

DISCOURSE

BY

ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH,

DELIVERED IN THE

New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City,
Sunday Afternoon, Octo-
ber 2d, 1875.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

I FEEL grateful for the privilege of once more meeting with the Saints in this Tabernacle, and I trust the Spirit of the Lord may direct my thoughts that I may express a few of my feelings after returning from my mission to England. I have been absent from home about nineteen months, during which time I have labored throughout Great Britain, and to some little extent upon the continent, endeavoring to proclaim the principles of the gospel to the children of men and to bear my testimony to those who are sitting in darkness concerning the principles of life and salvation that have been revealed in the dispensation of the fullness of times for the salvation of mankind. I have rejoiced in my labors and I am thankful to say that I firmly believe the blessing of the Almighty and his Holy Spirit have been with me and the brethren with whom I have been associated. I am grateful for the privilege of meeting again with my brethren and sisters in Zion, and with my family, in the possession of health and strength, and as firm in the faith of the gospel as I was before my departure, and if possible more so. I have seen nothing during my absence that has tended to decrease my faith in the Lord, and in his great latter-day work, but I firmly believe that I have grown to some extent in the knowledge of the truth. At least I hope so, and I hope that my future life and course may prove that I have gained some benefit by the experiences that I have had in the world, and that I may continue to increase in the knowledge of the truth and in the faith of the gospel from this time forth until I shall have finished my work and it shall be said unto me, as well as unto all who are laboring for the advancement of the Kingdom of God upon the earth—"Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." I am laboring for this welcome plaudit, and am steering my course, as far as I am able to judge, for this great prize, and I expect, by the help of the Lord, and by the exercise of my reason and the use of the gifts and blessings that are in my possession, to continue steadfast, faithful and diligent unto the end of my days.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is truly, as was said by the Apostle Paul, the power of God unto salvation unto all that will believe, obey and carry it out in their lives; and we can only expect to be benefitted by the principles revealed in the gospel in proportion to our faithfulness in applying them to our lives. This is the important lesson to be learned by the Latter-day Saints and by all the world—that it is only the practical application of the principle of life in the earth that will fit and prepare us to enjoy the blessings of the celestial kingdom. Profession alone will not answer, it will not bring the reward; but labor—the application and adoption in our lives of the principles of the gospel of Jesus, following in the path with him, walking in his footsteps, imitating his example, keeping the commandments which he has given, doing the work which he did, will secure to every son and daughter of Adam the same reward, kingdom and glory with the Father, for where Christ and the Father are there they will be also. But where they are we can not go except upon these conditions, for they are the only conditions by which this glory can be attained. But the saints who are listening to me this afternoon realize these things no doubt as fully and as vividly as I do, and it was not my design, arising, to enter into any discourse particularly upon the principles of the gospel, but merely to relate something of my experience while abroad.

That experience has been very pleasant. I have, as I said before, rejoiced exceedingly in my labors in connection with my fellow missionaries; we have met with a more friendly feeling abroad than I had looked for; we have been treated more kindly, cordially and respectfully than I anticipated when I left home. Not that I wish to convey the idea that we are

in favor with the world. The world, to-day, are growing in infidelity in regard to religion. The intelligent portion of the people are becoming in a great measure either entirely indifferent or infidel respecting it; there is not, therefore, that feeling of religious animosity, bigotry and hatred existing in their hearts against the principles of the gospel, to them a new faith, and those who represent them, as there used to be, but they are more willing to listen to, receive and treat them on a common footing with other men. They do not appear to see that vast difference between the pretensions and claims of other denominations in Christendom and those of the Latter-day Saints that they used to see. In other words, the claims of the Latter-day Saints are as valid in their eyes as those of other religious people, hence a more liberal feeling towards us than there was several years ago, when I first went to England. I am speaking now in relation to my experience in Great Britain and upon the eastern continent. Not but what, in the hearts of those who are still bound up in the creeds of the world there exists, to-day, as great a determination as ever to fight against the kingdom of God and to reject the truth. At our conferences and meetings the people attended in greater numbers to hear us, and were more attentive and respectful than in 1860-1-2-3, when I labored in England, as I remember. The newspaper reports of our meetings and proceedings were almost invariably impartial, comparatively correct and without comment, which I conceive to be an evidence of this growing liberality of feeling in the minds of the people, for, as I remember, when I was in England fourteen years ago, no man dared to write impartially about the Latter-day Saints, indeed anything apparently favorable to us was rigidly suppressed, it was not supposed that reporters would attempt to write anything in favor of the Latter-day Saints at that time, and if they made any report at all, it was expected that it would be inimical if not bitter, and almost invariably accompanied by unfriendly comments, criticisms, &c. But to my surprise, during my recent mission, men have reported the proceedings of our meetings fairly and in rather a friendly manner, in most cases without comment, leaving the people to reflect for themselves and form their own conclusions, which I consider to be favorable, as by that means our principles are brought prominently before them and are more widely diffused.

