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Truth and Liberty.

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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

OCTOBER, 1841.

Tuesday, 12.—“AN EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES, TO THE BRETHREN SCATTERED ABROAD ON THE CONTINENT OF AMERICA, GREETING:

Beloved Brethren:—It seemeth good to us to write unto you at this time concerning the great things of the kingdom of our God, and more especially as we have been called upon by the late general conference so to do, that the work may not be hindered, but that all may understand their privilege and duty in this day of glorious events, so that by exercising themselves therein, they may attain unto those blessings which God has in store for his people in the last days.

We have abundant occasion, and we rejoice exceedingly at the privilege we have had of beholding so many thousands of our brethren and sisters as were assembled at the late conference; and for the most perfect harmony and good feeling which prevailed throughout all their deliberations; for the great amount of valuable instructions by President Joseph Smith and others; and for the disposition which we have seen manifested, by all who were present to carry into effect all those noble plans and principles which were derived from heaven, and have been handed down to earth to carry forward the great and glorious work which is already commenced, and which must be consummated to secure the salvation of Israel.

While the minutes of the General Conference are before you, which will be read with interest by every lover of Zion, we shall recapitulate some items, and detail more particularly to the understanding of those who had not the privilege of being present on that interesting occasion, the past, present, and future situation and prospects of the Church, and the stakes, and those things which immediately concern their best interests.

A short time since, and the Saints were fleeing from their enemies. Whips, imprisonments, tortures and death stared them in the face, and they were compelled to seek an asylum in a land of strangers. They sought, they found it within the peaceful bosom of Illinois; a State whose citizens are inspired with a love of liberty; whose souls are endowed with those noble principles of charity and benevolence which ever bid the stranger welcome, and minister to his wants: in this State, whose soil is vied with its citizens in all that is good and lovely, the Saints have found a resting place, where, freed from tyranny and mobs, they are beginning to realize the fulfilment of the ancient prophets; “they shall build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat the fruit thereof, having none to molest or make afraid.”

In this city, the Church has succeeded in securing several extensive plots of land, which have been laid out in city lots, a part of which have been sold, a part has been distributed to the widow and orphan, and a part remains for sale. These lots are for the inheritance of the Saints, a resting place for the Church, a habitation for the God of Jacob; for here he has commanded a house to be built unto his name where he may manifest himself unto his people as in former times, when he caused the ark, the tabernacle, and the temple to be reared, and the cloud, and the fire to rest down thereon; and not that the Temple be built only, but that it be completed quickly, and that no more general conferences be held, till it shall be held therein; and that the Nauvoo House be finished for the accommodation of the brethren from afar, and the stranger who shall come up hither to inquire after the work of the Lord, and worship in His Temple.

Scores of brethren in this city have offered to board one and two laborers each, till the Temple is completed; many have volunteered to labor continually, and the brethren generally are giving one tenth part of their time, or one tenth part of their income, according to circumstances; while those sisters who can do nothing more, are knitting socks and mittens, and preparing garments for the laborers, so that they may be made as comfortable as possible during the coming winter. In view of these things we would invite our brethren for many miles distant around us, to send in their teams for drawing stone, lumber and materials for the building; and at the same time load their wagons with all kinds of grain and meat, provision and clothing, and hay and proven-

der in abundance, that the laborer faint not, and the teams be made strong; also that journeymen stone-cutters, &c., come, bringing their tools with them, and enlist in the glorious enterprise.

Most of the plats in this city before referred to, as well as several farms and large lots of land in this, and adjoining counties are paid for, and secured to the Church by good and sufficient titles; while the town plat for the town of Warren, near Warsaw, is secured on such conditions that the brethren can be accommodated with lots on very reasonable terms; but the large plat in Nauvoo, purchased of Messrs. Hotchkiss, Tuttle, & Co., of New Haven, Connecticut, remains unpaid for, and the time has now arrived, when it is very desirable on the part of the Church, as well as on the part of the gentlemen of whom it was purchased, that payment should be made, and a warrantee title secured; to accomplish which we have been called upon by the united voice of the General Conference to address the Churches in the Eastern States, to advise with the brethren in those regions, and devise ways and means whereby this debt may be liquidated, Hotchkiss & Co. satisfied, the plat secured to the Church, and the brethren in the East at the same time transfer their real estate from the place where it now is, to this city or region of country according to their desire.

