

MISSION WORK AMONG DESCENDANTS OF LEHI

Remarks Delivered at the General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Oct. 5, 1902, by
ELDER ANTHONY W. IVINS
 (President of Juarez Stake) and
ELDER SAMUEL E. WOOLLEY
 (President of the Sandwich Islands Mission.)

Re-opening of the Mexican Mission
 —Promising Branch of About
 200 Members With Headquarters
 in the City of Mexico—Glorious
 Promises Relating to the De-
 scendants of Lehi—Prosperity of
 Sandwich Islands Mission.

My brethren and sisters, during the few moments that I shall occupy in telling you something of the condition of the Latter-day Saints who are located in the republic of Mexico, I sincerely desire that I may be assisted by your faith. It is quite unexpectedly that I am called to occupy this position, and therefore I must depend upon your assistance and the aid of our Father in heaven.

The Latter-day Saints in Mexico are doing the things which the Latter-day Saints are doing in Canada, in Montana, in Oregon, in Idaho, in Wyoming, in Utah, and in all other places where they are established. Our effort is, wherever we go, as well as by precept, to teach the Mexican people the ways of the Lord and convert them to the truth. The fact that God's kingdom has been established in the dispensation in which we live, there are in Mexico about 12,000,000 of people, 9,000,000 of whom are Indians whose blood has not been intermingled with the blood of other people. For nearly 400 years these Indians have been a subjugated race. Since the conquest of Mexico, when with the sword in one hand and the cross in the other the doctrines of the Catholic church were established among the Aztec people, that great religion has been dominant there, and probably 85 per cent of the population have not sought insistently to introduce the principles of the Gospel among the Mexican people; but we, through our work of industry, and through the blessing of the Lord upon our efforts, we find it necessary to send out missionaries and organize branches of the Church among them.

A year ago last June, under the direction of Apostle John Henry Smith, the mission was re-established in the city of Mexico, since which time about 100 people have been added to the Church; that is, probably 150 converts have been made and about 60 had already been baptized—so that we have a very prosperous and promising branch of the Church there, with headquarters in the city of Mexico.

Our relationship with the federal government is of the most agreeable and friendly character. President Diaz, whose strong character has made it possible for him to accomplish the remarkable reconstruction of the Mexican government which has been the result of his administration, owes much of his character to the fact that he is a strong blood of his mother, who was an Indian.

We regard with a great deal of satisfaction the devotion that is shown by these simple people to the principles of the Gospel after they receive them. They are very poor, very humble; they have been so long in abject servitude to the small aristocratic minority which has controlled and does still control the politics and finances of Mexico, that the spirit of independence has to a great degree been crushed out of them, but they are religious. That those who are converted have received a testimony of the Gospel and the Spirit of the Lord is evidenced by their works, by their repentance, by their devotion to the Elders who are laboring among them, and by the disposition which they show to push out into unexplored fields and introduce the Gospel among the heathen.

The Lord told us in the early history of the Church that before the great day of the Lord should come, Jacob should dwell in the wilderness and the Lamanites should blossom as the rose. You will carefully study the revelations of the Lord to the Church, you will find that our destiny and the destiny of the American Indians, who are the descendants of Lehi and heirs to the promises which God has made to the house of Israel, are very closely associated together. You will find that before the redemption of Zion the work of the Lord must be introduced among the Lamanites. Christ said to His disciples, when He ministered among them upon this continent, that He would give them a sign by which they might know that the work of the Father was about to begin for the redemption of all Israel and the fulfillment of every word which had been spoken by the mouth of the holy prophets, and this was the sign which He gave: "When these things which I declare unto you and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, which shall be given unto you of the Father, shall be made known unto the Gentiles, that they may know concerning this people who are the remnants of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them; and when these things come to pass, that they shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which we had made unto the people who are of the house of Israel." So, my brethren and sisters, as we see the result of our labors in Mexico and the very promising outlook there for the introduction of the Gospel there, we see these words of the Lord fulfilled, and it encourages us in the hope that we are nearer—as we know we are—to the consummation of God's purposes in the dispensation in which we live.

