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AN OLD FRIEND IN A NEW DRESS.

NOT BY THE AUTHOR OF THE THREE FISHERS.

Three merchants went riding out into the West,
On the top of the 'bus, as the sun went down;
Each talk'd of his wife, and how richly she dressed;
And the growing circumference of her new gown:
For wives must dress, and husbands must pay,
And there's plenty to get, and little to say,
While the milliner's bill is running.

Three wives sat up in Jane Clarke's for hours,
And they told her to put every article down;
They order'd the silks, and they order'd the flowers,
And the bill is kept rolling up, gown upon gown;
For wives must dress, and husbands will pay,
Though perhaps they will be in a terrible way
When they're dunn'd for the bill that is running.

Three bankrupts were figuring in the 'Gazette,'
On a Tuesday night when the sun went down;
And the women were weeping, and quite in a pet,
For the dresses they never will show to the town;
For wives WILL dress, though husbands CAN'T pay,
And bankruptcy's surely the pleasant way
To get rid of the bill and the dunning.—[PUNCH.]

CALLS.

Rise, Compassion! for thy neighbor
Needs thy cheerful gift,
Who, bow'd down by his dread labor,
Cries in vain, 'A lift!'
Passing brothers, neither heeding
Nor their toll nor sorrow,
Onward to Life's brighter ocean
Pressing, cry 'To-morrow!'

Pleasure's flowers ever twining,
That 'to-morrow's' soon forgot,
And the poor man, lone and pining,
Left to mourn his cheerless lot,
Oh, then, cry no more, 'To-morrow,'
Aid while yet the moment calls;
From neglect the sweetest blossom
Withering, from its life-tree falls.

Aid while yet the means are offer'd,
Ere Death's blighting brand is hurl'd—
Aid! for there, oh there are proffer'd
Riches of a higher world!

Rich is he whose hand, possessing,
Shrinks not at the generous deed—
Oh, 'tis there he feels the blessing
Bounteous heaven for man decreed!

SERMON

By Orson Pratt, Tabernacle, July 10th, 1859.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

It is truly joyful to my feelings to assemble, Sabbath after Sabbath with the Latter Day Saints, to hear the testimonies of the servants of the living God and to hear the words of eternal life preached by the power of the Holy Ghost.

It is now nearly twenty nine years that I have enjoyed this privilege in this church; and I esteem it as one of the greatest privileges to be still alive and in your midst, and I acknowledge the hand of God in preserving me for so many years in this kingdom. I believe most firmly that it had not been for the mercy, power and goodness of God I should not be numbered among the living at the present time. When I cast my reflections back upon the past history of my life, and contemplate the numerous scenes through which I have passed, in connection with hundreds of others that have traveled to and fro among the nations, I feel that it has been the hand of the Lord that has delivered me from the hands of enemies and lawless mobs which have often beset my path.

It has been the hand of the Lord that has delivered this people through all the dreadful persecutions that we have endured. And it will be the hand of the Lord that will deliver us in all future time. I often times reflect back upon the early period of my experience in this church, having been baptized into the same only about five months after its first organization, when there were but a very few individuals numbered with the Saints. I presume that all who belonged to the church, at that time, might occupy a small room about the size of 15 feet by 20. I then became intimately acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith, and continued intimately acquainted with him until the day of his death. I had the great privilege, when I was in from my missions, of boarding the most of the time at his house, so that I not only knew him as a public teacher, but as a private citizen, as a husband and father. I witnessed his earnest and humble devotions both morning and evening in his family. I heard the words of eternal life, flowing from his mouth, nourishing, soothing and comforting his family, neighbors and friends. I saw his countenance lighted up, as the inspiration of the Holy Ghost rested upon him, dictating the great and most precious revelations now printed for our guide. I saw him translating, by inspiration, the Old and New Testaments and the inspired book of Abraham from Egyptian papyrus.