The contract for the “Hotchkiss purchase” in Nauvoo, consisting of upwards of five hundred acres, was entered into, on or about the 9th of August, 1839, for the specified sum of fifty three thousand five hundred dollars, and security was given to Messrs. Horace R. Hotchkiss, Smith Tuttle, and John Gillet, for the amount of the same, in two notes of equal amount, one payable in ten years, and the other in twenty years from the date thereof; signed by Messrs. Hyrum Smith, Joseph Smith, and Sidney Rigdon. In August last, interest to the amount of six thousand dollars, or upwards, had accumulated on said notes which it has not been in the power of the Church to pay up to the present time. The nature of this purchase, and the situation of the Church is such, that it is necessary that the notes should be taken up, the interest stopped, and a warrantee title secured immediately; a correspondence is now in progress with Messrs. Hotchkiss & Co., to effect this thing, and bring forward a final settlement.

But, say you, what can we do to accomplish this great and desirable object? Let the brethren in the Eastern States, who have lands which they wish to dispose of, so that they may remove hither and secure to themselves an inheritance among the Saints, either in the cities or farms in the vicinity, and are willing to have their lands in the East made over to Messrs. Hotchkiss & Co. towards the payment of the foregoing notes, communicate with us immediately, at this place, stating to us the extent and value of their property.

Then as soon as we shall have received communications concerning property, sufficient to cancel the obligations, and the necessary preliminaries are understood with Messrs. Hotchkiss & Co., we will dispatch an agent to New Haven, to complete the negotiation, transfer your property, take up the notes and secure a deed; and those whose property is thus transferred can have the value thereof here, in city lots or lands in the vicinity; and thus your property will prove to you as good as money, inasmuch as you desire to emigrate; and you will no longer be obliged to tarry afar off, because that money is so scarce you cannot sell and get your pay. If there are those among you to whom God has given in abundance, and they desire to appropriate some portion thereof for the benefit of his people, for the redemption of Zion, for a blessing to the widows of those who have been slain for the word of God, and been buried in a well, for a sustenance to their fatherless children, and provide for them a habitation, they cannot do it more effectually than by devoting a portion of their substance towards liquidating this claim.

To those brethren who live so far distant that they cannot send in their loaded teams, and yet desire to assist in building the Lord's House, we would say, gather yourselves together and bring of your substance, your silver, and gold, and apparel, and of your superabundance cast into the Treasury of the Lord, and see if he will not pour you out a blessing till there is no room enough to receive it.

Brethren, the blessings of the kingdom are for you, for the body of Christ, for all the members, and God will help those who will help themselves, and bless those who will bless each other, and do as they would be done unto. The gold and the silver is the Lord's; all the treasures of the earth, the flocks and the herds of the fields, and the cattle of the thousand hills are his; if he were hungry would he crave thy food, or thirsty would he ask thy drink? Nay! he would only ask that which was his own, he would feast on his own flocks, and quench his thirst at his own springs. This God is the God of the Saints, he is your God, and he has made you stewards of all that has been committed to you, and will require his own with usury; and will you not be faithful in a little that you may be made rulers over many cities? Yes, you will, we know you will.

