

a great deal of pleasure, when opportunity occurred, to stop and talk with him on the things of the kingdom. This topic was the burden of his mind. I never knew him to converse upon anything else. When he had any leisure, and also in his preaching, the Prophet Joseph and the kingdom of God were uppermost upon his mind.

I knew him in Nauvoo as a friend, and as a private secretary to our martyred prophet. During my long acquaintance with him I can bear testimony to what has been said of his unswerving integrity. There is a great deal in this. It was said that David was a man after God's own heart, but that he committed a very heinous sin. He, however, got a promise from the Lord, which I suppose was because of his integrity to Him, that He would not leave his soul in hell. I do not know how long it would remain there, but this I do know, he will come out, if he has not already, and receive an exaltation.

Brethren and sisters, we live in a momentous age, when things which have been hidden from the foundation of the world have been and are being revealed. The key has been turned in regard to the doctrine of eternal marriage. This principle has and is being revealed from time to time to the understanding of the children of men. I apprehend there are some this day that have heard some arguments in regard to this principle that were entirely new to them. It is revelation to them, and its principle is being revealed more and more by the servants of God.

I do not purpose occupying the time, but felt in my heart to pay a humble tribute of respect to our departed friend. He has gone; all is well with him, and will be. God loved him, and will save him; and so far as his faults are concerned, we all have them more or less; we all have need to say, "God be merciful to me a sinner." We can all say this for all have need of the mercy of God. It is upon the mercy of God we depend at last, each and every one of us.

That He may save us in His kingdom, and that we may live so as to be enabled to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, together with our kindred and friends, to an inheritance, to mansions prepared for the righteous, is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR.

I have been much interested in listening to the remarks made by Brother Joseph F. Smith, the more so because I know them to be true in all particulars. I know that the affidavit which has been read in your hearing to be true. I know that the testimony that has been left by Brother Clayton pertaining to the matter to be true. I also know a little of the weaknesses of our departed brother, as has been referred to, but which I do not care to mention. At the same time I know of his goodness, his virtue, truth, honesty and integrity. I have been acquainted with him for a great many years. The first time I met him was upwards of 40 years ago, in Manchester, England. I was a good deal associated with him in early times, and was conversant with some of these events that have been referred to by Bro. Joseph F. in regard to history. I at that time was acting for the Prophet Joseph, who was then editor of the *Times and Seasons*. The Prophet spoke to me more particularly about introducing his history, and Bro. Clayton assisted in getting it out; but I was more or less engaged on it—having charge of that department under the supervision of Joseph at the time.

In regard to the doctrine of plural marriage, that I know to be true. Joseph Smith was the first I ever heard mention that principle. Presidents Young and Heber C. Kimball were present at the time, and I think Elder Hyde, but I am not positive. He gave us the full details of that doctrine, showing to us the revelation in relation to this matter, and bore testimony to it and required us to go and meet the responsibilities that devolved upon us. It was a very heavy thing for us to meet, for we generally professed to be and were pure men, and did not wish associations of any kind but what would be approved and acknowledged of God. But although it was a severe trial we felt that we would, in the name of the Lord, fulfil that duty, which we did as well as other duties that had been committed to us. In fact, among other things he told us

that the Kingdom of God could not go on one step further, neither could anything further be communicated to the Church, until the principle was not only believed in but practised and lived up to.

We have received some of the most glorious principles associated with the Gospel of the Son of God, and unless these covenants that bind husband and wife and wife to husband for eternity should be fulfilled, we never could be prepared to associate with the gods in the eternal world, nor be in possession of what the prophet termed "eternal increase." Although it was painful to our feelings to embark in it, yet we did it, and the Lord has sustained us so far, and He will sustain us to the end, if we prove ourselves true and faithful to our God and to our covenants as has been frequently remarked this morning that Brother Clayton has been to his.

Men generally do not understand the position we occupy nor the responsibilities that rest upon us. God has committed to us certain eternal principles which he expects us to carry out, and if we were to fail He would remove us out of our places and raise up others who would do it; for the eternal principles of God and those eternal laws and covenants which he has given unto us existed with the Gods in the eternal world, and if we ever associate with them we have to enter into these covenants set forth in the revelation and carry them out in fidelity, with truthfulness and singleness of heart and honor before God and men, and for one I feel like maintaining the law of God no matter who says to the contrary. These are my feelings, they are the feelings, I know, of my brethren. We cannot forsake our God, we cannot betray our religion, we cannot exchange the principles of eternal life and our knowledge of the laws thereof, and our covenants with God, for the notions and opinions, the falsehoods, corruptions and iniquities of this generation. God has called us to be bearers of the truth; He will expect and does expect us to obey and be governed by it. That is all. We need not talk a great deal about it but do it, be true and faithful to each other, be true and faithful to God, maintain our integrity before Him and before the heavens, and feel to say in our hearts—"Thou, God, seest me. I am in thy presence and in the presence of the holy angels, and as I have covenanted to serve thee and keep thy commandments, O Lord help me to do it." These ought to be our feelings.

In speaking of the departure of Brother Clayton, do I feel sorrowful? No; and yet I do. Why? Because a good man that I have associated with for years and years has left. There is a feeling within us that we would like still to have enjoyed his society and heard him speak of sacred things communicated to him by the Prophet and be edified and instructed thereby, but still, if he has been a good man, a man who has lived in the faith and died in the faith, and gone behind the veil to another state of existence, if he has fought the good fight and finished his course, who can murmur, who can be sorrowful? Brother Clayton is better off to-day than he was here, being free from the cares of life and the corroding care, anxieties and afflictions of the body from which he has suffered for many years. Therefore it is better he should go into another state of existence where he will be free from the cares, toils and tribulations that we have to meet with while tarrying on the earth.

