

REMARKS

By Elder Levi Stewart, Bowery, Sunday Morning, Aug. 30, 1857.

REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.

Brethren and sisters, having been called upon to make a few remarks this morning, I feel to do so with pleasure, the Lord being my helper. In the first place I will say that I am happy for the privilege of having a name and a place in the kingdom of God, and among the Saints in these valleys.

I feel thankful unto the Lord continually when I realize his blessings bestowed upon me, and also the blessings bestowed upon this people.

I have been down in the lower regions for a short time, and have recently returned from there. I believe I have made four trips to the States since I have been living in these valleys, and I will say in regard to the inhabitants in those regions, that to me there is a perceivable difference in the spirit of things every time I go down—an increase of wickedness in their midst—and surely my visits have a tendency to make me appreciate the society of the Saints and the privilege I enjoy of sojourning with them.

I have been associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for the last twenty years, and although I rejoice now, I feel that I should rejoice more exceedingly had I made more improvement and increased more rapidly in the knowledge of God, but I feel to thank the Almighty that things are as well with me as they are.

Since I have been in this kingdom I have observed as closely as I have been enabled to do the dealings of our Father in heaven with us, and I have come to the firm conclusion, and I may say that I have been fixed in this opinion during the greater part of my citizenship in this kingdom, that our Father in the heavens is our God, that he looks to our interest and that in all the movements, both of the wicked and the righteous, he will overrule all things for the greatest good to his people.

I can truly say that I have never felt easier, never felt more comfortable than I have since I have returned home and been led to consider the position which this people occupy, not only before this nation that we have been associated with, but before all the nations of the earth.

It is true, as I lately observed to President Young, that the Saints as a people are living five years ahead of the times; but I feel to rejoice that the time has come for this people, by the sanction of the Almighty, and according to the dictation of his servants, to take an independent position and throw off the yoke of oppression.

I realize that such events have got to transpire, for such things have been made manifest through the servants of the Lord, and this people are to become terrible to such an extent that the nations of the earth have to take up the saying, "Let us not go up to fight against Zion, for the inhabitants thereof are terrible."

Should the Lord take this handful of people and make them mighty and powerful to the sustaining of this kingdom in the midst of the nations of the earth, surely all people will be brought to acknowledge the power of God, and I verily believe that he will do it.

The feelings of certain portions of the United States, at least I will say of the leading men, the rulers, must be very strenuous in regard to movements against us. When I reflect upon the fact of their calling troops from Minnesota and sending them to Utah to operate against the Latter Day Saints, I am convinced that their feelings are wrought up to make some general and united move against this people.

I have felt in my heart, under these circumstances, to say in the words of the old saying, "Let her rip, she's all oak," and I know the Lord will guide her safely into port.

As to their having any power to bring evil or distress upon the Saints, further than the wisdom of the Almighty shall see, will be for our benefit, I do not believe a word of it.

If we are in the hands of the Lord and are endeavoring to live our religion, what does it matter to us what comes or what goes? If we live, we are living unto the Lord, and if we die, we die unto the Lord, and if he sees fit to let us be removed from this sphere of action we are still in the line of our duty. No doubt we will enter into a sphere after we leave this, where we can do much more for the building up of the kingdom.

I have come to the conclusion that it matters not to the faithful Saint what comes or goes, so that we are in the path of our duty, doing the will of our Father in heaven according to the best of our ability.

I might relate some circumstances that would probably be interesting to some of you, but in relation to the acts of men abroad in the world I care very little about them, and it is seldom I think they are worth noticing at all.

I do not feel to occupy much of your time this morning, but I do feel to bear my testimony to the truth of this work, and to tell my faith and confidence in God our heavenly Father, believing and feeling assured that he will bear off this kingdom triumphant, and that he will also bring us off victorious as a people, if we will live our religion.

I pray God continually that we may take a course to honor our being, for if we are honoring our being then we are honoring our Father who is in heaven.

I pray that the Lord will enable us to do this and to carry out in our lives every good and virtuous principle, that we may honor him while we live here in the flesh, that when we return to his presence we may be acknowledged as having been faithful in our probation on the earth. And may God bless and preserve us all to come forth in the glorious resurrection of the just, to inherit all the blessings laid up for the faithful; this is my prayer in the name of Jesus: Amen.

The Battle of the Barges.—The Last Conflict of the Revolution.