Since the opening of the spring the labors of the elders throughout the mission have been chiefly in the open air. They have gone into byways and highways, the public squares and the commons, and wherever they could find people. They have gone forth trusting in the Lord directing their labors and energies especially to preaching out of doors, arresting the attention of the passer-by, and seeking to introduce themselves and the principles of the gospel to people who never enter into a church or place of religious worship, as well as to the religious and church-going. There is a large class of people that never pretend to trouble themselves about religion. They are not generally bound up with religious creeds, and consequently are more free than many others to receive religious impressions or a conviction of the truth. Our labors, amongst this class, have been attended with good results, and occasionally in their out door preaching the elders have drawn around them a congregation of from one to two thousand people, who have paid good attention, and who have cried down opposition, and have said—"Let them speak, they have as good a right to speak as anybody else."

This has been the sentiment and feeling we have generally met with throughout England. Not but what evil-disposed persons frequently attempt to interrupt our meetings and to make disturbance, yet the general sentiment has been against ruffianism and in favor of fair play, speaking liberally on the part of the people towards us.

I am pleased to be able to say, and I believe my brethren who are returning with me this season will bear me out in my convictions, that the condition of the work in the old countries is favorable, and that the European mission is in a healthy condition. I believe that the harvest is great and that the laborers are few. I believe there are openings for missionary labors in the old countries that will be attended eventually with as glorious results as the labors of the past. I believe there are thousands and tens of thousands of good, honest, faithful people in the old countries who are living up to the light they possess, who are waiting for the influences of the gospel and of the Spirit and power of God to be brought to bear upon their minds to break down the prejudices and traditions that have grown up with them, that they may see the light, come forth and receive it, and rejoice in it as truly as any who have ever obeyed it. The mission is not strong, the able portion has been gathered out, and the weak, the aged, decrepid, ignorant and poor of the Saints remain.

Whenever a man has embraced the fullness of the gospel in the old country, he has never rested until he has worked out his emancipation and has gathered with the people here; while those who have not thoroughly entered into the spirit of the gospel have been destitute of the spirit of gathering, have dallied and lingered until family ties have grown up around them, placing them in circumstances, which in a measure compelled them to remain, some of them, perhaps, until they are aged and comparatively helpless. Such persons are, and always have been, among the weak, and, as a rule, it is the weak who remain, while the strong, the able, the intelligent, those filled with the spirit of the gospel and a belief of truth, have gathered to Zion at the first opportunity. The mission, therefore, is not strong, it is not in a position to bear

any great burdens. Hence, the class of labor required there is intelligent labor, such as may be performed by those who have gained an experience in the ministry, and who are full of faith and of the fire of the Holy Ghost and who, in the name and by the power of God, are able to face and combat the world with all its traditions and prejudices. That is as I understand it; and if the mission is well supplied with laborers of that kind, I am firm in the belief that thousands will be gathered out from those countries, year after year, until the Lord shall come forth from his hiding place to scourge the nations who will not yield obedience to the gospel. And I believe it to be the duty of the Latter-day Saints to continue to labor for the advancement of the kingdom as long as fields are open for the exercise of that labor; and I believe that inasmuch as we do this, trusting in the Lord, we shall be accepted of him and that he will crown our efforts with success.

The time is near at hand, if it has not already come, when the gospel will be carried into Germany more effectually and into those great nations upon the eastern continent which have hitherto closed their doors against it. The elders have been laboring in Germany this summer with very favorable results; they are gaining a foothold there, and are opening up the gospel in the midst of that people, although it may be a small beginning; yet I believe the day is not far distant when there will be religious liberty in all those nations, for the Lord has decreed that he will cut short his work, and hasten it in its time. Therefore I feel that the day is near when the gospel will be preached in Germany as it has been preached in England, and that hundreds of thousands of honest souls, bound now in the creeds and traditions of their fathers, will yet obey it.

I have not the least fear that the kingdom of God will fail to accomplish the purposes that have been designed; nor do I believe that the hand of God is shortened that he can not save; nor that the kingdom of God will cease, or be given to another people. I do not believe that the church of God is going to apostatize or turn away from the truth; but I do believe that the kingdom is established on the earth never more to be thrown down, and that it will roll forth until all the mighty purposes of God concerning it shall be consummated.

I believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people under the whole heavens, as declared by the angel "saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come, and worship him that made the heaven, and the earth and the sea and the fountains of water." I do not believe that the Lord will desert his people, or that the kingdom will cease to grow upon the earth. Yet it is grievous to see some, who know and therefore ought to live their religion, and be obedient to the requirements of the gospel, take the course they do. But the Lord's hand is over his people, the Lord is with his servants and with his Saints, and the duty which devolves upon us is to stand firm and steadfast in the path of right then we shall see the salvation of the Lord. The kingdom of God is not built upon man, nor is it dependent upon the arm of flesh, neither will any man gain the honor and glory of building up the kingdom of God. It is the work of the Almighty and is established upon the principles of eternal truth, and upon that foundation will it be built, and fulfill its destiny, and "fill the whole earth." God Almighty will have the honor and the glory of it himself, and no man can claim it. If we see some of our brethren or sisters apostatize and go into darkness, what is that to us? Of course it is, and naturally so, a source of sorrow to see them making shipwrecks of their faith and going into the way of darkness and death. But because they take that course should we take it? No, and God being our helper we will not do wrong because others do, we will stand by the truth, we will abide in the faith, we will be true to the covenant we have made with the Lord, we will worship God, we will attend to our duties as Saints, and we will be patient and seek to imitate the example of our great file leader Jesus Christ, and walk in his footsteps, that we may obtain a crown of glory in the kingdom of God with him. If our brethren will not come with us we can not help it, they must take their own course, and receive their own rewards.

I know, as I know that I live, that the gospel is true; and I know, furthermore, that every man and woman that will live up to its principles will obtain a knowledge of its truth for themselves; and on the other hand, I know equally well, that we may profess to be Saints until doomsday and if we do not the works that Christ has done, and keep not the commandments that he has given we shall not have that knowledge and testimony, neither can we rejoice in the principles of the gospel. If we want light we must walk in the path that leads to it, and do the works that will secure it. We know that we will be judged according to our works, "out of the things which are written in the books;" and if we work righteousness we, by the grace of God, shall obtain salvation. It is not all works, there must be faith with the works, and works with the faith; and there must be the love of God, his compassion, long suffering and forgiveness, in order that we may obtain salvation in his kingdom. We are weak, liable to err and to do many things displeasing in the eyes of God, and we can not live strictly up to the perfect law of life and liberty, therefore the grace of God must come in and his forgiveness must be obtained for the wrongs we do and the mistakes and errors we make. It is only the sins which we commit with our eyes open and against our own convictions that we shall not obtain forgiveness for.

Rejoice in the gospel and ever expect to, for I do know, thank God, my Father, that it is true, and wherever you find it

principles as revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith and taught by the Prophet Brigham Young and his brethren you find God's truth, and I know it. The Lord has revealed it to me, his Spirit has borne record of it in my heart, and I am filled with joy and gratitude for this knowledge. I expect to continue to rejoice in it as long as I can keep humble enough to live my religion. I have set my heart upon this, I have turned my face towards this, I have resolved to do this, and I am determined that I will. The Lord will help every one to do this who will form this determination and firmly adhere to it. God will help the faithful, he will bear them off triumphantly. They will not, they cannot fall, God will not suffer them to fall unless they turn away from this resolution and go into darkness. God is the present help of his servants in every time of need, his hand is not shortened, he has not gone on a journey, we are not hidden from his presence; we cannot escape him. Let us do our duty; let us live up to the light that we possess, keep the commandments of God, work righteousness in the earth, purify our own hearts, live the religion of Jesus Christ, and learn the difference between that and the religion of men. The great difficulty with many of us is that we introduce our own ideas, likes and dislikes, and call them the religion of Jesus Christ. We are mistaken when we do this, and we must learn the difference between what we like and what God wants and has commanded, between the gospel of Christ and the gospel of men, between the will of God and the will of the flesh, and learn to be so obedient that we can say as Jesus said—"Father, not my will, but thine be done." Do this, and do you think God will suffer you to fall, or permit the kingdom to suffer violence? No, he never will.

I am thankful to my heavenly Father for the privilege of returning home to my family and friends. I am with you in heart in faith and in everything I trust that is good; and I am willing to be taught where in I lack wisdom. I want to learn, I am willing to be guided, to go where I am sent, to come when I am required and to do as the Lord wishes me to do. This is how I feel, and I want to continue to feel this way, both now and forever, which may God grant, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Correspondence.

That Discourse.

SALT LAKE CITY,
Oct. 14th, 1875.

Editor Deseret News:

In the discourse in Wednesday's issue of the NEWS, Judge Boreman charges the grand jury that the people of the United States will go as far in supporting the people of Utah in their religious rights and privileges as they would those of any other section of the Union.

