

of their fathers; and if they have not obtained it, they persevere until they find one who shall teach, instruct and lead them along unto eternal life. If they cannot find their lineage, they feel afflicted and distressed and cut off in their parts. This is that feeling which comes upon the people when they receive the Holy Spirit that makes them to cry, Abba, Father. They want to know the spirit of the fathers and the doctrines of the Gospel revealed unto them. We have great reason to rejoice in God, who has revealed these things. Soon after the Prophet Elijah appeared in the Kirtland Temple, the Prophet Joseph was led to teach us the doctrine of baptism for the dead.

Oh, what a world of labor that has given us! What a joy it has imparted to us! Many felt that they would die cheerfully if they could give to their fathers and mothers who were dead the blessings that they enjoyed in the Church of Christ! Yet there are many who have not yet put off the ways of the Gentiles, and have not come to this sensibility. We have only just begun with this labor, and perhaps some of us have not begun just right. I recollect when the Prophet Joseph first revealed the baptism for the dead, some went down in the river and were baptized, men for women and women for men. But the Lord soon gave to the Prophet Joseph to organize and systematize the whole thing, and so He will about this order of the fathers being turned and united, bound and sealed to the children, and the children to the fathers; and we will yet have the privilege of seeing our generations connected back. If we continue on and inherit eternal life, we shall see them connected clear back, no doubt, to ancient Noah and to our more ancient Father Adam. In the early days of tribulation in the Church the Lord encouraged the brethren by telling them that they were laying the foundation of a great and mighty work. I recollect how it used to cheer us up in the midst of our persecutions.

If we are living correctly before the Lord, our testimonies increase, our light grows clearer and clearer, and we are strengthened in the way of righteousness and truth. I testify that during the past year I have realized more abundantly the freedom of the Holy Spirit, more blessing and manifestation of the power of God among the people, than before. The blessings, in the increased flow of the Spirit that have come upon them since the dedication of the Temple in this city has been like an endowment of the whole people. Brethren and sisters, cling to it. Be diligent in keeping the commandments of God, abiding in the covenants, seeking to do good, and in your temporal things to provide for your wants, and not depend upon falling Babylon. If prophecy is fulfilled in us today, what about that prophecy that says that a great cry shall come up from Babylon, "and the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more?" Brother Brigham tried incessantly to persuade us to establish home industries here; provide our own boots and shoes, and our own clothing; and he talked to the sisters about making their own hats, instead of sending our money abroad as we have done for everything that we wanted. We have been like a carcass with eagles gathered around.

They have found that we are a good people to trade with. We have had the credit of keeping our promises, and we have earned a character in the East as being a people that have the fewest number of bad debts of any territory or state in the West. They love to come and deal with us, persuading us to buy this, that and the other. If we would be constrained to make our own boots, shoes and clothes, and patronize home productions, we could soon get the balance of trade on to the other columns of our ledgers. Why cannot the Latter-day Saints take this as a piece of counsel from the authorities of the Church? Let us also raise our own provisions. There is no part of the broad land of Zion that yields better wheat, better grain of nearly all kinds, better potatoes, or better fruit. We were renowned from ocean to ocean for our choice fruit until the worms and insects got into it and made it undesirable; but if we will turn to the Lord with all our hearts and put away our wrong dealing wherein we strew our ways to strangers He will turn away the destroyer for our sakes, and will make everything again to bloom and prosper for us. Then the merchants from abroad will be able to say that nobody buys their goods, because we will have the goods of our own manufacture.

What did the angel of the Lord who brought the Gospel through the midst of heaven to every nation, kindred, tongue and people say? He said, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Do we not see that His judgments are spreading destruction all around us? But we have not yet had to taste much of them. He has been uncommonly merciful unto us, making our fields to abound with plenty, and giving us to rest in peace here. His judgments are in the earth, and in all our calculations we ought to remember this.

Let us keep in mind the parable of the rich man, whose ground brought forth plentifully, and who thought to build larger barns to hold his produce. He said within himself, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." What was the result? The Lord said to him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" We should be frugal and enterprising; provide for our necessities and for those who may come to us, and become an independent people. We can do it if we will. All these necessities come out of the earth. It is the farmer that should be the independent man; get up an cultivate his land in the season thereof, and at his convenience he can read his newspapers and his books. There is no branch of human labor that gives a man such a variety of exercise for all his faculties as does that of good agriculture. The farmer is the man that should be encouraged. The miners could not dig the mountains down nor open the bowels of the earth if they had not bread to eat. The gold and silver would have to lay there till eternity came and went if they did not have the victuals to eat and clothes to wear. President Young was sensible and wise in this. He told us if we would raise the bread and dinner, others would come and do the uncertain work of digging down the hills.

My brethren and sisters, this our great work, as I have said, opens new methods of conduct, new features of corresponding doctrine and precept to guide us. If we but keep our lamps trimmed and the Holy Ghost burning in us to give us understanding in all our ways, the pathway of our feet will grow brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. May the Lord grant this to be the common lot of His people, and the particular lot of every man and woman that will take the revelations of divine truth for the light of their counsel, keep the commandments and covenants they have made diligently and faithfully to the end; God will help us according to His own good pleasure, to accomplish the work He has assigned unto us. Amen.

FUTURE HAPPINESS.

The following letter from a well known and highly esteemed lady in this city to an intimate friend in England, who in her girlhood was well acquainted with some of the Latter-day Saints, and whose brother joined the Church and died in Nauvoo. It relates to a subject of supreme importance, and no doubt will be very interesting reading, not only to those of the gentler sex, but to others who may have the privilege of perusing and pondering over it:

My Dear Mrs. B.—Your kind letter of April 19th was pleasantly received, though I was sorry to hear your health was feeble. I have pondered your words expressing a desire and willingness "to do anything possible to enhance your happiness in the future state." This manifests a good spirit, and I conclude we both will agree that the only thing either of us can do for the attainment of this object "is to do the will of the Father." Even our Lord and Savior came not "to do His own will, but the will of His Father." "He that loveth me keepeth my commandments."

I am astonished at the prevalence among professing Christians of the idea that they have "only to believe in Jesus to be saved," when in the plainest of words we are warned "that faith without works is dead." When the righteous young man came to Jesus he was told to "sell all thou hast and give to the poor"—the sick man to "dip seven times in the pool." Peter at the feast of Pentecost "commanded repentance and baptism." Now to us, in our day, has come direct commands from our Heavenly Father as forceful and as binding on this generation as anything ever was binding that has come to man from the heavens in another dispensation.

Dear sister, my family were wealthy people of high social standing in England. I forfeited the loves, pride and ambitions of my girlhood for a higher love, pride and ambition, for the Gospel of Jesus Christ as brought to us in that land by a humble, uneducated servant of God, in 1851. Since then I have tried in my weak way to make the requirements of that Gospel the supreme endeavor of my life. Its operations upon me have been the same as upon every person who has made it his chief aim, until hundreds of thousands can bear united testimony that the Holy Ghost has led them from truth to truth until they have absolute knowledge that this thing so despised as "Mormonism" is the work of Almighty God.