The following highly valuable and interesting history of the last battle of the Revolution was communicated to the Boston Traveler by a gentleman in Anacostock, Accomac county, Virginia. He gathered the facts from the descendants of some of the most prominent actors in the engagement:

In the first part of the Revolutionary war, Maryland and Virginia began to provide for the defence of their sea coast by building barges. These vessels were some eighty feet long, and were impelled by both sails and oars, were decked over but half their length, were manned by a crew varying from fifty to seventy-five men, and carrying quite heavy guns.

In the early part of the Revolution, the Legislature of Virginia ordered the building of two barges, which, on being finished, were stationed off the "Eastern Shore." They were called the "Accomack" and the "Diligence." These galleys were kept in active service until near the end of the war, but no very remarkable exploit is related of them. These barges were unfit to go to sea, and therefore, unless the enemy came within range of their formidable guns, they could effect but little. The gunboat fleet of Maryland, or at least the part of it stationed near the "Eastern Shore," was under the command of Com. Whaley.

The British had a similar fleet in these waters manned by British sailors in part, but principally by Tories, refugees, and negroes who escaped from their masters to the enemy, or who had been captured by them in their inland forays. The British fleet was commanded by Com. Kidd, a Scotchman, who, by some strange anachronism, has been confounded with the victorious pirate of that name. The rendezvous of the English flotilla was at Hogg Island, one of the many islands on the Atlantic coast of the peninsula.

Upon the 30th of November, 1782, Commodore Whaley was cruising off the county of Accomac, with but a single vessel, when he discovered the fleet of Commodore Kidd, numbering some half dozen vessels. Finding such tremendous odds against him, Commodore Whaley ran up Anacostock creek, to wait for the rest of his command, and also to obtain a reinforcement, for he was short-handed.

It happened that the court was in session on this day, and that, as is still the custom in this part of the Union, the court had drawn together the most prominent men of the county. Immediately on landing the Commodore dispatched a message to the colonel commanding of the county militia, with a formal request for assistance, together with a statement of the circumstances. Immediately on receipt of this message the commandant, Col. Cropper, made known the circumstances to the crowd assembled in and about the court-house, and called for volunteers, without calling out the militia, as the exigencies of the case required speedy action.

As might be expected, the call was nobly responded to, so many volunteering that not only was Commodore Whaley's vessel manned, but also an empty Virginia barge which was lying at the landing. Among the volunteers was Major Smith Smead and Captain Thomas Parlier, of the continental line; Lieutenants Smead and Christian, Captain Powell, and a great many other officers, together with a large number of soldiers, all of whom were at home on furlough. Besides these many private citizens volunteered, among them some of the county officials; so that the question finally was not who should go, but who should remain at home. No sooner was the call understood than the men were ready to go on board the vessels, and, in most instances, the volunteers embarked without going home to bid their families farewell.

Thus, in a very short time after landing, Commodore Whaley was sufficiently reinforced to sail in pursuit of the enemy, whom he found drawn up in order of battle off Tangier Island, awaiting his approach. The American fleet now consisted of four sail nominally, one of which had been, as above mentioned, pressed into service to convey the additional volunteers, who insisted on engaging in the fight.

The British fleet, as before said, consisted of six barges. As might naturally be expected, the motley force of Commodore Whaley, part of whom had never been accustomed to the sea at all, could be under no kind of discipline, nor was there any order of battle arranged beforehand, with the exception that whichever captain laid his barge alongside that of an enemy was the best fellow.

Commodore Whaley was brave even to rashness. So eager was he to join battle with the enemy, and such exertions did his crew make at the sweeps, that he had engaged the whole British fleet before the remainder of his force came within gun-shot. Now ensued one of the most sanguinary sea fights that occurred at any time during the war on this coast. Whaley received the fire of the British fleet at a distance, and then, without returning it, dashed into their midst, reserving his fire until within pistol shot, when his guns were served with such skill and rapidity, directing his whole fire upon one of the enemy as long as she resisted, and then taking the next in turn, until four of their vessels had struck their flags, when his victorious career was checked by the explosion of his own magazine, which was occasioned by the carelessness of one of his men in carrying a cartridge, uncovered, across the deck to his gun.

By this terrible disaster, the greater part of the officers and many of the crew were killed and wounded, and the vessel totally disabled. So close were they to one of the British barges that many of the enemy were also disabled.

Now the hastiness of the American commodore was strikingly evident. Four of the British barges had struck their flags, and a fifth with his own vessel been disabled by the explosion. There

was now left but one of the British vessels to cope with the remaining three American barges. But why were they now lagging behind? Where were they? The barge that had been manned by the volunteer force, for want of a practical seaman to direct her course, was now fast aground upon the tail of a mud bank, just out of gun-shot, where the agonised crew could watch the fight without being able to strike a blow, either in the victorious combat of their fleet friends, or to help them while sinking.