The journeyings, and gatherings, and buildings of the Saints are nothing new, and as they are expecting, looking and praying for the completion of the dispensation of the fulness of times, they

must also expect that their progress will be onward, or they will be of no avail, for what is not of faith is sin, and can you believe that God will hear your prayers and bring you on your journey, gather you, and build your houses, and you not put forth your hand or make one exertion to help yourselves? No. Therefore, inasmuch as the Saints believe that Father Abraham journeyed to a distant land at the command of the Highest, where himself and household (whose household we are, if we keep the commandments) might enjoy the fruits of their labors unmolested, and worship the God of heaven according to the dictates of their own conscience and his law; that his seed afterwards gathered to Canaan, the land of promise; that David was commanded to build a house where the Son of Man might have a place to lay his head, and the disciples be endowed with power from on high, and were with one accord in one place; they must also believe that this dispensation comprehends all the great works of all former dispensations; and that the children must gather as did the fathers, must build a house where they may be endowed, and be found together worshipping and doing as their fathers did when Jehovah spake, and the angels of heaven ministered unto them; and if these things are not in this generation, then we have not arrived at the dispensation of the fulness of times as we anticipate, and our faith and prayers are vain.

Is it possible that we labor in vain, and toil for nought, and that we shall be disappointed at the last? No! we know assuredly that the set time to favor Zion has come, and her sons and daughters shall rejoice in her glory. The time has come when the great Jehovah would have a resting place on earth, a habitation for his chosen, where his law shall be revealed, and his servants be endowed from on high, to bring together the honest in heart from the four winds; where the Saints may enter the baptismal font for their dead relations, so that they may be judged according to men in the flesh, and live according to God in the Spirit, and come forth in the celestial kingdom: a place, over which the heavenly messengers may watch and trouble the waters as in days of old, so that when the sick are put therein, they shall be made whole; a place where all the ordinances shall be made manifest, and the Saints shall unite in the songs of Zion, even praise, thanksgiving and hallelujahs to God and the Lamb, that he has wrought out their deliverance, and bound Satan fast in chains.

What then shall we do? Let us all arise, and with one united and mighty exertion, by the strength of Israel's God oppose the powers of darkness, and every being and principle that may arise up against us, and complete the work already commenced. Let us not for a moment lend an ear to evil and designing men, who would subvert the truth and blacken the character of the servant of the Most High God, by publishing abroad that the prophet is enriching himself on the spoils of the brethren.

When brother Joseph stated to the General Conference the amount and situation of the property of the church, of which he is Trustee in Trust by the united voice of the Church, he also stated the amount of his own possessions on earth; and what do you think it was? We will tell you; his old Charley (horse) given him in Kirtland, two pet deer, two old turkeys and four young ones, the old cow given him by a brother in Missouri, his old Major (dog), his wife, children, and a little household furniture; and this is the amount of the great possessions of that man whom God has called to lead his people in these last days, this is the sum total of the great estates, the splendid mansions and noble living of him who has spent a life of toil and suffering, of privation and hardships, of imprisonments and chains, of dungeons and vexatious law-suits, and every kind of contumely and contempt ungodly men could heap upon him, and last of all report him as rolling in wealth and luxury which he had plundered from the spoils of those for whose good he had thus toiled and suffered. Who would be willing to suffer what he has suffered, and labor near twenty years as he has done, for the wealth he is in possession of?

Brethren, in view of all these things, let us be up and doing. Let those in the Eastern States use all diligence in communicating to us their ability, to assist in the Hotchkiss payment, being assured that no exertion they can make will equal what has already been made for them and the Church generally; and let all the Saints come up to the places of gathering, and with their mites and their abundance as God has given them in trust, help to build up the old waste places which have been thrown down for many generations, knowing that when they are completed they will belong unto the people of the Most High God, even the meek, the honest in heart, he shall possess all things in the due time of the Lord.

Be not covetous, but deal in righteousness, for what the Saints shall not possess by purchase and in righteousness they shall not possess; for no unrighteous thing can enter into the kingdom; therefore, beloved brethren, deal justly, love mercy, walk humbly before God, and whatever your hands find to do, do it with your might, keeping all the commandments, and then, whether in life or in death, all things will be yours, whether they be temples or lands, houses or vineyards, baptisms or endowments, revelations or healings,

all things will be yours, for you will be Christ's, and Christ is God's.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,
HEBER C. KIMBALL,
ORSON PRATT,
LYMAN WIGHT,
JOHN TAYLOR,
WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE A. SMITH,
WILLARD RICHARDS.”

