

word for word. Br. Kimball came up just then and said, 'there are two of us agreed.' Said I there are three, and I shall hang on to it; and while on my mission that promise has ever been upon my mind to cheer me up, and it has been truly fulfilled; I have returned in safety, and found every thing as well as my heart could wish; every one of my old friends that has met me, has been glad to see me, and I can assure you I was glad to see them, and I feel as though this is the only place that is to me desirable.

While br. Woolley was speaking of the corruptions that are now abroad in the world, I felt that I could testify to it. I have been in one direction, he in another, but in whichever direction we may go we will find them the same, in my humble opinion.

I thought I knew a little something about the world, before I left these valleys; I thought I understood some few of their practices, but when I arrived in California, I began to think that we, as a people, had progressed in light and knowledge very fast, while they had gone the other way very fast, for it did not seem as though I could find pleasure in any society except with my brethren; all looked wrong and bad; I wanted to get out of their midst, I was in a hurry to get to the place of my destination, but it was some times, before we reached there.

We started from here on the 6th of May, and it was not until the 15th of November that we reached Honolulu, where we were welcomed by our brethren, both those that had come from the Valleys and our native brethren; all welcomed us and were glad to see us.

It was then I felt an earnest desire to acquire a knowledge of the language and faithfully perform that which was required of me, but I was called to stop in Honolulu. We did not all arrive at the same time, we went in companies, seven in the first, and four or five the next, and so on, as we could not make arrangements to go all at once.

On my arrival, I was appointed to labor on the island of Kauai, in company with br. Edward Partridge, who had not yet arrived, and did not for some two or three weeks. I was there under the presidency of br. Lewis, doing what he told me, working a little, &c., until br. Edward arrived, when we struck out among the natives, and there I began to realize what 'Mormonism' was: we were alone, and could not speak a word of the language, and we were all in all to each other, and asked the Lord for his Spirit to be with us that we might be enabled to accomplish the work for which we left our homes and presidencies.

We then began to consider whether we could make the natives hear and understand or not, and we thought if the Lord would not do anything for us we were in rather poor business; but he did hear us, and we were blessed in every thing we set our hands to.

It was going down from good living to something that was pretty hard, but it is astonishing how much better it goes, where the Lord blesses anything—it goes down first rate, and we fleshed right up on it, as did most of the brethren as soon as they got there. We went among the natives, and although we could not make them understand what we said, they felt for us, and everything they could do for us they would; they would anticipate our wishes; but it was not long before we began to talk a little to them.

We landed at a place called Nawiliwili on the island of Kauai. I got a letter from br. Reddin Allred, that he would meet us at a place called Koloa, some ten miles distant; that was the first we had heard from any white person, and the three days we had to wait did seem pretty long—like so many months to us. We trudged over there scarcely knowing the road, but as it happened we took the right road and found brs. Allred and Molen.

I could not help but feel bad, but still I felt good; it was raining and they were barefooted, and I then realized how the Elders had to do in foreign lands; I could see it forcibly illustrated but they were glad to see us, and we were glad to see them; and I can testify to the faithfulness of brs. Allred and Molen, as also to that of every one of the brethren with whom I have been associated upon that mission; out of the nineteen brethren who went there with me, every one is faithful, and determined to live up to every thing that is required of them, and keep in the path of their duty.

There has always been a union amongst us, never a jar or anything to disturb our peace. We have been just like a loving family from the time I started, until the day I left. I believe I enjoyed the confidence of all with whom I was associated, and I know they enjoyed mine; we there contracted ties, which never will be dissolved while time shall last. I know they are faithful and true, and I never wish to be associated with a better set of men or boys than they are.

The work of the Lord upon the Hawaiian Islands is progressing; they are not adding many new members to the Church, but are striving to teach the old members, and endeavoring to make them realize what 'Mormonism' is, that they may live up to what they know.