And what now is my testimony concerning that man, founded upon my own personal observations? It is the same to-day, as it was when first received the testimony that he was a prophet. I knew that he was a man of God. It was not a matter of opinion with me, for I received a testimony from the heavens concerning that matter; and without such a testimony it is difficult for us always to judge; for no man can know the things of God, but by the Spirit of God. I do not care how much education a man may have—how learned he may be—how much he has studied theology under

the eyes of teachers that are uninspired; I do know there is no man living that can know the things of God for himself only by revelation. I could form some kind of an opinion about Joseph Smith as a natural man without receiving any communication or revelation for myself, I could believe him to be a man of God from his conversation, from his acts, from his dealings; I could believe him to be a prophet by seeing many things take place that he prophesied of; but all this would not give me that certain knowledge which is necessary for an individual to have in order to bear testimony to the nations.

If I bear testimony to others that I know this church and this kingdom to be the church and kingdom of God, and that Joseph Smith was really raised up as a prophet and as a seer and as a revelator, I must bear that testimony from some certain information and knowledge I have derived independent of what can be learned naturally by the natural man. The testimony I have borne for twenty nine years past upon this point, is that the Lord revealed to me the truth of this work; and because the Lord revealed this fact to me, I have the utmost confidence in bearing testimony to it in all the world. It is true I was then but a youth, I was ignorant and am still ignorant in many points and in many respects, but I was then very ignorant, so far as the religion of heaven is concerned, until the Lord made manifest his truth, and taught, informed, and instructed my mind.

For about one year before I heard of this church, I had begun seriously in my own mind to inquire after the Lord. I had sought him diligently, perhaps more so than many others that professed to seek him. I was so earnest and intent upon the subject of seeking the Lord when I was about eighteen years of age, and from that until I was nineteen, when I heard this gospel and received it, that I did not give myself the necessary time to rest.—Engaged in farming, and laboring, too, by the month, I took the privilege, while others had retired to rest, to go out into the fields and wilderness and there plead with the Lord, hour after hour, that he would show me what to do—that he would teach me the way of life and inform and instruct my understanding. It is true, I had attended, as many others have done, various meetings of religious societies; I had attended the Methodists; I had been to the Baptists, and had visited the Presbyterian meetings. I had heard their doctrines and had been earnestly urged by many to unite myself with them as a member of their churches, but something whispered to not do so; I remained therefore apart from all of them, praying continually in my heart that the Lord would show me the right way.

I continued this for about one year, after which, two Elders of this church came into the neighborhood; I heard their doctrine and believed it to be the ancient gospel, and as soon as the sound penetrated my ears, I knew that if the Bible was true, their doctrine was true; they taught, not only the ordinances, but the gifts and blessings promised the believers, and the authority necessary in the church in order to administer the ordinances. All these things I received with gladness; instead of feeling, as many do, a hatred against the principles, hoping they were not true, fearing and trembling lest they were, I rejoiced with great joy, believing that the ancient principles of the gospel were restored to the earth, that the authority to preach it was also restored; I rejoiced that my ears were saluted with these good tidings while I was yet a youth and in the day, too, of the early rise of the kingdom of God. I went forward and was baptized; I was the only individual baptised in that country for many years afterward. I immediately arranged my business and started off on a journey of two hundred and thirty miles, to see the prophet. I found him in the house of old father Whitmer in Fayette, Seneca county, State of New York, the house where this church was first organized, consisting of only six members. I also found David Whitmer, then one of the three witnesses who saw the angel and the plates.

I soon became acquainted with all the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, with the exception of Oliver Cowdery and Peter Whitmer, who had started westward and whose acquaintance I formed a few months afterward. I heard their teachings, saw their course of conduct, saw their earnestness, their humility and diligence in prayer, and their faithfulness in warning one another, and in warning their neighbors.