Our life in Mexico has taught us patience. They are a slow-going people, and it has taught us to develop to a greater degree perhaps than among any other people the spirit of charity and long-suffering kindness, knowing as we do that their condition is the result of transgression on the part of their forefathers. We have learned that our friendly relations with them and with the government are largely due to the fact that we have come, that we have taught kindness and consideration, charity and love to the people, and have endeavored to exemplify that in our lives. It is not necessary to the success of that in the mission of man, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which we had made unto the people who are of the house of Israel. This is His work, and He will take care of it. That which we need to do is to be humble, faithful and considerate of the conditions of our fellows with whom we come in contact, teaching them repentance from sin, teaching them love, charity, and absolute dependence upon God, to work out this great problem. He will do it, my brethren and sisters. In this age of reason, of logic and of argument the truth must eventually prevail, and the principles of the Gospel, being founded upon everlasting truth, will triumph. We need have no fear but that the Lord will take care of His people.

I bring you greetings from the people in Mexico, and assure you that our hearts, like yours, are absorbed in the work of the Lord; that our sole desire is for the upbuilding of His kingdom, the welfare of the Latter-day Saints, and the conversion of the world. This is our mission, and with us more especially the conversion of the remnants of the house of Israel surrounding us. We owe a great deal to the Lamanites. Whoever stopped to reflect that the man who was sent from God to teach the Prophet Joseph the principles of the Gospel, and who showed him where the plates were concealed containing the record which, translated, was given to the world as the Book of Mormon, was one of the ancestors of the aborigines of this continent? The Book of Mormon came from them, and it contains the fullness of the Gospel of Christ as no other book does. Therefore we feel that there is some obligation upon us to remember this down-trodden, oppressed people, and with the help of God to bring about their redemption, through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel. Give us your faith and prayers in this work; we need them. We are isolated entirely from our brethren and sisters; we are surrounded by a strange people, with a strange language, with customs and manners entirely foreign and distinct from ours; but, thanks be to the Lord, we have been preserved and prospered, and the people are contented and happy, satisfied with their lot, and entirely devoted to the work which has been assigned to them.

May God bless you, my brethren and sisters, and help us all to perform our duties, that we may attain unto the triumph of truth. I ask it in the name of Jesus, Amen.

ELDER SAMUEL E. WOOLLEY.

It gives me joy this morning to meet with so many Latter-day Saints. I have been absent from the bosom of the Church for over seven years, presiding over the Sandwich Islands Mission. I have had great joy in my labors with that people, and also with the Elders and sisters who have labored with me in the mission. We have heard from Brother Ivins regarding the Lamanites. The people of the Sandwich Islands are of the same blood. They are of the seed of Israel and great promises have been made concerning them. If they will be faithful in the latter days, we have had success in our labors. There have been upwards of 2,000 converted and baptized into the Church during the last seven years. From last April conference to the end of August there were 300 new members added to the Church, of which were baptized in the old district, where the Church was first established by President George Q. Cannon, and where President Smith labored in his youth. In the place where the Gospel was first established, there are only three remaining outside the Church today. This has been a hard district for years, but the Lord has opened up the way, and the honest that have dwelt there so long have been converted, some of whom are over 80 years of age. The other part of the mission is also prosperous, and I feel that we are doing a great labor among that people. We have not enough Elders, however, to do the work that we would like to do. There are only 15 Elders remaining in the mission, and four sisters from Zion. But we are aided greatly by local Elders, who are very efficient in preaching the Gospel to their friends and kindred. We also have in that mission a sugar plantation, which makes the mission self-sustaining. That, too, is prospering, and we are building it up and making it a desirable home for the people who require labor.

I rejoice this morning to meet with the Saints and to tell my voice with my brethren in speaking to the people and in bearing testimony to the truth of this great work that we are engaged in. I know that the Lord lives, and that He has been with the Elders in our mission. I know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet, and that the Gospel is true. I know, as we all ought to know, that we are engaged in the work of the Lord; and if we will be faithful in keeping His laws and commandments we will receive exaltation in the presence of our Father in heaven.