It is very easy to baptize the natives; you point it out to them in the scriptures, and they are willing to go forward and be baptised, but that is a very little thing; it requires a great deal of patience, and I have been astonished to see some of our brethren have the patience they have to reason with them, and talk with them to keep them in the road. They are very easily lead off, just like little children. We can lead them anywhere, but to do them any good we have got to be right with them, meeting with them every day, and sometimes two and three times a day and keep instructing and teaching them. If they do get out of the way—they will repeat and confess every thing and make clean breast of it. I have seen them weep, realizing that they had done wrong, but they would very soon forget it and do the same again.

I do not know that this is any worse than many of us have done. How foolish not to live

up to our privileges, and not take an interest in these things which are calculated to exalt us here and hereafter.

It makes my heart feel good to have an opportunity of standing before you, even if I cannot edify you very much, to see your good countenances; you are the best people in the world, and I know it; there is no joy, nor peace, nor happiness where I have been, save with the few that worshipped the God of Israel and believed in the same principles we did.

The world do not believe and cannot appreciate the blessings that we enjoy. I have seen apostasy, since I left this place, in almost every form; men that I had known, and men that I had not known, of almost every disposition; and the reasons they assigned for the course they had taken were various, but I came to the conclusion it all might be summed up in a few words: When a man feels that he has done wrong, he commences to justify himself a little, then he begins to find fault with those who are appointed to rule and guide us like fathers, and are our best friends; he will find fault with them, instead of obeying them, and falls into darkness deeper and deeper, until at last he cannot see that he is in transgression.

These are the reasons I assign and it is my opinion that when we find ourselves a little wrong, we should come up and do the thing that is right; it may hurt a little, but if it did not, it would not be any trial.

There is no use in backing out, when called upon to speak; come up, and open your mouth and you will say something; a man cannot say anything very wrong on this stand, if he feels right; and if he should, this is the very place where he can be corrected; that is the way I always feel.

I told you I felt blessed this morning. I feel that I am paid for what little I have passed through; I consider it nothing. I never have had so severe a trial, I never hated anything as much as I did to come up to this stand. I was not afraid of being hurt, or afraid of doing anything wrong; probably many of you have experienced the feeling; but I rejoice that I have been counted worthy to be called to go on a mission, and I rejoice that I have done what I have, that I have returned in safety with the confidence of my brethren.

I do not know that I have anything more to say at the present time. My prayer is that the Lord may bless us, one and all, and enable us to prove faithful and endure to the end.—Amen.

REMARKS

By Elder Wilford Woodruff, Bowery, April 8, 1857.

[REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.]

I will say to my brethren and sisters that I count it a blessing and a privilege to occupy a few moments this morning in bearing my testimony and expressing my feelings to you, and I hope what little I may say may be dictated by the Holy Spirit, for I have lived long enough in this world to know that I can neither edify myself nor the children of men without the Holy Spirit.

I have a few thoughts upon my mind which I wish to present. Since I have attended this conference I have listened attentively to the teachings, counsels, reproof, corrections, testimonies and subjects which have been given to us by the servants of God.

It brings to mind the days before I heard 'Mormonism.' I have spent hours and days and nights, among the rocks and in the forest, praying to Almighty God to enlighten my mind and lead me in the paths of rectitude and duty and that he would let me live to behold a people he could own, who did receive the revelations of Jesus Christ, the gospel, the principles and covenants which the ancients received and enjoyed.

The Lord revealed to me that I should have this privilege, and I have lived to see the kingdom of God set up; it is before me to-day, in this tabernacle, and all the blessings of the priesthood; and all the covenants and all the power necessary to lead a people into salvation is here to-day.

I want to say in answer to my feelings, that as I realize the kingdom of God is here, I realize also that we have a leader to it. We live in a great and important day and generation, we live in the midst of the mighty work of God, in a time when he has stretched out his hand to accomplish that great and mighty work in fulfillment of the word of God written in the volume of revelation which points to our day.

Any man who has a particle of the Spirit of God can see that there was great things to transpire in our day. We are in our alphabet, there are but a few of the works of Almighty God that have yet been declared in our ears in comparison to that which is to come. No man is qualified to stand at the head of the house of Israel to carry out the great purposes of our God unless he is inspired by the Almighty all the time. We have such men at our head; Joseph Smith was of that class; from his childhood, or from the time the angel rent the veil of eternity and showed him the record of Ephraim until the day of his death he was led by the hand of God. No man had any business to say unto him, why dost thou so? He was a shaft in the hand of the Almighty.