I called upon the Lord with more faith than before, for I had then received the first principles of the gospel; the gift of the Holy Ghost was given to me, and when it was shed forth upon me, it gave me a testimony concerning the truth of this work that no man can ever take from me. It is impossible for me, so long as I have my reasoning faculties and powers of mind, to doubt the testimony I then received as among the first evidences that were given, and that, too, by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. And while I am speaking upon the subject, let me say that the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, given to an individual, is the greatest evidence that he can receive concerning God, godliness and the kingdom of heaven set up upon the earth. There is no evidence equal to it. A natural

man may see all the signs that Jesus has promised should follow the believer, he may see them in exercise by the faithful Saints of God. He may see them speak in different tongues and languages, and then he may have his doubts in regard to it, if he has not received the testimony of the Holy Ghost himself.—He may hear the sounds of these tongues, but how is he to judge or know whether they do speak in another tongue or not? It is true, he hears sounds put together which resemble languages he has heard foreigners speak, but it is not a testimony that imparts a knowledge to his mind; he wants something greater than this. Again, he hears others who are ignorant and unlearned, by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, interpret these tongues and unfold the things spoken by the power of the Spirit of God in another language, but how does he know that they give the true interpretation? His own understanding will not testify that they have. He must, therefore, have a testimony independent of this, a higher, a greater testimony, even that of the Holy Spirit. Again, he might see individuals, professing to be followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, go forth and lay their hands upon the sick and pray to the Father in the name of Jesus that they may be healed; he may see them raised up and apparently restored to health and soundness; but then, how does he know that these persons were really as sick and as much afflicted as they pretended to be? Seeing these things as a natural man, how is he to know that the administration by the laying on of hands has imparted power or virtue to heal them? Or is it the work of imagination? Here would be left room for doubt. This testimony alone is not sufficient to rest upon.—He should have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, resting upon himself, to convince him that they were the servants of God and that the gifts they exercise, were from heaven.—He might hear them prophesy many things that are to take place, years in the future; but he would not wish to wait for their fulfillment, to know whether they were of God; or while he was waiting, he might be laid in the dust. He, therefore, needs something to convince him, beyond all doubt, that the individuals prophesying, were filled with the Holy Ghost, and that their predictions were true, and could be depended upon, and then, whether they come to pass or not, in his day, he knows they will be fulfilled in their times and in their seasons, and so with all other gifts. He might see a miracle of any kind; he might see the laws of nature apparently overcome by a person calling himself a servant of God. How does he know he is the servant of God, or that he performs that miracle by the power of God? Have not devils and fallen angels power? Did they not have mighty power in ancient days? Yes. Could they not smite the earth with plagues, and turn water into blood anciently, as Moses the servant of God did? Yes. Could not the wicked magicians of Egypt perform great signs by casting down their staves, and causing them to appear like serpents, performing great and marvelous things similar to those the prophet Moses performed?

How is the natural man to judge? There is God on the one hand, and the devil on the other, and if one is to judge naturally of these things he would not be sure that the person performing a miracle before him was really inspired of God. The gift and power of the Holy Ghost, as I have already observed, is the greatest evidence any man or woman can have concerning the kingdom of God. It is given expressly to impart to mankind a knowledge of the things of God. It is given to purify the heart of man that he may by its power not only be able to understand its operation upon himself, but be able to understand its operations upon others also, and, indeed, if I could by any possible means independent of the Holy Ghost, ascertain that a miracle was wrought of God, what particular benefit would it beto me?

Scores of miracles were wrought in ancient times, but how did they benefit the children of Israel? When they saw the waters of the Red sea divided and the Egyptians overthrown in its depths; when they were brought up before mount Sinai and heard the voice of the trumpet out of the midst of the cloud and from the flaming mountain proclaiming the ten commandments in their ears and saw Moses go up in the midst of the fire; when they beheld all this display of the power of God, what effect did it have on the great majority who saw?—Did it effect their conduct? No. Miracles had become a little common with them, and said they, what has become of this Moses?—Perhaps they thought he had perished in the mountain. They might have imagined a volcano on the mountain, belching out its fires, accompanied by thunder and lightning; and that some person had artfully concealed himself, having a great trumpet, and, through it, pretending to give laws to Israel. They might have said, we will not be cheated by this pretended miracle; but while this thunder and storm is lasting on the mount, and while it is in this terrible convulsion, we will have a god that we can see, we will cast our gold into the fire and make one that will just suit us, and so they did, and fell down and worshipped it, and said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, etc." Here then we perceive what effect miracles have upon a people, without the power and

gift of the Holy Ghost to bear testimony that these miracles are of God. The Holy Ghost bears testimony to the man who receives it, and not to somebody else, and if he is pure enough to receive this gift, he has power enough in his heart to regulate his actions according to the law of God, instead of building golden calves.

