

makes the emigrant to this country, though he may be ignorant and in poverty, a power in the land? It is because he has a vote, and politicians court him. But a most insidious, well-matured and persistent attempt was made to deprive every man of us of the franchise, of the birthright we have inherited from an ancestry of free men. God delivered us from that; and who is to be thanked for it? Those who devised these measures and would have put them in force? Are they the ones to whom gratulations are due? I believe many of our people think some of those people ought to be thanked for it; at least, they seem to act that way. The men who raised their voices, laid their plans, and used their influence against such measures are forgotten or thought lightly of. Now, God be praised, we are free today, we have our rights, and no man is to be thanked for it; it has been God's power that has done it. When I think of these things, and see how the servants of God have striven from the beginning with all the strength of mind and body that God gave them, to preserve the rights of the people, and then I hear men talk as though it was unpatriotic, sinful, and subversive of the rights of men to listen to these servants of the Lord who have established by their labors the right to be heard—I say when I see this I think, as one of old has said, that ingratitude is worse than the sin of witchcraft.

Let us appreciate that which God has done for us. No Latter-day Saint ought to ask this people to honor men, but honor the authority that He has placed to govern and to guide, and that has shown itself equal to every emergency, every crisis and every trial. God has shown that He is able to choose the leaders for His people, and that when He has chosen them He is able to sustain them in their leadership. There has never been a moment when they have been unable to do that which was necessary in counselling the people in a path of safety and that, too, without mixing the authority of Church and state, or in any manner trenching upon or crossing the dividing line which separates the ecclesiastical from the civil authority.

Respecting testimony I desire to say a few words. I was asked the other day why a man should testify that he had been strengthened in his knowledge. If he knew that a thing was of God, should he not always know it, and how could that knowledge be added to? Now, as Brother Grant has told us this afternoon, it is possible for a man to have knowledge concerning a thing and then to lose it, or to have it fade away in a certain measure. We have abundant instances of this in the history of the Church. Oliver Cowdery was administered to by angelic messengers as Joseph was; he never denied that, but always testified of it; yet Oliver Cowdery lost his standing in the Church and went into the dark. He afterwards, however, came back and joined the Church again; and after joining the Church, he said, putting his hands to his head, "On this head John the Baptist laid his hands; on this head he conferred the lesser Priesthood." He never wavered in that testimony, but he had lost the testimony and light of the

Gospel. And we can lose it. We can have it strengthened, too, and added to by the testimony of the Spirit from time to time. That which we see confirms us more and more in the truth. If for any cause the brightness of that testimony has become dim, it rekindles it, and makes it brighter. In like manner, if we commit sin, the brightness of that testimony is lessened within us, until it fades away. The only way for us to preserve the testimony of the truth is to live so that the Spirit of God will always be within us. We should have a living testimony; not the testimony we received when we joined the Church, or when we were healed, or when we saw someone else healed; but the testimony of today, so that we can testify today that this is the work of God. That is the testimony we should seek to preserve every day of our lives.

I desire to bear my testimony that this is the work of God, and that it is led by God, under the direction of the Lord Jesus, our King and Lawgiver. I testify that this is His Church, and that He has given the authority to man to act for Him, as His ambassadors, to entreat the people to come unto God. God bless us and help us all to preserve this testimony, in my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Written for this Paper

THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1897.

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WASHINGTON, January 6th, 1897.



HAVE spent some time this week getting information about President McKinley's new home. I have had a photographer with me in the White House, and have gone over the different rooms almost with a tape line to let you know how your new ruler is to be housed. The White House has been greatly changed within the past few years. All kinds of improvements have been made, and the white hair of John Quincy Adams' ghost must rise in holy horror as he looks at the extravagant furnishings. Mrs. President Harrison expended something like \$52,000 on improvements, and a number of changes have been made by Mrs. Cleveland. The Harrisons spent a lot on the kitchen. When they came in the basement was full of rats. One kitchen floor had been laid on top of another, and they were all rotten. Mrs. Harrison ordered the wooden floors taken out and had the ground covered with concrete. Upon the top of this she put porcelain tiles and walled all the rooms of the basement as high as your shoulder with the same material. The White house is now lighted with electric lights. The chandeliers have electric globes and the lights are kept burning in the basement and in most of the rooms of the building all night long. The electric plant cost \$13,000, and this did not include the dynamo, for the electricity is brought to the White House through an underground cable from the

State department engine rooms, where it is generated.

I think it was Martin Van Buren who was denounced all over the country for buying a set of gold spoons for the White House. The new china which has been recently bought is worth almost its weight in gold. I know nothing about the late purchases of Mrs. Cleveland, for the president is very secretive as to his domestic matters. But there is a new set of cut glass in the cupboards of the Executive mansion which cost \$1,973, and I happen to know that Mrs. Harrison sent one order to Europe for twenty-four dozen china plates and five dozen coffee cups of a special design. Congress allows each president something like \$40,000 a year and more to run the White House, and a large part of this goes into new furniture and dishes. The linen costs a small fortune. The table cloths are of the finest damask, and the napkins used at state dinners are as big as a baby's bed quilt. They shine like silk, and they are so heavy that it takes some time for a drop of wine to soak through them.

Mrs. McKinley will probably buy a lot of new linen when she comes in and one of her pleasures may be the shopping which she can do at government expense.

New carpets are bought about every six years, and though the ones which I found on the different parlors are good she will probably have a chance to select new ones. I don't believe she will care to re-decorate the rooms. When the blue room was last fixed up the artists received more than \$5,000 for the job. Think of it! Five thousand dollars on one room! Isn't it awful. Yes, but the walls of the blue room look far different now than they did when Andrew Jackson's callers tramped around within them sampling the big cheese which one of his admiring constituents sent him, or at the reception which he gave on the day of his inauguration when huckets of orange punch were given out in each room and both walls and carpets ruined. The walls of the blue room are now padded and draped with silk as fine as that of the ball dresses of the ladies who will come here to shake hands with President McKinley. The silk is of the most delicate blue, and it is interwoven with silver. It is the same with the red room, which is also hung with silk and whose furniture has been designed and cushioned to match. The carpets of all the ground floor parlors are fine. That on the east room is so soft that your foot sinks into it as though it were a bed of moss. It takes almost 500 yards of carpet to cover the floor, and the one now tacked down cost \$950. It takes more than a thousand yards to carpet the White House parlors and dining rooms, and the carpets everywhere match the furniture and hangings.

Of late it has become the fashion to sneer at the White House. It is said to be not good enough for the president and that we ought to build a great palace for our rulers. The truth is our presidents, as a rule, have never had anything so good before they came to the White House. The most of them at the beginning of their lives were fed on hog and hominy. Cleveland had probably none too much to eat when his father was a poor parson, and the biggest feasts, I venture, were often the donation parties. McKinley had to skimp for his rations while he was in the army