It is not less so now with President Young, who stands at the head of this people, for he does point out the way in which this people should walk. Who is going to take hold of the Ark and steady it for him? No man; President Young has the right to make use of my name or yours before the people by way of correction; it is not our business to call him to an account for it; he has a right to correct, reprove and guide us, and has had to do so all the day long, and he has been a father to this people continually. I have been acquainted with him and traveled with him for many years; and I will say I have felt many a time to thank God that he has given to us fathers as leaders and teachers who have been filled

with mercy and compassion, and with words of eternal life.

I have wondered many a time in my life how I have passed along so smoothly as I have. I have felt that I have been worthy of correction in a good many things; yet I desire to pursue a course whereby I may become justified. I have my weaknesses, errors and follies, and can see them by the light of the Holy Spirit.

There is nothing I have ever done in my life that was wrong but what I have been sorry for. I know President Young is endowed with the power of God and so do you know it, and I know he can discover weaknesses in many of us and he corrects us for our good. The reproofs of a friend are far better than the kisses of an enemy.

With regard to correcting the Twelve or any body else, I am glad when we are corrected to see the brethren kiss the rod. We have to learn to build up this kingdom before we are prepared as polished shafts in the hands of the Lord to stand up and magnify our calling as Apostles of Jesus Christ. There is nothing that President Young brings forth for this people to carry out but we are all interested in, whether we understand it or not.

Should I, or any man in the kingdom of God feel for a moment to object to President Young's handling or controlling gold or wealth for his own benefit or the rolling of the kingdom? No, we should not. I wish he had his millions, for he has clearly manifested before our eyes from the beginning until now his talents and gifts as a financier; and we all know he has been profitable to the Church and kingdom of God, to Zion and this whole people. It matters not to me whether it is in build a Temple, establishing a Carrying Company or anything else that is presented for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Lord and the building up of his kingdom and the gathering of Israel, we are equally interested in it and should go to with our might and carry out the work assigned us.

Many things will be made manifest unto us and our labors will have to extend through many channels, ways and means before the way is prepared for the coming of the Son of Man.

I feel thankful to God that his hand is over us. He has guided, controlled and delivered us from the hands of our enemies.

We may thank the Lord that we have a man among us who has got the Holy Ghost enough to reprove sin whether among his wives or his best friends or worst enemies. What would become of this people were it not so? We would go to hell. No man can govern his steps, control his life, correct his errors if there was not somebody inspired by the power of God to lead in this matter.

There is a just cause many times for reproof and correction, and it is a good sign to me when we are reprov'd; it shows there are redeeming qualities in this people. When President Young wants anything of us, I care not what, let us respond to his request. We have to build up this kingdom by union and faithfully following those men set to lead us, or else we will be scattered; the blessings of God will be taken from us if we take any other course.

The Presidency in their remarks here have referred to the hatred of the wicked against us.—Jesus says, 'I have chosen you out of the world therefore the world hate you. If you were of the world the world would love its own, but because I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hate you.'

Look at the world; they are divided on every point; there is hardly two men or women united in matters of government or religion. Send an Elder of this Church to proclaim to them the gospel of Jesus Christ and you will see the devils in hell united with the priests and people of Christendom to oppose him. They know they are wicked and weltering in their own corruptions and abominations. But here comes a man to proclaim to them the word of God—why do they oppose him? Because he has the testimony of Jesus Christ and is sent of God. Do the world believe we have a false religion, that we are deceivers and have not the true faith? No, they are afraid that what we preach is too true; they are afraid of our union in the valleys of the mountains; it has more terror in it to the kings of the earth than any other subject that has been revealed to man in this generation. They are afraid God is with this people; that he controls them.

The same feeling exists among the nations now as anciently, when the Jews said he (Jesus) will take away our place and nation if he is let alone. This should be a testimony to all the world when they see the spirit of division increasing upon almost every subject. They cannot unite upon any subject only in opposing the Latter Day Saints.

