

that the tasks we gave to them, wherein we taught them to be industrious, were beneficial to them.

The natural disposition of man, as I have often remarked, is to be selfish, sordid and grasping; to think of self, and self alone, and figure for personal advancement. But all the teachings of the Gospel are the exact opposite of this. We find that the requirements that are made of us to pay tithes and fast day donations, and temple donations, and meeting house donations, and to contribute of our means to send the Gospel to the nations of the earth—these requirements chase out of the heart of man every selfish and sordid disposition. Instead of being selfish, the faithful Latter-day Saint is filled with love of the Gospel, filled with a desire to contribute of time and means for the onward advancement of the kingdom of God. The Gospel, if we are faithful to the requirements that are made of us of a financial nature, takes the selfish, sordid man and makes of him a generous, noble, free-hearted individual—one that we can love, one that God can love. The Gospel fills us with a desire to leave the things of the world, if need be, to go to the uttermost ends of the earth, without one dollar of reward, for the benefit and salvation of our fellow men. The natural disposition of men is to practice all those things that are gratifying to the appetites and to the passions with which we are beset; but the requirements of the Gospel are such that we are not permitted to gratify our appetites; that it is necessary for us to be self-sacrificing, to overcome and subdue those appetites. When we come to examine the requirements, such as the Words of Wisdom, we find that by obeying these we grow in strength of mind and strength of body, and our tabernacles are fit dwelling places for the Holy Spirit of God. We expand and become more and more Godlike when we subdue and put under our feet these passions and appetites which are contrary to the mind and will of our Heavenly Father. So I might go on and enumerate all the requirements that are made of us. The natural disposition of man is to become lifted up in the pride of his own heart, to be self-sufficient, to forget God; but the Gospel requires that we shall pray every day of our lives, not only with our families, but in secret. This requirement prevents us from becoming self-sufficient; for it makes us like little children, bowing down and praying to God for the light and inspiration of His Holy Spirit. As Latter-day Saints, having received the testimony of the Gospel, it devolves upon us to improve upon this testimony by keeping the commandments of God; and I say to you that the man that grows each day of his life is the man that fills the plain, simple, everyday duties which devolve upon him. It is not the testimonies that we have had, it is not the many visions that have come to us. Why the men above all men who were abundantly blessed by seeing angels, by even seeing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as did Sidney Rigdon and Oliver Cowdery—these men were not kept firm and steadfast in the Church by these great blessings and manifestations. But the men who kept the commandments of God, the men who were faithful in their prayers, the men who sustained and upheld the Priesthood of

God at all times and under all circumstances, the men who obeyed the Words of Wisdom, the men who paid their tithing, have always been true and faithful, and have never lost the Spirit of God. Those, however, who have got in a corner, fault-finding, drinking, and having a "good" time, and associating together and having secret meetings, thinking they are not treated right and are not respected enough—this class of men lose the Spirit of God. Do you know, I always feel happy when I am with my brethren. I never want to get away from them. If I have the "blues," the best way in the world to get over them is to get out and do my duty and go off with my brethren in the Stakes of Zion. If any man lacks the Spirit of God, let him go to work and labor for the advancement of the kingdom of God, and he will have the Spirit of God. When ever any one of us gets the idea into our heads that because we have had some manifestations, some wonderful dream or vision, because we have been able to stand up and testify that Jesus was the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and think this knowledge alone is going to save us, the quicker we get that idea out of our heads the better. It is keeping the commandments of God, it is respecting and honoring the Priesthood of God that we hold, and the servants of God who preside over us, that will bring to us the blessings of God, and that will save and exalt us, not only in this life, but in the life to come. I say that the more faithful and the more diligent a man is in paying his tithes and his offerings among the Latter-day Saints, the more he will prosper in the material things of the kingdom. The most prosperous men all over this country, wherever the Latter-day Saints are scattered, are those who have paid an honest tithing and who have been the most liberal in donating for temples. So it will always be. And in addition to this, they are blessed by having the windows of heaven opened and the Spirit of God poured down upon their heads, and they have the testimony of the Gospel burning in their hearts; while those who are neglecting these things are losing the testimony of the Gospel, and the bright and shining light that was once with them is departing from them.

If you want to know how to be saved, I can tell you; it is by keeping the commandments of God. No power on earth, no power beneath the earth, will ever prevent you or me or any Latter-day Saint from being saved, except our elves. We are the architects of our own lives, not only of the lives here, but the lives to come in the eternity. We ourselves are able to perform every duty and obligation that God has required of men. No commandment was ever given to us but what God has given us the power to keep that commandment. If we fail, we, and we alone, are responsible for the failure, because God endows His servants, from the President of the Church down to the humblest member with all the ability, all the knowledge, all the power that is necessary to faithfully, diligently and properly discharge every duty and every obligation that rests upon them, and we, and we alone, will have to answer it we fail in this regard. We as Latter-day Saints, holding the Priesthood of God, should magnify it, and we should respect those who preside over us in the different wards

and stakes, and we should respect the general authorities of the Church; and as we respect them, God will respect us. As we respect the authorities in the nation of which we form a part, and uphold and sustain the government, just in that proportion are we loyal citizens, and our government will respect and uphold us. I say to you that it is not an insignificant thing to hold the Priesthood of God—to have the right to influence the powers of the heavens for good; and it is not a slight thing for us to neglect to honor that Priesthood that God has bestowed upon us and the Priesthood of God in those who preside over us. May the light and the inspiration of God be our constant guide and companion. May we grow and increase in the Spirit of God, and in the testimony of the Gospel, and in power and ability to accomplish the purposes of our Heavenly Father here on the earth; and may we grow in the desire to do so, is my prayer and desire, and I ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

## JENSON'S TRAVELS.

LETTER NO. XXV.

Thursday, August 22nd. I spent the day at the mission house at Mua, perusing and culling from the mission records, which have been well kept from the beginning.

The mission house consists of a four-roomed frame building facing southeast. The two large rooms were built in 1861-2, and the two smaller added in 1893. There is also a small kitchen and a little store house adjoining the main building. The lumber and iron roofing used in its construction were imported from New Zealand. The land on which it stands—about one and a half acres—belongs to the government like all other lands on Tonga, and the mission pays \$20 per annum in rent for the use of it. Most of the lot is covered with a natural grass lawn, but there are also a number of trees on it, among which four bread-fruit trees (from which the brethren get all the bread-fruit they need while it is in season,) four cocoa-nut palms and sixteen orange trees. Besides this the Elders have free access to a fine cocoa-nut grove lying adjacent to the mission premises, from which they can get nearly all they need in the cocoa-nut line. They very seldom have to buy any, and if they do, they get all they want at the rate of half a cent per nut. Oranges can be had for twenty five cents per hundred; but the brethren can get all they want for picking them, as a rule; and at other times the natives bring them some in exchange for matches, writing paper, envelopes, pepper medicine, etc., which costs next to nothing. Most of the "ufi" which they use they obtain in a similar way, though sometimes they buy it at the rate of three-fourth cents per pound. Flour costs about \$2.50 per hundred; and meat, (canned) salt and sugar are somewhat expensive; but taking it all through the expense for food, which the Elders cook themselves, looks up to only about twelve cents per day for each man. The brethren take turns in cooking, changing every day, and the only objection that one would naturally have to the mode of living is the sameness in the food. It is "ufi" rice and cocoa-nut sauce at every meal, of which only two are taken per day, namely