At the request of President Smith, Elder Woolley spoke a short time in the Hawaiian tongue, remarking before doing so that he had spoken exclusively in that language for the last seven years, and for five and a half years previous to that, during which time he had labored at the Josepa colony, he had been under the necessity of using that language almost entirely.

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Let the garden be enclosed by a neat and substantial fence to keep out intruders, having a large gate next the stable for carrying in manure in spring and fall, and a smaller one adjacent to the dwelling for daily use. Sandy loam would be preferable. The texture of a clayey soil can be improved by the addition of sand, ashes or lime.

The depth of the soil should be increased by subsoiling, its fertility brought up to the topmost notch and maintained by the judicious application of plant food, consisting of well decomposed manure, muck, if available, and such commercial fertilizers as its character and the needs of the crops demand. Liberal dressing of strata of soda for the earlier kinds paying well. Where litter is plentiful mulching is of benefit in warding off drouth and by its decomposition adding humus to the soil, rendering it more fertile.

The garden like the farm to be at its best demands a rotation. No crop can thrive and do as well if continuously occupying the same spot, as if changed about. While all crops exhaust the soil, in the same degree, one plant will take up a larger per cent of some element than another, consequently rotation plays an important part in keeping up the soil's fertility.

Then some crops are so favorable for the propagation and growth of weeds, that if continued long upon the same ground the labor of cultivation would be greatly increased. Again, insects which feed upon certain plants deposit their eggs in the ground during the occupancy of it by that species of plant, ready to injure, if not destroy the succeeding crop, when by changing its locality they die from lack of proper food.

Shallow-rooted plants draw their nutriment mainly from the surface, while deep rooted plants depend upon lower strata, hence to derive the full benefit of the entire soil, a change of crops is essential.

We also must have a succession of crops each year. As fast as one is removed another should occupy its place. One-fourth of an acre thoroughly manured and cultivated, upon which a constant succession is practiced, yields more than an acre as ordinarily managed.

Every garden should contain a hot-bed for starting early plants and cold frames for hardening off hotbed stock preparatory for setting in the open ground, as well as for wintering the more hardy kinds.

In each case these should front towards the south. Among the principal implements needed in the garden may be mentioned the turning and subsoil plows, harrows, roller, marker, seed-drill, cultivator, grading fork, horse hoe, wheel hoe, rake, transplanter, trowel, dibber, hand weeder, reel and line, watering pot, sprayer, wheelbarrow, numerous plant protectors to keep off frost in early spring, or the heated rays of the sun after transplanting, and lastly a water barrel on wheels, in which water or liquid manure may be conveniently conveyed to the garden.

After all the foregoing suggestions have been carried out, a good garden is still anything but an assured fact; one of the most important steps yet remaining. This is the selection of seed. Unless sound, well matured seeds of good quality are planted, disappointment will be the result. The seed supply should be procured of a seedsmen, who is backed by a reputation for reliability. They should be planted as their nature demands, neither too deep, too shallow, nor in a soil too cold, too wet, or too dry, an exercise of judgment being necessary to determine just how and when. More seed

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deep, too shallow, nor in a soil too cold, too wet, or too dry, an exercise of judgment being necessary to determine just how and when. More seed

should be planted than required for a stand, the excess of plants being thinned out after growth has well begun. Seedsmen often get the blame, when the entire fault rests with the planter.

Cultivation should be often enough to kill the weeds and grass before they get their heads above the surface. This lessens work, preserves moisture and increases the crop. The successful gardener has constantly to wage war against insects as well as weeds in his efforts for supremacy.

These insects are ever on the increase, partly from the continued growth of the gardening industry. In many instances no means being taken for their suppression, causing them to multiply; but more particularly from the extermination of the birds, so that the gardener to succeed has to be diligent, studious and watchful. If for market, after his crops are made, his work does not end here. He must now get his produce in such shape as will please the eye, as well as the palate of his customers, success depending as much upon appearance as any other thing. He must be inventive and prompt in his efforts to please his patrons, treating all with equal fairness and consideration, whether the order be to the amount of five cents, or as many dollars, making their interest his.

