

Saturday, December 3, 1870.

By Elder ORSON PRATT, delivered
in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Nov
27th, 1870.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

That everlasting gospel required a man to be baptized for the remission of his sins. That is very important; and everybody who believes in God and in Jesus Christ will acknowledge that the sins of men and women are forgiven only through baptism. And in the everlasting gospel that His creature should be baptized for the remission of their sins; but how could I or any other person be baptized for the remission of sins if I would not be baptized myself? I would administer the ordinance of baptism. Would God forgive my sins through my faith and repentance, without being legally baptized in water? Is there any promise in this world that God will forgive the sins of those who are given of sins unless we connect with our faith, baptism by immersion in water? No, the everlasting gospel, as preached in ancient times, contained no such promise. The record of it is in the second chapter of the Acts. The first time that the ordinance of baptism was first promulgated after the commission was given to the ancient apostles to preach the gospel to every creature. They were commanded to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they should receive power from on high, and then to go forth and preach the gospel and administer its ordinances to the people. They did so, and on the day of Pentecost they received this power. The Holy Ghost came upon them; the whole congregation was gathered together, and they stood up, and each one was filled with cloven tongues, like fire, and they began to speak one another's sins up before

others, to another, the working of the Spirit, to another, prophecy, to another the discerning of spirits, to another divers kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues; but all these work after that one and the same spirit, severally as He will."

Here then we see what it is that constitutes the body of Christ, or in other words His Church. First, those principles that I have named, faith, repentance and baptism, for the remission of sins, and then laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost; then, when the spirit falls upon the Church, it diversifies all these gifts, as the Spirit will, into the members of the body of the Church. This agrees with the promise that Jesus made when he gave the great, last commission to His apostles to preach the gospel in all the world to every creature. On that occasion He made certain promises, which I will now let Him dwell on the earth. Said He, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned; and these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name they shall cast out devils. In mine name shall they take up serpents, and they shall drink deadly venoms, and they shall not be hurt. These signs shall follow them that are baptized with the baptism of water, and they shall preach the gospel; but the promise that I am now recording is given only to all who have believed that I should come, and that gospel they preached. They who be-

I told you that God had revealed an ancient Bible, the Bible of the American Indians, the Bible of the angel, sent forth from heaven. What does it reveal? A record of this same gospel that I have already named. "But," says one, "we have a record of that already in the New Testament; what is the use of another record of it?" In answering that question; I will ask another. When Matthew had written his gospel, and when Mark had written his, and some time afterwards; and when Matthew and Mark had each written the gospel what was the use of Luke writing it; and when those three had written it what was the use of John the Revelator writing another record of it? And so we might go on and say, "What is the use of the Bible of the American Indians? What is the use of the written word should God reveal to us an older Bible containing the same gospel? I

Let me restate that I have seen this stone; with my own eyes I have seen the Hebrew engravings upon it; and though many of the characters were altered in shape from the present Hebrew, yet I have seen the same, and I am enabled to know how to translate the inscription. This stone was sent to the New York Ethnological Society, and while there by the politeness of the secretary of the Society I had the pleasure of seeing it. Another pound was opened at the same society. Of these stones I have taken notes of all the other Hebrew inscriptions; and in 1890 and 1895 there were several of these antiquities exhumed with Hebrew characters on, and one with characters that were not Hebrew, and which the learned could not translate. I have seen the people of this country not only understand the Hebrew, but some other kind of an alphabet. This book, the Book of Mormon, informs us that the Lord brought the colony to this country six hundred years before Christ, and that he brought them from Jerusalem. What is anything, if it is not true? I am confident that there would indicate such a great antiquity? Yes, the Hebrew, since

FAVORABLE.—We are gratified to learn that the eldest son of A. Milton Mussel, who was accidentally kicked in the head a few days ago by a horse, is likely now to recover. He has been delirious, and up to last evening his condition was considered critical; but since that time, a change for the better has taken place, and the prospect now is that he will recover from the injury.

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