

which begets love and union, unless you are pure. The moment you commit sin, the moment you violate a commandment of God, and do not repent of it, that moment the Spirit of God is grieved, and it begins to withdraw itself from you, and unless you repent it will withdraw itself entirely from you. Is not this an extraordinary condition? What a mighty work God is doing, and yet we scarcely believe it! God is gathering out from the nations of the earth all who will listen to His voice, and making unto them great promises and giving unto them great gifts; then, when He has gathered them, sifting them, cleansing them, removing one by one the wicked and the impure. Hidden from human sight are many of the sins of men; but God knows them. His Spirit sees them. He penetrates the secret recesses of all our hearts. His eyes pierce us to the very centre. He knows our every thought. His Spirit, which is His ministering agent, understands these things. It dwells with the pure. It sustains the pure. It comforts and builds up the pure. But the impure it withdraws itself from, leaving them to walk in darkness. Things which they understood are changed. Darkness has taken the place of light; and as the Savior says, If the light that is within you become darkness, how great is that darkness. Men and women, when they get in this condition, wonder how they could have been operated upon to do as they did in former days. The light has gone out of them; they are in the dark; they leave the Church; and their friends wonder what has caused such results. Men and women who have been attached to the Church; and who have borne testimony concerning its truth, for some reason leave the Church. Why? God knows why. The Spirit of God understands it. He is aware of the sin that has produced that dreadful result, and the sinner will be brought to judgment. Then his sin will be made plain and clear as the light of day. For God does not withdraw himself from men and women without cause.

In this way we shall have a pure Church sooner or later. This is the only church that I know of in which these causes are operating and these results being produced. There is no church in Christendom that is in the same position as this Church, because there is no church that has the power that this Church has. There is no church aside from this, that is the true church of Christ. There are thousands of men and women who are honestly striving to follow Christ; but this is the only organization that possesses the authority which God conferred in ancient days through His Son Jesus Christ. Hence we are held to a higher accountability. More is required of us. Our reward will be immeasurably greater than the reward of others who do not obey the ordinances of the Gospel; and our condemnation will be immeasurably greater if we, through sin and transgression, forfeit these blessings that God has given unto us.

My brethren and sisters, I wish we could always think that we are dwelling in the presence of God; that He is nearer to us than we imagine; that His Spirit is in us, and that His power is over us. When the veil is withdrawn, and we see the light as it is, we will be forced to acknowledge this, and we will be surprised that God has been so near

to us in our mortality. God is working with us to an extent that we cannot conceive of—at least, I cannot. And the sinner cannot prosper. He may prosper as far as earthly things are concerned; but he cannot prosper in the things of God. The hypocrite cannot flourish. His sins will be brought to light, and men will then understand that neither men nor women fall from grace, they do not become alienated from the Church and go into dark, without a cause. No matter how small the cause may be in the estimation of the sinner, you may know there is a cause for it. The Spirit of God can be very easily grieved. But there are some things that are worse than others. One is to lift our voice against, or in any manner assail the Priesthood of the Son of God. You may think this a trifling thing. You may say, "Why who are these men that I should not speak about them?" I know they are fallible men; they are mortal; they are guilty of many weaknesses. I do not see why I should respect them, or why they should be shielded from criticism, or why I should listen to their counsel." Now, judged by man's standard, this may appear to be true. There is not a man in the Church, from Wilford Woodruff down, that has anything overpowering about him, that we should render him any degree of obedience. It is not that. These are but the earthly vessels. Joseph Smith was not outwardly transformed, neither was Peter, James and John, when they received the Priesthood of the Son of God. Jesus himself was not in a form to compel mankind to honor him. But while these men are but earthly vessels, it is the authority, it is the power, it is God—now do not be shocked at this—it is God that is within them that causes them to do these godly works. Without God were in them, they could not baptize men for remission of sins, they could not lay on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. It is the spirit and power which God gives to all who receive His Priesthood that makes them in the sight of God so holy that they ought not to be spoken against, they ought not to be belittled, they ought not to be disobeyed by the people of God.

Now, in saying this, I do not mean that men should be objects of worship. God forbid! No man should set himself up above his fellowmen. If he did, God would be angry with him, and would smite him. He has got to use the power and authority that he has in righteousness; not to build himself up, not to create influence for himself, but to use for the glory of God. Every man that receives this power and authority God will show him from time to time his weakness and how dependent he is upon Him. As the Lord said to Moroni, when the prophet feared lest the Gentiles should mock at his words, "Fools mock, but they shall mourn; and my grace is sufficient for the meek, that they shall take no advantage of your weakness; and if men come unto me, I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble." The Lord shows His servants their weaknesses. They are made to feel how impotent they are without Him. He will keep them constantly reminded of their dependence upon Him, conscious that they are poor, fallible creatures, and

that their only strength is in the Lord. If a man is blessed of the Spirit of the Lord, with great gifts and power, with visions and revelations, He will accompany these gifts and graces perhaps with weaknesses, in order that the man may be kept humble, and not be lifted up in the pride of his heart, and forget the source of his blessings. We who look upon him may see him in his weaknesses, and say what a weak, poor man he is, and yet the Lord may have given him these weaknesses in order to keep him from being lifted up to his overthrow. Any man that will live near to the Lord will be conscious of these weaknesses, and he will not be lifted up in pride, but will abase himself in the presence of God and of his brethren, and feel that he is unworthy of the blessings bestowed upon him.

My brethren and sisters, let us endeavor to understand the day of our salvation. Let us strive to comprehend the greatness of the work that God is doing. Let us honor the authority He has restored from heaven for this grand and glorious purpose. Let us continue faithful to the end, that eventually we may be saved and exalted in the kingdom of our God with our Father and with the Lord Jesus Christ, which I humbly pray for you all and myself, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

OUR ROYAL VISITOR.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., June 15th, 1897.



IS Majesty King Chulalongkorn is now in Europe, and is expected to cross the Atlantic in his royal yacht to make a visit to the United States. Chulalongkorn is the King of Siam. He is the

richest ruler of the world, with perhaps the exception of the czar, and he has more power over his subjects than any monarch outside of the petty tyrants of savage Africa. I heard much of him during my stay in Siam a few years ago. His majesty was away, from his capital at the time of my visit. He had gone up the River Menam in one of his royal houseboats, with about thirty of his wives, and was not expected back for weeks. I met, however, the men closest to him. I had letters from our cabinet ministers at Washington to the leading Siamese officials, and was given an inside view of matters connected with his majesty and his government.

His majesty is called Chulalongkorn, for short. His real title is Prabat Somdet Pra Pramend Maha Chulalongkorn Kate Klow Chow-yu-Hua. He is the ninth child of Maha Mongkut, who was the last king. Maha Mongkut had eighty-four children, and of these Chulalongkorn was chosen to be placed upon the Siamese throne. He has thirty-four half brothers and forty-nine half sisters, and he liked one of his half sisters so well that he has married her, and she is now the queen. The king is forty-four years old. He is about 5 feet 4 inches high, has a plump, olive-brown face, beautiful eyes of a liquid black, a broad, high, rather full forehead, and short straight black hair. His nose is short and half flat, his lips are rather thick, and his upper lip is decorated with a