I feel to say to my brethren and sisters, let us make up our minds to do right, and let our union increase, and truly follow the men God has set to lead us. There is where our salvation lies.

Some of us have been in a measure reprov'd and corrected; well, what of it, no doubt we deserved all we have got and more; we should not boast over each other because one man is reprov'd to-day; you may receive the rod of chastisement to-morrow.

Let us prepare ourselves so that in whatsoever we are corrected we may be passive in the hands of the servants of God and thank the Lord; for whom the Lord loves he chastens and scourges every son and daughter he receives.

When I get through, if I can only find myself associated with the Twelve Apostles of the Latter Day Saints and with this people, I will be satisfied. If I can steer my way through this life and have a place with you, it is all I will ask.

I pray the Lord to bless you and me, and more particularly the Presidency of this church and clothe them with the power of God and with salvation, that their hearts may be filled with joy, light and truth. And may this people rise up and humble themselves before the Lord and take the counsel that is given to them that we may be well

educated in the things of God, and be obedient children in treasuring up their teachings and in carrying them out, that we may be saved in the kingdom of God; which is my prayer in the name of Jesus: Amen.

THE DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.
GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13.

Polygamy.

The restoration of the Patriarchal order of marriage in these latter days, in fulfillment of the declarations of the holy prophets, seems to create more uneasiness in the minds of some of the political demagogues in the United States, as well as of religionists devoted to the dissemination of those principles of corruption and abomination, which, if they did not originate with, have been fostered by, the 'peculiar institutions' of that church commonly called 'the mother of harlots' and countenanced by priest and people throughout the length and breadth of the land, than any other subject within their knowledge, and many consider it 'a violation of the whole recognized civil, moral and religious sentiment of the people.'

That this institution is diametrically opposed to the recognized civil moral and religious sentiment of a large majority of the people of the United States, is readily admitted, and it is not the only institution of Heaven, that is opposed to the doctrines, commandments and practices of many in high places, if it was they would not be so much alarmed for the safety and perpetuity of the institutions of the 'scarlet lady' or of the 'man of sin' they so much respect and revere. The reason no doubt of their being more opposed to the doctrine of plurality of wives than to any other principle of truth revealed for the salvation and exaltation of the children of men, is, that it more immediately comes in contact with their evil and corrupt doings, and is more directly opposed to the damning sin of prostitution, than any other that has come to their knowledge and sets things in their proper light.

Where is there a christian nation; so called, that does not tolerate, and protect its citizens in the commission of, every species of debauchery, and prostitution that was ever practiced upon earth? Where is the city or town, of any considerable size that has not its houses of 'ill fame' licensed and protected by municipal regulations for the accommodation of both high and low, rich and poor? and where is the priest or the legislator that does or dare lift his voice against that abominable but favorite institution of the people? If there are any we do not know who they are, nor where they reside. The pastor of a congregation in any of the principle cities of the United States would soon loose his situation if he interfered with or spoke against those establishments of filth and iniquity; and the aspirant for civic honor or promotion, could not expect to obtain either if he uttered one word unfavorable to that popular appendage to civilized society, the brothel.

Such being the 'civil moral and religious sentiments' of men it is no marvel that they are opposed to a principle that would tend to destroy, what they so much approve of and admire and wish to bequeath to their posterity; and they will unquestionably exert themselves to the utmost and even urge the necessity of Legislative enactment to extirpate polygamy in order to secure the perpetuity of monogamy and its attendant and consequent institutions if it is thought that it will in the least prolong their existence. Congress may even pass the act said to have been on the calendar of the House of Representatives last winter providing for 'the prevention and punishment of polygamy' if the presence of so many 'pretty women' as was reported to be in attendance during the late session does not entirely engross their attention, though the presumption is that those 'visiting ladies' will strongly advocate its passage and call the attention of the Senator and Representatives to the important subject.

Should Congress in the heat of political religious phrensy yield to the importunities of a certain class of people whose institutions are in danger and pass an act to prevent and punish polygamy in the Territories, without some special provisions are made, it will certainly be a hard matter to enforce the law in the Territory of Utah. Special arrangements will have