

**SPEAK THY THOUGHT.**

If a truth has shone within thee,  
Is it manly, just, or brave—  
Captive of the world's opinion—  
To conceal the light it gave?

All conviction should be valiant,  
Tell thy truth—if truth it be—  
Never seek to stem its current,  
Thoughts like rivers find the sea.

Speak thy thought if thou believ'st it,  
Let it jostle whom it may,  
Every seed that grows to-morrow,  
Lies beneath a clod to-day.

If our sires, the noble hearted  
Pioneers of things to come,  
Had like thee been weak and timid,  
Traitors to themselves, and dumb.

Where would be our free opinion—  
Where the right to speak at all,  
If our sires, like thee mistrustful,  
Had been deaf to duty's call?

Where would be triumphant science,  
Searching with her fearless eyes,  
Through the infinite creation,  
For the soul that underlies.

Where would be those inspirations,  
Launched 'midst apathy and scorn?  
How could noontide ever greet us,  
But for dawning of the morn?

Though an honest thought, outspoken,  
Lead thee into chains or death—  
What is life compared with virtue,  
Shalt thou not survive thy breath?

Have not ages long departed,  
Greened and toiled and bled for thee,  
If the Past has lent thee wisdom,  
Pay it to Futurity.

J. H. WARD.  
Salt Lake City, June 25, 1878.

[Special Correspondent of the News.]

**CLOSING EXERCISES AT THE BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY.**

**Examination of Five Normal Graduates.**

Friday, June 21.

The fourth term of the Second Academical year closed to-day with the following proceedings:

On the stand were Bishop Tanner, chairman of the executive committee; Counselor Cluff, Bishop L. E. Harrington, and W. H. Dusenberry, County Superintendent of District Schools, who are all members of the Board of Trustees, and Professor Booth of the Faculty.

Prof. Milton H. Hardy was in the chair.

Ladies and gentlemen from Provo and various parts of the country attended as visitors.

The singing was conducted by Prof. Daniels, organ accompaniments by Prof. Karl G. Maeser.

**PRACTICAL DIVISION.**

Class exercises of the five graduates, each occupying 10 minutes. Each of the graduates upon receiving his class was handed, at the same instant, his subject from the Principal.

I Class in Second Reader, conducted by graduate Wm. Johnson; I Class in grammar, relative pronouns by graduate J. B. Walton; III Class, geography on the counties and towns of Utah, by graduate J. J. Walton; IV Class, arithmetic, on fractions, by graduate Alma Greenwood; V Class, Object Lesson, on the Wagon, by graduate Miss Fannie Rogers.

**THEORETICAL PART.**

Class in German, conducted by Prof. Maeser; class in Phonography, by Prof. Hardy; class in Latin, by Prof. Maeser; Theory and Practice of Teaching, with criticisms on the foregoing practical exercises, and the examination papers of the five graduates, also by Prof. Maeser.

**MISCELLANEOUS PART.**

Report of the present term and statistical exhibit for the year was then read by the Principal, showing as follows:

Department.	Registered.	Discontinued.	Returned.	Matr.
Primary	39	5	34	
Intermediate	37	9	28	
Grammar	12	7	5	
Academical and Normal	20	3	17	
Total	108	24	84	

Of those registered—Elders, 12; Priests, 4; Teachers, 7; Deacons, 5; Lay members, 80; making the total as before of 108.

Tabular Exhibit for the year—1st term, 130, 124 of these have attended one term.

2d term, 223, 119 of these have attended two terms.

3d term, 233, 63 of these have attended three terms.

4th term, 108, 39 of these have attended four terms.

The report of the Monitor of the Domestic Department shows their residences as follows—

Provo, 260; Springville, 7; Spanish Fork, 4; Payson, 5; Salem, 3; Benjamin, 1; Santaquin, 2; Cedar Valley, 2; Alpine, 3; Lehi, 1; American Fork, 8; Pleasant Grove, 3; Juab co., 8; Millard co., 8; Sanpete co., 7; Tooele co., 3; Sevier co., 1; Iron co., 1; Kane co., 1; Beaver co., 1; Washington co., 1; Wasatch co., 1; Salt Lake co., 2. Total 336.

