

made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope." It was not a pleasing idea to come here. No one wished to come, only as it was the will of God, and that we would receive through this greater glory. I have not found it so very pleasant in my experience; still I have tried in the scenes through which I have been called to pass to enjoy the circumstances as far as God would give me wisdom and power to do so. A man's mind should be single to the glory of God in everything that he starts to accomplish. We should consider that of ourselves we can do nothing. We are the children of God. We are in darkness, only as God enlightens our understanding. We are powerless, only as God helps us. The work that we have to do here is of that nature that we cannot do it unless we have the assistance of the Almighty. Those who go into these temples to accomplish the glorious labors there performed feel that they cannot do this work satisfactorily to the parties in whose interest they are officiating unless God gives them His Holy Spirit. Here is the great trouble with men of the world, and too much so with the Elders of Israel; we forget that we are working for God; we forget that we are here in order to carry out certain purposes that we have promised the Lord that we would carry out. It is a glorious work that we are engaged in. It is the work of the Almighty; and He has selected the men and the women whom He knows from past experience will carry out His purposes, as a general thing.

What wonderful promises are contained in this 84th section! Can you comprehend them? I cannot. I can see that God means a great deal in these promises which He has made to us. There may be some strangers here who will say, "You read that from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, which we do not know anything about. Why don't you read something from the books that we believe in?" Now, what I have read here conforms exactly with what the Lord has said in the Bible. The Lord has said that He will give us all that He hath—and this according to the oath and covenant which belongs to the Priesthood. Nobody ought to doubt what Jesus says, and He declares, as recorded in the Revelations of St. John, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne." Can anything be said greater than that? Does not that comprehend everything? And there are many statements of this kind recorded in the Old and New Testament.

Brethren and sisters, my testimony is that this is the work of God in which we are engaged. I had not been in this Church two weeks when the Lord revealed to me a knowledge that He was God, and that He sent His Son into the world to be crucified for the sins of the world. No man ever did or ever could receive a more perfect knowledge in regard to the existence of God and of the truth of this work than God gave to me by revelation and the opening of the heavens. From that time on I have tried to live in such a way as not to lose His Holy Spirit, but to be guided by it continually, trying to get rid of my selfishness and any wrong-

ful ambition, and endeavoring to work in His interest. I believe these are the intentions and feelings of the Latter-day Saints generally.

God bless President Woodruff and his two counselors with a fullness of His Holy Spirit; and may we all live in that way that we may be prepared at any moment to go back into the other life and inherit the position that we occupied there, with the additional blessing and glory that we receive by conforming to the mind and will of God in this life. The prayer which Jesus made before His crucifixion may be offered by the Latter-day Saints: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." God bless you, my brethren and sisters, and may we so live as to be worthy to receive these wonderful blessings and promises in may prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Written for this Paper.*

### TRAVELS IN OLD MEXICO.

COLONIA DUBLAN, Chihuahua,  
Mexico, March 31, 1894.

On Wednesday, March 28, 1894, in company with Elder Joseph B. Jackson, who took me with his team to Dublan, I left Diaz to visit the other settlements of the Saints in Old Mexico. After traveling two miles southward, we crossed the river Casas Grandes, and two miles beyond we arrived at the Mexican town La Ascencion, said to contain 3000 inhabitants. This is undoubtedly a sample modern Mexican town. As the stranger approaches it, he sees from the distance something that resembles a huge adobe wall, without anything lofty to relieve it, and as he enters the place, he finds narrow streets and low one story adobe houses, with flat roofs throughout the entire plan, without fruit trees, shade trees or even as much as small gardens to add comfort to the town. How people can content themselves with living in such a cheerless place with nothing to look at but clumsy, rough adobe walls is more than an enterprising white man can conceive of, especially in a country like this where trees, vegetables and all kinds of grasses would grow abundantly with but little care.

The town of La Ascencion, unattractive as it is, will long be remembered by the first Latter-day Saints in Mexico, as it was immediately north of this place that many of our people were encamped on the bottom lands of the Casas Grandes before Colonia Diaz proper and our other Mexican colonies were founded. The custom house was also at La Ascencion at that time, and it was here that our brethren took their first lessons in Mexican "duty" business—an experience, which partly owing to their ignorance of Mexican laws, cost them very heavily. Through the influence of some Americans, who lied about our people and misrepresented their intentions, the Mexicans of La Ascencion looked upon their new neighbors (the Mormons) with great suspicion, and they generally believed them to be wicked and corrupt "set;" this, no doubt, also led to the issuance of the so called "exterminating order" from the governor of Chihuahua, when our people, in April, 1885, were ordered out of the country. It seemed that the bigotry and hatred toward the Saints at that

time ran so high that some of our persecutors were not satisfied with driving some of the best citizens of the United States into exile, but followed them with their enmity and wicked accusations into a foreign land. But the Lord, in answer to the prayers of His servants, turned away this danger. Instead of the Saints being driven out of Mexico, the governor who issued the order of expulsion lost his official head, and the Saints have since, through their honesty and straightforward course, gained the good will and confidence of their Mexican neighbors, many of whom will now trust in the word of one of our brethren far more than in that given by one of their own number.

Though the Mexicans are a very gentle and polite people, they are not all honest. True to their Indian traits of character many of them consider it no crime at all to steal if they are not caught at it. Hence, when our people were encamped near La Ascencion that class of citizens made it their special business to pilfer and steal from their prospective neighbors. Nor were they particular in regard to the articles secured. Anything from a horse to a needle would answer. On one occasion the temporary home of Elder Joseph H. James was visited by these thieves, when Brother James was out and the family was fast asleep. After having emptied a trunk and a smaller box containing the family clothing, and after taking the shoes and clothing which the respective members of the family had taken off in retiring to rest for the night, the robbers proceeded to steal the bedclothes off the very beds occupied by the members of the household. Without waking the smaller children they stole the covering of their cots, and were just in the act of pulling off the blankets of the bed occupied by an adult member of the family, when Sister James awoke and gave the alarm. Then the thieves made good their escape with their booty, leaving the family so destitute that kind neighbors had to furnish them with the most necessary wearing apparel before they could arise the next morning. But this was going a little too far. From that time on guns and other firearms were brought to play in uncomfortably close proximity to the midnight prowlers, who at length desisted from their "evil deeds" for fear of being sent to the great beyond before they could have an opportunity of seeking at the hands of their priest that forgiveness which was so readily granted them for such "petty crimes as that of stealing from the Mormons" was considered to be.

Since the recent raid of the rebels upon the custom house of Palomas, a company of Mexican soldiers has been stationed at La Ascencion, which for the time being adds a little to the business of the place. The soldiers are intended as a protection to the inhabitants; but if they were all like the one who kept us company part of the way from Colonia Diaz to La Ascencion, and who fell off his horse through dizziness superinduced, no doubt, by having got on the outside of too much "mescal" (a sort of Mexican whisky), we fear that the presence of the troops does not add much to the safety of the place. Another cause for the presence of troops in La Ascencion is this, that the inhabitants of the town quite recently arose in open rebellion against their "presidente," the principal municipal officer,