But how preferable their condition to that of the crews of the two remaining vessels, who, when they saw the disastrous termination of the fight, tacked ship and *ingloriously fled!* Fled, too, at the moment of victory, when the only remaining British vessel must have instantly surrendered upon their approach! Fled, too, when those who had won the fight while they were lagging behind, were struggling, wounded and bleeding, in the water, beside their sinking craft. Yes, they fled—actually fled, and, consequently, the glorious victory before gained by the intrepidity of one brave crew was turned to shameful defeat by the dastardly cowardice of two other vessels, and the misfortune of the last.

Among those who were killed by the explosion, was the brave commodore and a number of other officers and men—how many never was fully known. Among the wounded was Col. Cropper, the commandant of the county militia, Major and Lieut. Smead, and many others. Some of them had been injured by the heavy concentrated fire of the enemy, and many were burnt by the explosion; but most of them, together with the crew of the British vessel they were opposing at the time of the accident, were dashed into the sea, where many a gallant heart found a watery grave.

The English vessels set about saving their own men, until which was effected they paid no attention to the drowning Americans, except to chop off their hands with their cutlasses when the unfortunates would find something to cling to about the barge. At last, tired of this slaughter they picked up those who were still struggling in the water, and took the survivors from the shattered wreck.

A few days after the battle, the British having no accommodations for the wounded of either party, Com. Kidd effected an arrangement with Col. Cropper, by which the prisoners were landed, it being agreed that the wounded British should be cared for equally with the Americans, which agreement was immediately carried into effect.

Many incidents in connection with this battle, which would be interesting had I room in this account for them, were rehearsed, a few of which I preserve. The grandfather of Gov. Wise, Col. Cropper, relates that the last he saw of Lieut. Levin Handy, was just before the explosion, when the lieutenant was standing near the bow of the barge, his right arm hanging by a thread of flesh, throwing cold grape shot with his left!

The few wounded and burnt survivors left on the wreck of the American barge after the explosion would not surrender when boarded by the British. Among them was Col. Cropper, who defended himself against two white men and a negro, he being armed with a musket and bayonet. He fought with the courage of desperation, until at last a cutlass blow upon the head stretched him upon the deck.

Disunion and Treason.—Black Republican Sentiments.

AWAY WITH THE UNION.

"I love the Union—and the time has come when we must love freedom better than the Union."—[Ex-Lt. Gov. Ford, of Ohio.]

PLEGDED AGAINST THE SOUTH.

"No man has a right to be surprised at this state of things. It is just what we (Abolitionists and Disunionists) have attempted to bring about. There is merit in the Republican party. It is the first sectional party ever organized in this country. It does not know its own face, and it calls itself national; but it is not national, it is sectional. The Republican party is a party of the North pledged against the South."—[Wendell Phillips.]

THE UNION IS A LIE.

"This Union is a lie. The American Union is an imposture, a covenant with death and agreement with Hell: * * * I AM FOR ITS OVERTHROW! * * * Up with the flag of disunion, that we may have a free and glorious Republic of our own; and when the hour shall come, the hour will have arrived that shall witness the overthrow of slavery."—[Wm. Lloyd Garrison.]

AN ANTI-SLAVERY BIBLE.

"The times demand and we must have an Anti-Slavery Constitution, an Anti-Slavery Bible, and an Anti-Slavery God."—[Anson Burlingame, Member of Congress from Massachusetts.]

LET DISUNION COME.

"In the case of the alternative being presented of the continuance of slavery or a dissolution of the Union, 'I am for dissolution and I care not how quick it comes.'"—[Rufus P. Spalding.]

FIRE AND SWORD.

"On the action of this Convention depends the fate of the country; if the Republicans fail at the ballot box, we will be forced to drive back the slaveocracy with fire and sword."—[James Watson Webb.]

REVOLUTIONIZE THE GOVERNMENT.

"It is the duty of the North in case they fail in electing a President and a Congress that will restore freedom to Kansas, to revolutionize the Government."—[Resolution of a Black Republican meeting in Wisconsin.]

LET BLOOD BE SHED.

"I pray daily that this accursed Union may be

dissolved, even if blood have to be spilt."—[Black Republican Clergyman at Poughkeepsie.]

CUT-THROATS.

"At a recent Black Republican meeting in Auburn, Fred. Douglas said, among other things, that it was the duty of every slave to cut his master's throat."