Brother Elias, here, referred to something—I do not know what—wherein he himself had once done wrong in the matter of disobedience to counsel. He is alive and I will testify of him that he is a good, faithful man, and that God will bless him in time and in eternity. Therefore be comforted, Brother Smith, for all is right and all will be right. All is well with the righteous in as much as we fear God and keep His commandments, and abide in and remain true to the covenants we have made with Him; if we are not, if we forsake God and violate His laws and turn our back upon the principles of truth, and reject the counsels of the holy priesthood and the light of revelation and the spirit of eternal truth, and give way to folly, vanity, evil and corruption, or to unfaithfulness of any kind, we shall have to abide the consequences; we cannot get around them.

I do not wish to talk long to-day. We have heard some very excellent remarks, and the time, I see, is about expired for the present. I would say, however, that I sanction these things spoken of by Brother Joseph F. and bear testimony of their truthfulness. I know of the truth of what he has said in relation to the celestial order of marriage, independent of the revelation communicating it, for God showed it to me. I know it and I bear witness of it, not because I heard it from the Prophet Joseph Smith only; but because I know for myself, for I asked the Lord to show me of this doctrine, which he did, and therefore I have confidence in these things; I know of their truth, and I only ask God to help me to be true to my covenants. And let us all be true to our covenants and faithful to God and our religion and fear Him and obey His laws.

And to the family I would say—Follow your husband and father, as far as he has followed Christ. If there were any weaknesses in him pass them by, and live for God and for truth. He will be all right; you prepare to meet him by living your religion and keeping the commandments of God. Don't be fearful about the consequences, the Lord will take care of you. He has said, "I will be a father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow." He will take care of His Saints who put their trust in Him; as long as you do what is right, putting your trust in the Lord, you shall never suffer.

May God bless you, God bless all who are desirous of doing His will and keeping His commandments, and that we may be saved in His kingdom, is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

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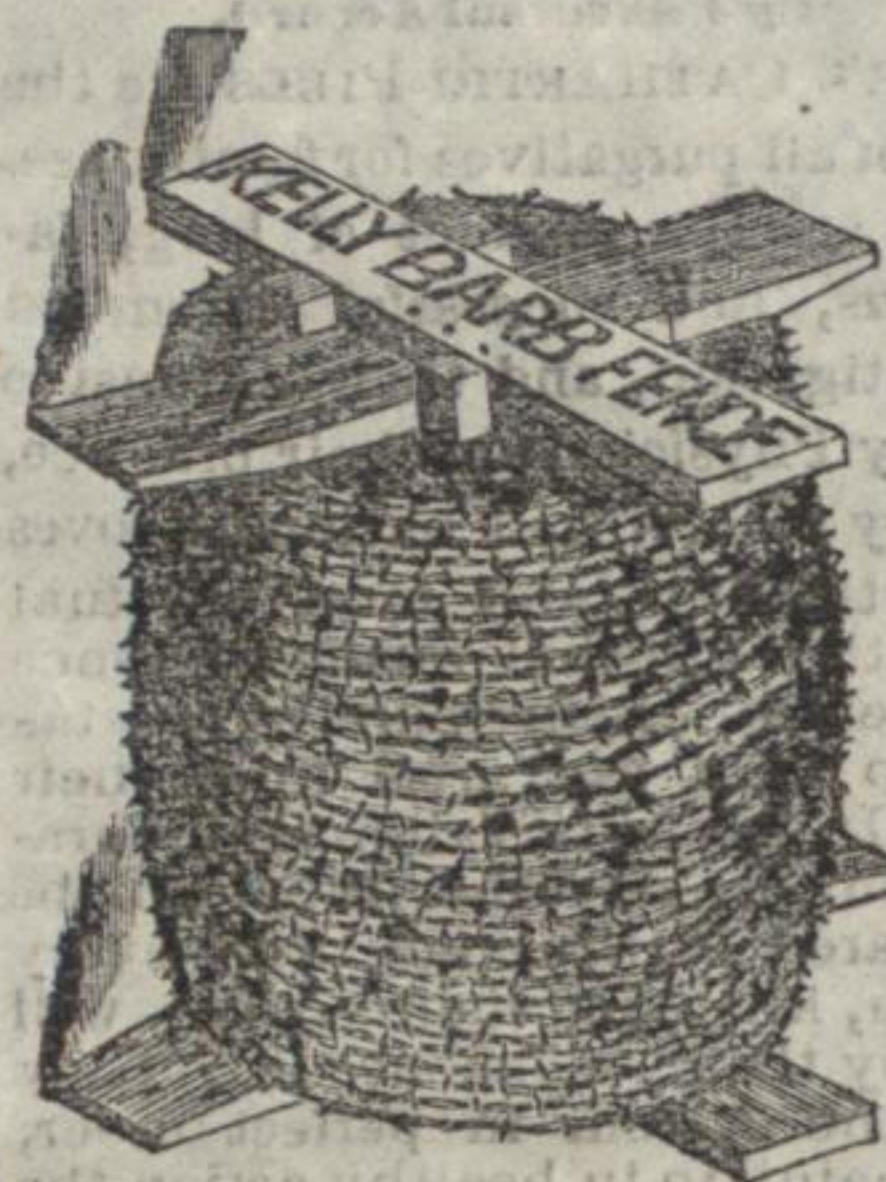
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