I have deviated from my experience; and perhaps it will not be necessary to say any more on that subject, for it is about the same in many respects, as the experience of all the rest of the Saints of God. It is true, I have traveled perhaps, more by far, than any other man in the Church who is now living, but what of this? I expect to travel a great deal more if I am called upon; for my mission is to travel; that is the command I received in connection with the Twelve and the Seventies. We have been called upon to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature as they were in ancient days, and inasmuch as we cannot go personally and preach to every creature, we have the responsibility upon us to see that it is preached to every creature, to every nation, tongue and people; and as much as we do not fulfill this responsibility placed upon us, we shall have to suffer. In connection with others, I have gone forth and endeavored to fulfill in some little measure, the great mission the Lord our God has given us to the nations of the earth. I have borne testimony all the day long, first to my own nation, the people of the United States, in the New England, Middle, Western and Southern States, and in the territories, and also in the Canadas, upper and lower. For many years my voice has been heard throughout the land, warning the people to repent. And I most assuredly know, that all the testimonies I have borne, are recorded in the heavens, and it is a comfort to me to think they are not lost and forgot. And all the people that have heard them, will have to meet them in the great and coming day.

I have not only borne testimony to my own nation on this continent, baptizing believers, building up churches, traveling on foot thousands and tens of thousands of miles, without purse or scrip, being mobbed and driven to and fro, and hunted by the enemy; but I have also had the privilege of crossing the Atlantic ocean ten times, for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus, to bear his name among the nations afar off; and I have endeavored in those distant lands, as well as on this continent, to bear my testimony faithfully among the people. And my testimony is this, that God has in his infinite mercy and goodness, sent his angel from heaven to restore the same gospel that was preached eighteen hundred years ago; that he has borne testimony by his angels by the power of the Holy Ghost, and by his own voice of the fact, that he has restored his priesthood, and his kingdom upon the face of the earth, and that the kingdom now established will continue to roll on until all the nations and kingdoms of the earth shall see and hear of the power and glory of the Almighty magnified and made manifest in it. This has been my testimony and I rejoice in it. I am not fatigued, don't feel like retiring to private life, but I feel to continue in this holy calling and ministry as long as the Lord my God shall permit me to have a being here upon the earth, be it long short.

How long I shall stay here I know not, that is among the hidden things of futurity, so far as I am personally concerned. I look forward with joyful anticipation to the glory that shall follow in the rolling forth of this kingdom, and in the fulfillment of the purposes of the Most High God in relation to this last dispensation he has introduced upon the earth. There are a great many things that are taking place, and have taken place, that I have rejoiced in, because I have known them, from diligent research, to be the fulfillment of modern prophecy.

I have not been backward about searching both ancient and modern prophecy that I might learn something about the events of the last dispensation, and understand the signs of the times in which we live. I have seen prophecy after prophecy fulfilled, not only among the people of the Latter day Saints but among the nations of the earth, that were uttered years and years before they came to pass, and there are prophecies contained in the Book of Mormon which remain to be fulfilled; and I am looking with joyful anticipation to the day of their fulfillment. The prophecies are of great interest to the Saints and to the world. As an instance, I will give you the substance of a prophecy, contained in the Book of Mormon. About six hundred years before Christ a prophet was raised up in Jerusalem, by the name of Lehi, and another one by the name of Nephi, and the Lord commanded them to leave Jerusalem and go to a land he would give to them; and he brought them forth by his miraculous power upon this American continent. Before they arrived here, however, Nephi had a vision, and saw all the great events from his day down to the winding up scene of all things. Among other things he saw the Jews would be carried away shortly after the departure of himself and his father's family into Babylon, and he saw they would be afflicted for a length of time, and then be restored to Jerusalem. After their return he saw the Messiah would make his appearance, and they would crucify him, and then they would be dispersed among all nations.