Nauvoo, October 12, 1841.

Wednesday, 20.—Extract of a letter from Elder Hyde, dated Jaffa, October 20, 1841, on his way to Jerusalem.

“On my passage from Beyroote to this place (Jaffa) night before last, at one o'clock, as I was meditating on the deck of the vessel as she was beating down against a sultry wind, a very bright glittering sword appeared in the heavens, about six feet in length, with a beautiful hilt, as plain and complete as any cut you ever saw; and what is still more remarkable, an arm with a perfect hand stretched itself out, and took hold of the hilt of the sword. The appearance really made my hair rise, and the flesh, as it were, crawl on my bones. The Arabs made a wonderful outcry at the sight. Allah! Allah! Allah! [O Lord, O Lord, O Lord] was their exclamation all over the vessel. I mention this because you know there is a commandment of God for me, which says, “Unto you it shall be given to know the signs of the times, and the sign of the coming of the Son of Man.”

Yours in Christ,
ORSON HYDE.”

Saturday, 23.—I attended the City Council.

“Lima Conference convened pursuant to previous appointment. Elders Brigham Young, John Taylor, and Willard Richards, of the Twelve Apostles, were in attendance. Elder Brigham Young was unanimously chosen president, and James C. Snow, clerk of the Conference.

President Young then made some preliminary remarks, setting forth and explaining the object of the meeting; followed by President Isaac Morley. Elder J. C. Snow then represented the branch of the Church at Lima, consisting of 424 members, including 9 high priests, 32 elders, 4 priests, 5 teachers, and 4 deacons, mostly in good standing.

President Young, Elders Taylor and Richards, then made some very appropriate remarks, showing and proving the absolute necessity of finishing and completing the House of the Lord now building in Nauvoo, in preference to any thing else that can be done, either by mental or physical exertion, in spreading light, knowledge, and intelligence among the nations of the earth.

Conference adjourned till to-morrow, 10 o'clock.

In the evening President Morley met with his counsel, together with President Young, Elders Taylor and Richards, and brethren of the Lima branch, for the purpose of entering into certain resolutions, necessary, in order to become more active in forwarding the work of the House of the Lord.

After much deliberation, it was moved, and seconded, that all those who are willing to consecrate one tenth of their time and property to the building of the Temple at Nauvoo under the superintendence of President Morley and counselors, to signify it by the uplifted hands; when the motion was carried unanimously.”

Sunday, 24.—“Sunday morning, 10 o'clock. Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

Elder John Taylor delivered an address upon the object of Christ's mission into this world; the resurrection and redemption of the Saints; and pointed out very clearly the course to be pursued in order to become the sons of God, through the ordinances of the gospel, that the Saints may, at last, be exalted at the right hand of God, to dwell with him eternally in the heavens.

After an intermission of one hour the sacrament was administered by President Young and Elder Richards. The minutes of the Conference were then read and accepted.

President Young made some very just remarks on the priesthood, authority, and calling.

Conference adjourned sine die.

Benediction by President Morley.

BRIGHAM YOUNG, President.”

J. C. SNOW, Clerk.

COST OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.—It is estimated, says the Boston “Transcript,” that the current expenses of the churches of Boston will amount to \$240,000 a year. The value of the church estates is about \$4,000,000. The expenses of the different societies vary from \$1,500 to \$5,500 a year. The cost of public worship in the churches occupied by the wealthier portion of the citizens will average about \$100 a Sunday. The clergyman has a salary of \$3,000, the music costs about \$1,000, and the miscellaneous expenses will be from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year. The taxes on the pews vary from \$8 to \$70 a year, according to value. The Methodist preachers have the smallest salaries and the Unitarians the largest.

AN INDIGNANT EDITOR.—A Western editor, in answer to a complaint of a patron that he did not give news enough, told him when news was scarce to read the Bible, which he had no doubt would be news to him.