Address by Professors Hardy and Booth; reading from "Academic Monthly" by Miss Teenie Smoot, editor; address by normal student, J. M. Tanner, in behalf of those who remain; address by graduate Alma Greenwood in behalf of those who leave.

The meeting was then given into the hands of the board.

Counselor H. H. Cluff spoke for a short time in behalf of the board.

The Principal announced that the Academy would adjourn till the latter part of August.

JAMES E. TALMAGE,  
Secretary.

[For the DESERT NEWS.]

**INFIDELITY.**

BY CHARLES W. STAYNER.

**Chapter IV.—Youthful Sceptics— Suggestions to Young Men—An Easy Way to Investigate.**

Youthful sceptics are said to be numerous. Now this may or may not be the case, but there are doubtless some instances where young men have little or no faith in God; but on what ground is their scepticism based? When one of this class is questioned as to the prophecies contained in the scriptures, and the histories that record their fulfillment, he is found to be entirely at a loss. Although he may appear fairly posted in some other matters, if you ask him about Herodotus, or Tertullian, or Tacitus, and their writings, touch upon the fascinating historical works of Rollin; refer to Sir Isaac Newton's comments on prophecy; or inquire, has he ever perused these or Scott's Commentaries on the Bible? Has he ever read fifteen leading chapters in the Bible itself? Has he even read the Book of Daniel? and you confuse him as badly as though you suddenly called on him to preach or pray. One reason of this is because, with the exception of the Bible, most of the works mentioned are scarce, and some are very difficult to obtain. Booksellers do not have them for sale, unless specially ordered. But the main reason is, that the inclination of the youth in question has been to avoid religious thoughts and Biblical literature. He has probably read some scientific works, into whose pages the wily authors have doubtless insinuated here and there infidel arguments and reasonings. Many of these works are produced by infidels and spiritualists, who love to saddle the back of science with all their absurd theories, and thus bring their sophistry into notice, disguised beneath the cloak of scientific information. The result is, that a flimsy objection seizes the soul of the student, and he sinks into the dark valley of unbelief, before he has had the opportunity to glean from the rich fields of knowledge, scarcely any of the glorious truths concerning God and his works.

To such a young man, I would suggest, as a friend, ere you permit the serpent infidelity to encircle you in his slimy coils, do yourself the justice to read even one book of glorious prophecy! Read simply the Book of Daniel, read it carefully. Then take one of Lyman's Historical Charts (for sale here) and compare the prophecies recorded by David 555 years before Christ. Compare these visions, interpretations and prophecies with the rise and fall of governments, empires and kingdoms as shown in the chart, and unless your reason is calloused you will be filled with admiration. There can be no deception in this; in the one book you will find the prophecies, and in the other is the record of their fulfillment, which has occupied a period of over 2,400 years. As a still further aid read the first volume of Rollin's Ancient History (for sale here) and not only will your reason be convinced, but your heart will be touched with the

manner of God's dealings among the children of men.

While a portion of the book of Daniel as well as other books in the Scriptures, is of an historical character, and as such is simply a truthful record of past events, no one can read the prophetic utterances of the angels who visited Daniel, and compare them with secular history, without being astonished at their literal and complete fulfillment, as far as the time for such fulfillment has elapsed.

The proof that those angels were not of God, as they stated, is found in the fact that their prophecies have literally come to pass, and the truth is more apparent to us in the case of the revelations to Daniel, because of their specific plainness and continued and current fulfillment. We are amazed at what has already taken place, and we can easily foresee that the early future will develop the remainder of the grand programme, involving the sacrifice of all wicked nations and the establishment of Christ's dominion.

