

earth. This arises from a misapprehension in their minds concerning the plan of salvation. I believe that false religions have made more infidels than anything else. It is natural for man to place confidence in a Supreme Being. When he is in trouble he naturally seeks to a Superior power for aid. The historian Bancroft comments on the fact that men in a state of nature already believe in a Supreme power. There are differences in our organizations. Some are naturally much more religious than others, and others are indifferent on the subject of religion. It is the duty of every person to cultivate faith in God and not stifle it. It is our duty to our children to promote this confidence in them. In all my troubles, trials and afflictions it has been a source of unbounded consolation to me to go to my Father in heaven and call upon him in the name of Jesus for help. I never did so in my life without obtaining relief, and having my burdens lightened and my sorrows assuaged. I bear you this testimony. He has answered the prayers of His people in a wonderful manner. In some cases it might be called miraculous.

I would not value any religion that did not give sustenance and strength to those who espoused it. I love my religion because it is accompanied with power. There is no proper yearning of the heart that cannot be gratified by it to the fullest extent. My life has been made a happy one because faith in God has been an unfailling source of gratification and peace to me. It was this that consoled the Savior. He had numerous afflictions and sorrows to contend with, and it was the knowledge that He was doing what God required, that gave Him strength to exemplify in His life the principles He taught. If Jesus had mocked, crucified and cursed His enemies and said evil things concerning them, what an example it would have been for Him to set while teaching His glorious doctrines! The people would not have had faith in Him. But He did not do this. He carried out the principles He taught. He has given to mankind lessons as to the way they should live. He lived these doctrines Himself. In Him you see the exemplification of all the doctrines He taught. Should we not in like manner carry out strictly the principles He taught to us? We certainly should. The Savior said:

"Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

And if any man shall sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also."

We should carry out His examples strictly in our lives. We all know it is not so difficult to teach as to practice; nevertheless we should strive to attain to that perfection of character that will make these things easy. When men despitely use us we should endeavor to treat them kindly in return. It is a greater trial to do this than to follow the natural inclination of fallen humanity. To conquer by kindness is the greatest victory to be had. We should right all wrongs by kindness, and show those with whom we are associated that our love is broad enough to forgive them and that we have charity for their weaknesses. We ought to attain to this. We cannot go to God till we do. I do not believe

we will go immediately to celestial glory. There must be preparation—some means by which we shall become nearer and nearer to the glory which is promised. We have had great promises placed upon us, and they will be fulfilled if we are faithful. That same authority that said unto you, call you by name, "being commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," and which produced the remission of sins to you, has made unto you these promises, and they will be fulfilled by your being faithful. But there must be exertion. The idea taught so frequently that a murderer who repents on the scaffold and professes belief in Christ goes immediately to heaven is a fallacy and leads to the commission of much sin. We are not going to receive blessings without we comply with the conditions on which they are predicated. God will not force these things upon us.

The reason why I rejoice in our religion is that those blessings that I have read about in ancient times are within my reach by complying with the ordinances of God. But I rejoice more especially because there is power on the earth that God acknowledges. A man might have all the wisdom and learning that belongs to the entire human family, if such a thing were possible, and if he should then attempt to baptize a man, unless he was authorized of God, it would not have any effect. If this government heard that a man, not commissioned to do so, was acting as an ambassador from the United States, would they acknowledge what he did? Would they accept a treaty made by him as binding? No. They would repudiate him. So it is with God. He will not sanction what men do in His name if they are not authorized of Him. This authority is the binding power that holds the Latter-day Saints together. It is stronger than any other power on earth. Some call it the Priesthood. When it is given to man it makes him a legal representative of the Almighty.

If this power has been on the earth, how else could it be restored unless some being who had formerly held it should come and restore it? To have assumed anything else would have been utterly false, as this is the method that God adopted—to send messengers from on high who had the authority before. There is not a man outside the true Church of Christ possessing the Priesthood from God. It has been customary when a man had a son religiously inclined to have him educated for the ministry. There was not a man on the earth that could say he had authority from on high, and how else could it be restored except by angels? The apostleship and its authority were taken back to God, and therefore it should be restored through the ministrations of holy beings. When it was restored remarkable manifestations followed, and many of the people received a spirit and experienced a feeling they had never felt before. It has united men and women of various creeds and nationalities, brought them together, and they are living in peace and unity. Men may say what they please to the contrary, but there is love in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints towards each other. When this people

live as they should do, they have an affection for each other that they never before entertained. Jesus, in his petition to the Father, prayed that the disciples might be one, even as He and His Father were one, that the world might know that God had sent Him.

I pray God that we may live so as to exemplify in our lives the principles that we profess. I pray God to let His spirit rest down upon the bishopric and members of this ward, and the strangers that are within your gates.

#### HANCOCK MURDER CASE.

In the Supreme Court of Utah Feb. 4th, Judge Miner delivered the following decision in the case of the People of Utah Territory vs. George W. Hancock, impleaded with two others, which was on appeal from the First District Court, wherein Judge Blackburn denied the defendant's motion for a new trial and from the final judgment of conviction:

The indictment in this case charges this defendant and two others with the murder of Henry Jones on the 24th of April, 1858. It was found by the grand jury on the 8th day of March, 1890, or thirty-two years after the alleged crime was committed. Defendant Hancock was tried separately.

The record shows that on April 24th, 1858, the deceased, Henry Jones, was living with his mother Hannah Jones, his brother John Jones and little sister, Ellen H. Brown, in a small dugout at Payson, Utah Territory. At this time Ellen was a child of about five years of age.

At the time of the trial it appeared from Elleu's testimony that at about nine or ten o'clock in the evening of April 24th, 1858, she was awakened by a disturbance outside the dugout caused by the firing of guns. She remembers seeing her two brothers, Henry, the deceased, and John, get up, hurriedly dress themselves, take their guns and go out on the roof through a chimney hole; that soon after this five or six men came into the cabin and wanted her mother to tell them something, but what they wanted her to tell she could not remember, it was so long ago. She does remember, however, that her mother was begging and pleading for the lives of her boys, and that one of the men shot and killed her mother. There being no light in the room, she was unable to distinguish who was present. She was a stranger there at this time, and did not know the defendant Hancock. That several weeks after she saw Charles Hancock, the defendant's brother, on the street and recognized him as the man that killed her mother, and that on July 4th, 1858, she saw the defendant and recognized him as one of the men who were present when her mother was killed, and that she was frightened at seeing him and went and told her father. It also appears that on this occasion defendant Hancock was a constable; that this was a time of Indian wars, and guards were constantly kept out to guard against surprises from the Indians; and that Hancock and others of these guards had discovered a scheme on the part of Jones and his brother to steal horses that night and escape from the settlement, and to meet the United States army, then not