What ignorance does the Judge here manifest of events which have transpired in this great free country during the last forty years!

The Roman pupil of Gamaliel cast the writhing forms of the Christians to the lions and tigers of imperial Rome, and proclaimed aloud the impartiality of the people of his country. But shortly after, receiving a little knowledge, not found in human philosophy, he bowed his head in the dust and himself became a follower of the despised Jew! Where the surrounding community of a branch of the Methodist or Baptist church in any part of the United States to rise against them, drive them from their homes, burn their houses and property, dash down the struggling, agonizing forms of their wives and daughters and inhumanly outrage them till they no longer desired to see the faces of those they loved, the whole Union would arise and wash out the horror with the blood of the perpetrators.

This has been done, much of it again and again, to those whom the honorable Judge Boreman speaks of as the people of Utah, done by citizens of the United States, led and cheered on by Christian ministers, and, in one of their dreadful raids upon the people they came upon eighteen men, who, in the last hope of saving their lives, had sought shelter in a log smithy. Resting their guns between the logs, the persecutors repeated their fire till they had murdered all the fugitives in cold blood, and, entering the place they espied the trembling form of a little boy of nine years, hiding behind the bellows. They drew him out and, spite of his fearful pleading, placed their rifles to his forehead and blew out his brains. The murdered men, with their wives and children, had left their homes, some of them in far-off lands, and come to worship God according to their conscience in free America. They were murdered by people of the United States for worshipping God in conformity to the pattern given in the New Testament.

was not known or thought of by them until years after the persecutions here named.

The government of the United States was appealed to for redress. Was it obtained? Never. The government said to us, "Your cause is just, but we can do nothing for you."

How, then, can Judge Boreman charge the grand jury that the people of the United States will go as far in supporting the people of Utah in their religious rights and privileges as they would those of any other section of the Union?

J. H. RIDGES.

Our Country Contemporaries.

Beaver Enterprise, Oct. 12—

Yesterday, the magnificent photograph and fine art gallery of Mr. James Fennemore, which has been in course of erection some months past, was opened to the public. We called in about noon to personally inspect and thus be enabled to give our readers a full and accurate account of this, the only establishment of the kind south of Salt Lake City, and the neatest, most convenient and largest in the Territory. The inside dimensions of the building are 22 x 61 feet, the art gallery, or front room on the ground floor, being 22 x 31.

In the rear of the art gallery are the stock, framing and negative rooms. In the former are kept the plates, frames, chemicals, etc., while the framing and washing rooms join them on the north. In the centre of the art gallery, flanked on either side by the rooms above mentioned, is a grand stairway, eight and a half feet wide at the base, leading to the photograph gallery on the second floor.

One delightful feature of this department is an elegant dressing room, where persons intending to be photographed can retire and "get themselves up" in presentable style. A short stairway in the eastern end of the room leads to a splendidly-furnished reception room, where patrons of the establishment can withdraw and amuse themselves in a variety of ways if a previous customer compels them to wait a short time.

This room is tastefully carpeted and fitted up with elegant furniture, curtains, pictures, mirrors, an organ, etc., Mr. Fennemore contemplating, and rightly, that the flight of time would be rendered less noticeable or irksome by such means.

In the photograph gallery is an apparatus which may properly be termed the ultimatum of the art, being one of E. & H. T. Anthony & Co.'s (New York) portable cameras, especially designed for landscape views. This instrument is constructed of rosewood, is silver-mounted, and, though when in position is quite large and elaborate, is so arranged with slides and springs that it can be reduced to such miniature proportions as would almost enable a person to put it in his pocket!

[The preceding respecting the art gallery of Mr. Fennemore speaks volumes for the enterprise and taste of that gentleman, and for the love of art among the people of Beaver and Southern Utah; but the Enterprise is in error in stating that Mr. Fennemore's gallery is the largest in the Territory. The inside dimensions of the Art Gallery of Mr. C. R. Savage, of this city, just erected, are 28 by 100 feet, which is not only the largest in the Territory of Utah, but, we are informed, that it is the largest and most completely equipped establishment of the kind in the entire West.—ED. D. NEWS.]

TERRITORIAL DISPATCHES.

BY DES. TELETYPE.

Big Body of Ore Discovered.

MINERSVILLE, Oct. 14.

There has been a big strike in the San Francisco district; the ore is stripped for forty feet over the surface, showing a large body of galena and carbonate. They are sinking two shafts ten feet down, showing a continuation of the ore. The strike creates great excitement among miners. As Troy Smelter is making a successful run, turning out better than