We must remember that it is far easier to ridicule sacred things than to obey them, hence infidels have the advantage. They find a ready response to their theories, and it would be indeed strange if they did not extend their numbers rapidly among the ignorant and unthinking, who, as a general thing, prefer pleasure and a reckless life, to the more careful pursuance of virtue and lasting happiness. We must also remember that truths of every kind have always had to run the gauntlet of ridicule and persecution. The greatest principles of science known to men, to-day, are among the number that were once treated with ridicule. So let no one prejudice as a fool, but rather investigate as a philosopher.

**Chapter V.—Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts—An Infidel touched by the comparison of Scriptural Prophecy with Secular History.— Doctor Nelson's views on teaching history through the images of the Bible.**

In the last chapter a suggestion was made to the youth which would involve a very brief labor on their part, namely, to read with care the Book of Daniel, which is but a small portion of the work called the Bible, and to compare the predictions recorded by that prophet with the history of the kingdoms and empires annued to in Lyman's Historical Chart, at work of recent production, containing a panorama of the world's history from the earliest times to the present. For the sake of those who may not have acted upon this advice, it may be well to briefly refer to those prophecies, and the history of their fulfillment. At all events, let us look at the two leading predictions referring in positive and specific language to the same events.

The 7th Chapter of Daniel from the 2nd to the 27th verses contains a wonderful vision in which that prophet beheld the four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse from one another. He describes the first as a lion with the wings of an eagle; the second was like a bear; the third resembled a leopard, and had four wings of a fowl, and four heads; the fourth was dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong and had great iron teeth; it had also ten horns, and after awhile there came up another little horn, before which three of the first horns were "plucked up by the roots," and this horn had eyes like a man, "and a mouth speaking great things."

He also beheld the casting down of thrones. Then the glorious presence of the ancient of days, whose throne was like a fiery flame, absorbed the interest of the prophet; a judgment was set and the books were opened; the dominion was taken from the beasts, and the Son of Man coming on the scene in the clouds of heaven, received dominion and glory, and a kingdom that all people and languages should serve him; "his dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

Daniel was troubled by this vision, and he sought the interpretation from an angel who stood by. This personage then informed the prophet, in the following language, that "These great beasts which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the Saints of the Most High, shall take

the kingdom and, possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever." On enquiring of the angel, Daniel then ascertained that the fourth beast, which was different from the rest, was the fourth kingdom, and that it should devour the whole earth, tread it down and break it in pieces. That the ten horns were ten kings which should arise out of that kingdom; and the little horn was another king "diverse from the first, who should subdue three of the other kings," that he "should speak great words against the Most High," he should wear out the Saints, and think "to change times and laws," but when the judgment shall sit, they would take away his dominion, "and consume and destroy it unto the end." "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the Saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

I have taken the liberty in the preceding chapters to use in connection with my own, some of the ideas of an intelligent physician, Doctor David Nelson, who was, in his youth, an infidel, but who, through reading and becoming conversant with these predictions, and comparing them with secular history, and by investigating the matter of religious truth, became convinced that God not only existed in the heavens but that he had truly communicated his glorious purposes to man. This gentleman, after years of skepticism, and association with infidels, entered into the field as a Presbyterian minister, and spent the remainder of his life in endeavoring to bring the method of his conversion prominently before the class from whose association and condition of mind he had been rescued. With this object he published a work entitled "The Cause and Cure of Infidelity," from which are gleaned some of the most valuable items contained in this article.

I recommend a thorough examination of his work and also of others referred to therein, as far as can be obtained. This author in speaking of the prophecy above quoted uses the following language, showing how he was struck by it, as he was acquainted with the history of which it was a prediction:

"An outline of history for many centuries is desirable. There are many who would be glad to be familiar with the profile of the most prominent nations of the earth for the last 2500 years. An ordinary attention to this chapter will furnish this much abbreviated, but very correct history. Those who complain of enfeebled memories will find a remedy in the imagery of the verses." "A teacher of history may communicate, I feel assured, after repeated trial, more knowledge in a given time, by causing the student to learn a number of passages taken from different prophets, than can be done in any other way. The chapter before us is one."

