DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

VOL. VII. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY, SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 5, 1874. NO. 242.

BANKERS.

THE DESERET NATIONAL BANK,
OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

Paid up Capital, $200,000
Authorized Capital, $1,000,000

WM. H. HOOPER, President,
B. S. ELDREDGE, Vice Pres't,
BRIGHAM YOUNG
WM. JENNINGS } Directors
JOHN SHARP,
FERAMORZ LITTLE,
L. S. HILLS, Cashier.

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OF UTAH,
Salt Lake City.

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY AND FINANCIAL AGENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WARREN HUSSEY,.....*President.*
ANTHONY GODBE,.....*Cashier.*

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Paid Up Capital, - - - - - $150,000
Earnings, - - - - - - - - $175,000

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A General Banking Business Transacted.

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Interest Allowed on Time Deposits.

d106-1y

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ANALYTICAL AND ASSAYING OFFICE
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Iron and Brass Founders
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GENERAL MACHINISTS,
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CHARLES H. CRAM,
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WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
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E. BENEDICT,
d111 6m
H. J. MACFARLAND,
S. P. McINTYRE.

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MILLINERY AND STRAW GOODS,
BUFFALO ROBES, BUCK GOODS,
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PACKERS OF
REFINED LARD,
In Caddies, in Pails, Kegs and Tierces, *expressly for family use.*
Manufacturers of
Extra Lard Oil
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Dealers in
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Having doubled our facilities by building our new works, we keep constantly on hand the largest stock of every description of BUILDING MATERIAL there is in the country.

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STEAM PUMPS,
Steam and Gas Fittings.
Steam Warming and Ventilating Apparatus.

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More Co-operation.
I. X. L.
Bakery, Cracker Factory, Grocery
AND
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
STORE,
Corner 1st South and 9th East Sts.,
IIth Ward.
ALL GOODS AT LOWEST PRICES.
W. A. McMASTER, Supt.

DISCOURSE
BY
ELDER ORSON PRATT,
DELIVERED
In the Old Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, July 19th, 1874.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

I HOPE the congregation will give their attention and pray for the Holy Spirit to be shed forth upon all those who are upright in heart, that we may be edified and instructed by the inspiration and power thereof, for this is one of the objects which we have in view in assembling ourselves together, from Sabbath to Sabbath, to be instructed in the things pertaining to the kingdom, and also to partake of the emblems of the death and sufferings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We find ourselves here upon this creation inteligent beings, and questions no doubt arise in the minds of almost every man and every woman in relation to the future destiny of the human family, and what is the object of our being placed here on this earth for a short season and then passing away. This is a question often asked by intelligent beings who believe in divine revelation, but the heathen and semi-barbarous nations, in fact all people reflect, more or less, concerning the object of their existence here and what awaits them in the future. Mankind gain very little light on this subject unless through the medium of divine revelation, hence we find among all people a great variety of views in relation to this matter. Our American Indians have some ideas of a future state of existence. They cannot persuade themselves to believe that man is destined, when he lays aside this mortal tabernacle, to be annihilated, but they look forward to a future state, and the pleasures they will hereafter enjoy in their happy hunting grounds. Some people believe one principle and some another in relation to this matter, and the only way man can be satisfied on a subject of so great importance is by receiving revelation from that order of beings—far in advance of us—who have a knowledge of the future state and condition of man.

We find recorded in the revelations of the Most High called the Bible, as well as in the Book of Mormon and the various modern revelations which God has given, that man is destined to live forever. God having revealed this fact to ancients and to moderns, raised up witnesses to bear testimony to the children of men that they are immortal beings, and that this change which comes upon them denominated death is not an annihilation of their being or an end of their existence, but it is merely a casting off or laying aside of the mortal tabernacle, that man lives in the eternal world even after he appears to be dead, and that, if a righteous man, he has joy and happiness, but if a wicked man he has the gnawing of conscience, misery, and wretchedness; and that he expects, according to divine revelation, to receive again, in due time, the tabernacle that he has thrown off for a moment. It is sown in weakness, says the apostle Paul, it is raised in power; it is laid down as a mortal body, it is raised up as an immortal body.

If we, by study or research, could discover some method or principle by which we could remain in this world and live in this tabernacle forever, we should be willing to do so with all the inconveniences of the present order of things, and still be joyful in our hearts. If any man could by research or learning discover some kind of a way, or means or medicine that would give immortality to the children of men, even in their present state, he would be considered one of the greatest men that ever lived, and the one who had bestowed the greatest blessing upon his fellow creatures; he would be lauded to the very skies, and his name would be handed down among all people and nations as one of the greatest benefactors of mankind; so earnestly do we feel to cling to life and desire to live that we would be very willing to put up with the inconveniences of the present state if we could only remain and the monster death have no power over us. But it is in the order of God that man should die. Man brought this upon himself, by transgressing the laws of heaven. By putting forth his hand and partaking of that which God had forbidden, he brought this great evil into the world. Death not only came upon our first parents, who committed the first great transgression, but the curse has been inherited by all their generations. None can escape the curse so far as the mortal body is concerned.

