts are received as

law throughout the length and breadth of his vast dominions, live and rule as vice-regents, for the time being, of the Almighty, and that they will have to give an account of their ruling. We think, too, that the Lord can and will overthrow kingdoms as seemeth unto Him good, and set up others in accordance with the principles of justice and right. We look for the day when the earth shall be redeemed and when men will rule and acknowledge that they rule by virtue of the power they have received from the great God of the universe. If a man who has been blessed with an intellect of power and enabled to bring inventions into existence, or to make discoveries which have been of value to the human race, understands his position, he will acknowledge reverentially that it is through the mercy and gift of God that he enjoys it.

Man will be judged for the deeds he himself has done, and not for the deeds of another. We believe that our first parents were the means in the wisdom and in accordance with the design and plan of the Almighty of bringing suffering, sin and death into the world, yet all who have lived since that time are exonerated from any part of that great charge; that the death of our Lord and Savior was effectual in atoning for that fall and satisfying that broken law; that we shall be called upon to answer not for what our Father Adam did nor for what our grandparents, parents, or brethren and neighbors are doing today, but for what we ourselves have done or left undone.

I cannot understand how it is possible for any man blessed with the powers of reason and thought to say even within his soul that the tenets of the Latter-day Saints' Church are bigoted, narrow or selfish. I feel to bear my testimony to the power of the Priesthood of Almighty God which exists amongst this people, of the growth and development of this people, and the progress and advancement of this work; that the statements and prophecies which have been made and uttered by holy men, that this progress and advancement will not come to an end until every jot and tittle of the great Almighty word has been brought to pass; and that this work will grow in spite of every obstacle thrown in its path, judging the future by the past.

The choir sang the anthem:

Glory to God in the highest.

Benediction by Elder Arthur Stayner.

## THE CITY BISHOPRICS.

We here give sketches of the members of the Bishopric of the Second Ward:

BISHOP SAMUEL PETERSEN

is the son of Peter and Ellen Margaret Petersen, and was born in Bornholm Island, Dec. 1, 1827. His father was a carpenter, and Samuel had just finished learning