The various commentators on the Bible, Dr. Scott, Sir Isaac Newton and others have furnished us with abundant and beautiful applications of the different parts of the above prophecy. But before giving any historical data in this connection we will glance at another prophecy relating to the same matters, and found in the second chapter of Daniel, 31 to 45 verses in which the King Nebuchadnezzar is shown in a vision the changes God would bring to pass in the history of kingdoms. We will then make the application, and a comparison with the history of the kingdoms referred to in the two predictions, showing how minutely the items are detailed and how accurately fulfilled.

**Correspondence.**

News from the Birmingham Conference.

26 COMMERCIAL ROAD,  
Hereford City, Eng.,  
June 5th, 1878

C. W. Penrose.

Dear Brother.—I am now in the Hereford district of the Birmingham Conference, traveling in company with Elder John Maycock, late from Springville. A few lines from these parts as to how the cause of truth is progressing I trust will be interesting.

Just one year next month I first

made my appearance here. Since that time changes have taken place, for instance, quite a number have emigrated to the place appointed, whose places in the meeting room have been filled by new converts. We held meetings at Ridgeway Cross, where there is a branch of some 30 members, who are striving to keep the commandments of God. When the weather will permit, we go out to the surrounding villages, and hold open air meetings, which are generally attended with good order. Of this part of preaching the season has just commenced. Next Sunday I expect to baptize two young ladies and rebaptize one, who are very anxious to emigrate to the bosom of the church, as is the faith of the entire branch.

In conversing with people on matters of religion, I am sorry to say few are found who really wish to serve God, the major part wish to become "Mormons," as they call us, if we will only transplant them from this country to the peaceful vales of Utah, thus you see they are looking for the "loaves and fishes." When persons wish to go to Utah merely to better their circumstances, I always advise them not to go, for the riches they seek in that community would only prove a curse, not a blessing, we have too many of that stripe there already.

I am happy to say that the Birmingham Conference is still on the improve. Since January about 80 have been baptized. The new members are in most cases the first to emigrate. We had some 22 go from these parts by the first company, with good prospects ahead for some more to join and emigrate. Our largest branch is in Birmingham, then comes the Stanwick, which numbers some 30; this branch is yet young, having risen up in about three years. We have four Utah Elders at present: A. Miner, as president, W. S. Burton, John Maycock, and myself, who I am happy to say are quite well in health, at all times trying to convince the sinner of his error, and turn unto Christ that he might live.

I visited Liverpool while the company was collecting prior to starting for Zion; it made me feel happy to see my brethren and sisters that far on the way to the land of deliverance and plenty, if faithful. We were happy to meet some more Utah Elders, with some of whom I was acquainted, and see them in good health and spirits, after a tiresome voyage across the Atlantic.

The health of my parents is good, and they are enjoying themselves while among relations and friends.  
JOSEPH BULL, JR.

**A Chapter of Accidents.**

TEMPLE SAW MILL,  
Logan Canon,  
June 20, 1878.

Editors Desert News:

As we have had a few casualties lately, we would like you to give a little space.

Last Monday, while the boys were at work in the timber cutting and hauling, a large tree was felled, and in falling, it loosened another which was unperceived, and fell on three of the boys, two of whom escaped with slight bruises. Silas Wright, from Bennington, Bear Lake, narrowly escaped with life, but is now well.

On Tuesday, about 3 o'clock p.m., Andrew Thomson, of Bloomington, Bear Lake, was engaged with others in loading a 12 x 12 timber for the Temple, and while letting it rest on the wheel, by some mismove it fell and caught Andrew between two timbers and broke his right leg just above the knee, and narrowly escaped breaking the other. He was kindly taken care of, and the fracture set by Dr. Lamoreaux, of Logan, who was at hand. It was found by the nature of the fracture that an extension was necessary to be applied, and one was speedily made, of which the Dr. is the inventor, and which is the most recommendable instrument for that purpose we have ever seen. The patient is fastened in such a manner that any displacement of bones is impossible, and after cured he need not limp about with a short leg.

Many other little accidents have happened, but for all that all are working with heart and might, and first class lumber is turned out at the rate of 3,000 feet per day.

Yours with respect,  
LEON.