I think, perhaps, this broad assertion may be contradicted in the minds of some. They may tell us of Enoch, who was translated to heaven; they may speak of Elijah, who was caught up in a chariot of fire, and say, "there, at least, are two exceptions to the general rule." But what do we know concerning translation? What has God revealed in all the revelations concerning it in the Old and New Testaments in relation to a translated being? Are we assured that such beings never will have to undergo a change equivalent to that of death?

Our new revelations that we have received inform us of a great many individuals that were translated before the flood. We read that a great and mighty prophet of the Most High God was set to work in the days of Adam, namely Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam, who lived contemporary with his ancestor Adam; that in his days a great number of people heard the plan of salvation preached to them by the power of the Holy Ghost that rested upon Enoch and those who were called with him; that they received this plan of salvation and gathered themselves out from among the various nations of the earth in his day, and obeyed the gospel, that they were instructed, after they were assembled in one, in righteousness, for three hundred and sixty-five years, that they learned the laws of the kingdom, and concerning God and every principle of righteousness that was necessary to enable them to enter into the fulness of the glory of the celestial world; instructed to build up a city, and it was called a city of holiness, for God came down and dwelt with that people, he, he was in their midst, they beheld his glory, they saw his face, and he condescended to dwell among them for many long years, during which time they were instructed and taught in all of his ways, and among other things they learned the great doctrine and principle of translation, for that is a doctrine the same as the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, which is among the first principles of the plan of salvation, and we may also say that the doctrine of translation, which is intimately connected with that of the resurrection, is also one of the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. They were instructed in relation to this government, the object of it, etc.

According to the light and knowledge which the Latter-day Saints have upon this subject, revealed in the revelations given through Joseph Smith, we find that those people, when they were fully prepared, having received the doctrine of translation, were caught up into the heavens, the whole city, the earth and the habitations. How much of the earth was taken up in connection with their habitations we are not informed. It might have been a large region. You may ask—"Where was this city of Zion built in ancient days?" According to new revelation it was built upon the western hemisphere. When I speak of this western hemisphere I speak of it as it now exists. In those days the land was united; the eastern and the western hemispheres were one; but they dwelt in that portion of our globe that is now called the western hemisphere, and they were taken up from this portion of the globe. We dwell in the region of country occupied by those who translated, or taken away from the earth.

Does this prove that they were immortal beings from the time of their translation? No. It does not prove any such thing. How are we to know anything about it? We can not learn anything in relation to it, except by revelation. God has revealed to us that they are held in reserve, in some part or portion of space, their location is not revealed, but they are held in reserve to be revealed in the last days, and to return to their ancient mother earth, all the inhabitants that were then taken away are to return to the earth.

Some five thousand years have passed away since they were caught up from the earth. What has been doing during that time? Have they been resting from their labors? They have not yet come to earth to minister to the people, as were they prayers? Enoch and his people prayed that a day of righteousness might be brought about during their day; they sought for it with all their hearts; they looked abroad over the face of the earth and saw the corruptions that had been introduced by the various nations, the descendants of Adam, and their hearts melted within them, and they groaned before the Lord with pain and sorrow, because of the wickedness of the children of men, and they sought for a day of rest, they sought that righteousness might be revealed, that wickedness might be swept away and that the earth might rest for a season. God gave them visions, portrayed to them the future of the world, showed unto them that this earth must fulfill the measure of its creation; that generation after generation must be born and pass away, and that, after a certain period of time, the earth would rest from wickedness, that the wicked would be swept away, and the earth would be cleansed and sanctified and be prepared for a righteous people. "Until that day," saith the Lord, "you and your people shall rest, Zion shall be taken up into my own bosom." Ancient Zion should be held in reserve until the day of rest should come, "then," said the Lord to Enoch, "thou and all thy city shall descend upon the earth, and your inheritance shall be answered."

They have been gone, as I have already stated, about five thousand years. Have they been idle during that time? Have they been doing nothing? Have they been asleep? Have they been unconscious? Have they been in a state of inactivity? Have they been in Dreamland, one in Geography, two in South Carolina, one in Virginia, one in Kentucky, and so on? Have they been in any of these places? Have they been in a state of inactivity? Have they been in a state of unconsciousness? Have they been in a state of inactivity? Have they been in a state of unconsciousness? Have they been in a state of inactivity? Have they been in a state of unconsciousness