

DESERET NEWS.

BY W. RICHARDS.

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For the Deseret News.
I AM NOT OLD.

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BY W. W. PHELPS.

I am not old,—it can't be so
At three score years and ten;
For what I see, and what I know,
Show beings be again.

I am not old,—nor will I be
When four score years are done;
For truth declares, eternity
Has only just begun.

I am not old,—nor can I hope
That death will trouble me;
For, like a sleep, I'll soon wake up:
In Paradise I'll be.

I am not old,—like feeble flesh
That fear scares out of breath;
For life, with me, will bloom afresh,
Beyond the grave of death.

I am not old,—but on a term;—
Who cares where death has trod?
The Savior's flesh fed not a worm:—
'Twas tomb'd, but rose a God!

I am not old,—and what of age?
The spirit is the leav'n;
I'll act my part upon the stage,
As I once did in heav'n.

I am not old,—life pleases me;
You know I tell the truth;
What was it I came here to be,
BUT EVER-LASTING YOUTH!

I am not old,—but am and was
Like God, to have my wives,
And children, with celestial laws,
TO LIVE ETERNAL LIVES.
G. S. L. City, March 20, 1851.

FIFTH GENERAL EPISTLE

Of the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, from Great Salt Lake Valley, State of Deseret, to the Saints scattered throughout the Earth, Greeting:

BELOVED BRETHREN:—Ever mindful of the Redeemer's kingdom and of your interest therein, we gladly improve the present moment in expressing to you our watchfulness and care concerning you, and concerning those things which may tend to your present happiness and future exaltation. There is nothing that transpires around us, but what has its tendency to good or evil; and while we are in the world, and are surrounded by circumstances and events which have a bearing on our welfare, either for or against, it becomes us, as Saints of the Most High, to inform and become informed; and to treasure up knowledge and wisdom concerning all things that are transpiring on earth; and in

the heavens, so far as it concerns us and we are permitted to know; and in hell too, that we may be ready to shun every evil tendency, and embrace all good; and if through our pen the wisdom of God shall be made manifest for your good, comfort, consolation, and salvation, the greatest joy of our hearts will be realized.

The church, of which you are members, was organized on the 6th of April, 1830; then consisting of six individuals, since which time it has continued to increase, and to be persecuted and driven from town to town; from county to county; and from State to State, and out of the States; until its resting place in the wilderness and vallies of the mountains, is about three thousand miles from the place of its organization in the State of New York; and in those persecutions, prophets and apostles have been martyred for the truth's sake, and the elders have been scattered abroad on the four quarters of the earth, and the islands of the sea, preaching as they went; faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; repentance; baptism for the remission of sins; the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost; the Lord's supper; the gathering; the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment; and hundreds of thousands have believed and yielded obedience to the heavenly message, and are patiently waiting the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; who, ere long, will set his feet again on Mount Olivet, and make himself manifest unto Israel, according to the predictions of the ancient prophets; for Israel must be gathered from all nations, and be again established in the land of their inheritance, and behold the wounds in the hands and side of Him whom they have pierced, and acknowledge Him as their Savior, their Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. The gathering of Israel has already commenced; Judea is receiving its ancient inhabitants, and the Holy City is re-building: which is one prominent sign of the near approach of the Messiah.

During the twenty-one years since the organization of the church, the gospel has been preached in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, the East and West Indies, and on many islands and clusters of islands in the Atlantic and Pacific; many thousands of the Saints have gathered from various parts of the earth, unto Zion; to America; the land which God has pointed out as a place of safety for His people, in these last days; and which will prove a place of refuge for kings, and princes, and nobles, and honorable men of the earth of all nations, whether rich or poor, who are disposed to seek refuge therein, when the overflowing scourges of God's wrath shall destroy the nations, and depopulate the earth on account of the multiplied infidelity and abominations of the inhabitants thereof.—The unparalleled spread of the gospel, in so short a space of time, and the rapid gathering of the Saints, is another token of Messiah's near approach.

The increasing convulsions of the nations; the multiplied wars and rumors of wars; the internal dissensions which threaten the disunion and overthrow of the best governments on the earth; the increasing plagues and sick-

ness in new and diversified forms, baffling the skill of the ablest physicians, and causing the wisdom of their wisest to perish; the increasing divisions among professing Christian parties, and members of the same party, showing, daily, a greater and greater want of that union which must exist to secure the perpetuity of the principles of righteousness among any people, and without which God's kingdom cannot exist on earth or in the heavens; the increase of whirlwinds, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes; the increase of the loss of life by shipwreck and tempest, by steamboat explosions and burnings; the destruction of life and property by murder and incendiarism, robbery, burglary, and theft; the fearful sights, and strange signs, and knockings, and noises, frequently exhibited in the heavens and on the earth; the increase of seers, and wizards, and diviners, and familiar spirits, and soothsayers, and astrologers, who are charming the nations with their magic arts, lulling the foolish to sleep with their magnetic influence, deceiving priests and people by their necromancy, calling rain, snow, and fire from heaven, and scattering abroad the hoar frost like a winter's night, in their halls of science, and the people supporting them by their faith, influence, and money, leaving the poor, the sick, the widow and the fatherless, to mourn for the comforts of life in the solitary chamber, and the too general corruptions, and abominations, and defilements, and polluted practices of all flesh upon the face of the earth; all, all these signs, and multitudes more of a like nature, now existing, are the fulfillment of the prophecies, not only of the ancient prophets, but more particularly of the latter-day prophet and apostle, seer and revelator, Joseph Smith; who opened up the way of life and salvation to this generation, by the power of the everlasting Priesthood, which was restored to earth through him, and who prophesied and bore witness that all these, and many more like things should come to pass in this generation, as signs of the second coming of the Son of Man, which is near at hand; and verily his testimony is true, and his testament is in force, for he has sealed it with his blood; therefore, hear it all ye ends of the earth! believe on Jesus, be baptized in his name for the remission of your sins, and do all things he shall command, and you shall be saved in the presence of God and the Lamb; and there is no other way by which you can be saved.

Of the day and the hour of the coming of Christ no man knoweth. It is not yet, neither is it far off; there are prophecies yet to be fulfilled before that event takes place; therefore, let no man deceive the Saints with vain philosophy and false prophecy; for false prophets will arise, and deceive the wicked, and, if possible, the good; but while the wicked fear and tremble at surrounding judgments, the Saints will watch and pray; and, waiting the final event in patience, will look calmly on the passing scenery of a corrupted world, and view transpiring events as confirmation of their faith in the holy gospel which they profess, and rejoice more and