There is no portion of the farm when rightly managed that will pay so well for time and work expended or from which more real pleasure can be derived, than the much abused and still oftener neglected garden.

Some of the giant Sequoias of southern California are estimated to be from 500 to 800 years old, having perhaps spanned the entire period of written history. A section in the American Museum of Natural History cut from one of these trees at a height of 30 feet, is a little more than 18 feet in diameter, and its concentric rings show that it began its growth in 550 A. D., the tree reaching a diameter of 13 feet at Columbus' landing.

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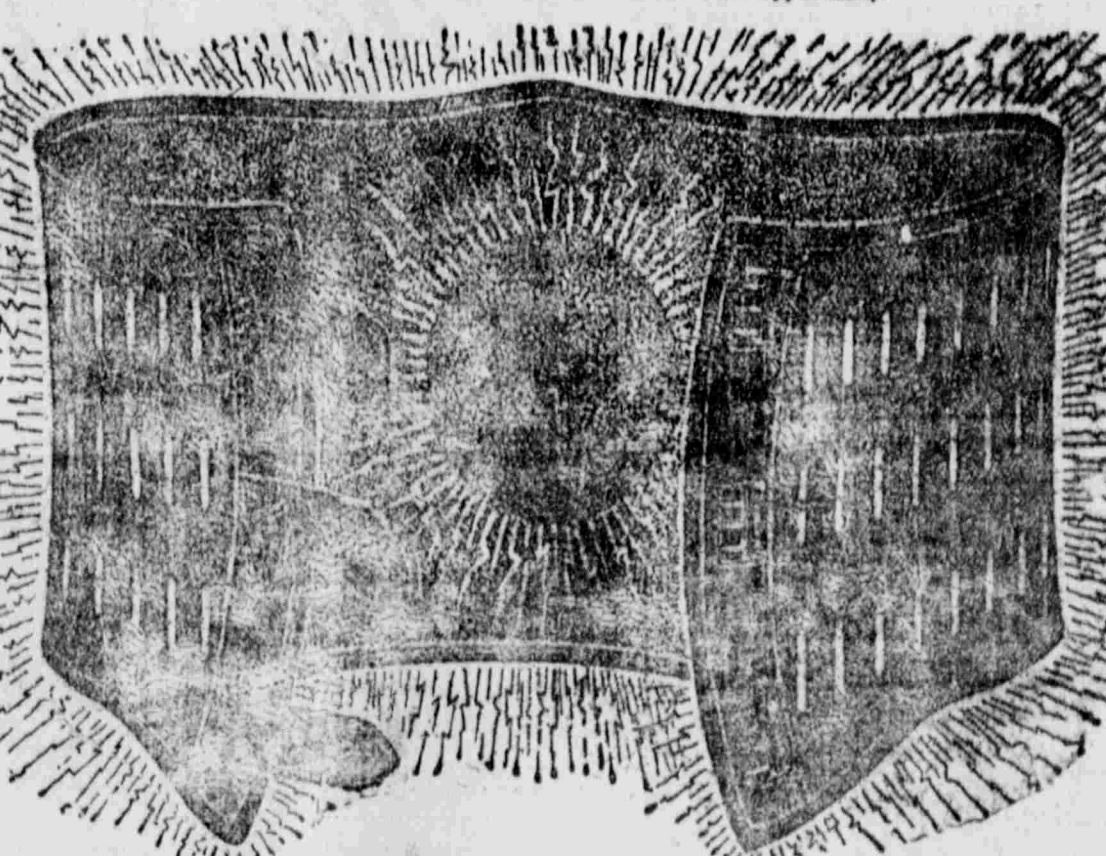
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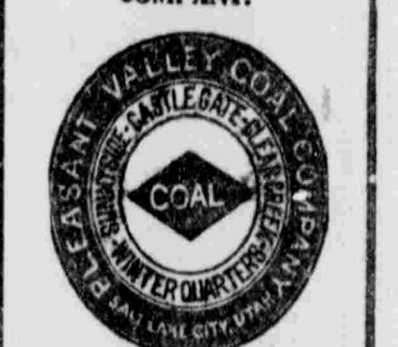
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