BRITISH BAYONETS.

"I look forward to the day when there shall be a servile insurrection in the South—when the black man, armed with British bayonets, and led on by British officers, shall assert his freedom, and wage a war of extermination against his master—when the torch of the incendiary shall light up the towns and cities of the South, and blot out the last vestige of slavery; and; though I may not mock at their calamity, nor laugh when their fear cometh, yet I will hail it as the dawn of a political millennium."—[Joshua R. Giddings.]

THE USEFUL TREE.—The coconut palm is one of the most useful trees in the world. In some of the countries in which it grows, the inhabitants would be almost incapable of existing without it. The palms afford food, clothing, furniture, weapons, and all the implements and appliances that raise men above the savage state. The very young leaves, called the cabbage, are an excellent vegetable for the table. The old, dried leaves are used as torches, and at one of the Friendly Island combs are made of the midrib of the segments, the upper part being beautifully worked with the fibre of the bark. The washermen of Ceylon burn the foliage for the sake of its alkalies ashes; the midribs of the leaves, when tied together, form brooms for the decks of ships. The Cingalese use the unexpanded leaves in forming ornaments, on the occasion of any festival, decorating arches, etc. in various picturesque forms of crowns, flowers, etc.

There is one portion of the tree which attracts much the attention of the observer,—it is a kind of network at the base of the petiole, which, when very young, is delicate, beautifully white and transparent, but when having attained maturity becomes coarse and tough, and changes to a brown color. It is stripped off in large pieces, and used in Ceylon as strainers, particularly for the toddy, which is full of impurities when first taken from the tree.

At Tahiti it is called *Aa*; and besides being used as sieves for straining arrow-root, cocoa-nut oil, etc., the natives, when engaged in such occupations as digging, fishing, etc., in order to save their bark cloth, join several portions of this network together, and having a hole in the centre, in a manner similar to their mat garment called *Tiabuta* wear it as an article of apparel.

A tree produces several bunches of nuts; and from twelve to twenty large nuts, besides several small unproductive ones, may be seen on each bunch. In good situations the fruit is gathered four or five times in the course of the year. It is mostly used as an article of food, both meat and drink, when young; in that state it yields an abundance of delicious, cooling beverage, to which Madeira wine, brandy, etc., is sometimes added.

The rind of the cocoa nut is very fibrous, and is manufactured into the coir rope which is so extensively used for matting, brushes, etc. This rope surpasses hemp in lightness, elasticity and even, it is said, in durability. Its elasticity, combined with great strength, renders it peculiarly valuable for ships' cables.

The oil is another valuable production of the cocoa nut. Besides being excellent for burning, it is made into candles, rivaling those of wax or spermaceti. Soap may be manufactured with it; and in the Pacific islands it is used as an ointment for the face and the hair.

GREAT RESULTS FROM LITTLE INCIDENTS.

Thirty years ago two boys in New Hampshire quarreled about a box of blacking. To get rid of one of them, he was sent to New York, and is now one of the first shipping merchants, a director of a bank, and owner of a line of steamers. A dispute about a tin dipper with the steward of a steamboat, resulted in a law suit that cost a thousand dollars, and laid the foundation of one of our millionaires, who now owns more tin dippers and steamboats than any other man in the world—once a deck hand on a boat, now a captain of the "upper ten." An incident made him; an incident may unmake him.

By the disobedience of a lad in 1809, a garden gate in Rhode Island was left open, a pig got in and destroyed a few plants, a quarrel between the owners of the pig and the garden grew out of it, which spread among their friends, defeated the Federal candidate to the Legislature, and gave the State a Democratic Senator, by whose vote war was declared in 1811 with Great Britain.

Napoleon became a soldier in consequence of one disobedient act to his mother, then General, Consul, Emperor, tyrant and exile.—Washington became, in early life, a favorite with men of influence and power, because of his obedience to his mother. An accident made this known to one who never lost sight of the obedient boy, which resulted in his becoming the head of the American army.

One single vote sent Oliver Cromwell to the long Parliament, Charles Stewart to the scaffold, revolutionized England and made Great Britain free.

Four votes in the city of New York made Thomas Jefferson President of the United States, one vote gave the tariff of 1842 and made the tariff of 1846; one vote gave us Texas, made war with Mexico, slew thousands of our people and purchased California.

TRAVELS AMONG THE DUTCH.—An American gentleman who is traveling in the land of the Mynheers, thus gives his impression of that amphibious country:

As you ride through Holland, there is just enough of the strange and queer on every side to