

and the faith that has entered into my heart. I am either advancing with that spirit in my heart, or I am retrograding until I throw overboard everything I have done and deny the faith. This is the situation, as I understand it, though men do not believe it altogether. But my experience of nearly fifty years teaches me that I am either advancing toward my Father and toward His salvation, or I am retracing the steps that I have made. I am not standing still. There is no such thing in this Church. We are either in the light or in the darkness. When the sun sets in the west, gradually darkness steals upon us from the east until we are enveloped with it. The sun has not deserted the earth; but it has gone from us. While it is setting to us it is rising to somebody in another part of the earth. But when our minds become dark, how great is that darkness! I have seen darkness steal over the minds of persons, and yet some of them will say they never felt better in the Church in their lives. Dissect the life of such an individual. I say to him, "You never felt better in your life in the Church?" "No." "Do you pay your tithing, brother?" "Oh? no, I have stopped that." "Do you pray in your family?" "No, I do not pray in my family." "Do you attend to your secret prayers?" "No." "And never felt better in your life?" "No, never felt better." "Now, I know from my experience that a man cannot feel well in the Gospel unless he attends to these things. How do you feel toward the Presidency of the Church? How do you feel toward the Twelve? How do you feel toward the Presidency of the Stake? How do you feel toward your Bishop? How do you feel toward your teachers? How are you toward your neighbor?" "Well, I don't consider anybody around here fit to associate with, and really I am not very comfortable in the presence of the President of the Stake." "What is the matter? Do you differ with him?" "Yes, he don't preach the right kind of doctrine to suit me—but I never felt better in the Church in my life." Now, as strange as this may seem, a man said that to me practically not more than three weeks ago. That man told me he was not doing the things I have mentioned, and yet he said he never felt better in his life. Is that encouraging the Spirit of God in his heart that will justify him before his Maker? I say, no; he will never be justified by the Spirit of God while he lives in that darkness that he has seemed to allow himself to get into. I know the spirit by which he said he never felt better in his life. I have seen it; and it is a snare and a delusion. But I try to love my neighbor as myself, I have sought earnestly, in prayer and fasting, for the Spirit of the Lord; but I feel sometimes like I am so poor in spirit and so weak in determination, and as if when I would do good evil is present with me, that if the Lord did not help me I would fall forever. What is that kind of spirit in a man? It is the spirit that prompted the publican when he said, "God be merciful unto me a sinner;" while the Pharisee, in the pride of his heart, thanked God that he was not as other men. It is the humble, lowly spirit that wins in the Church. Men may hold their heads as high as they please; men may be arrogant, full of vanity and of lies; men may be wealthy and ride in fine carriages; but if the spirit of humility is not there, then the Spirit of God does not reign there. It

will not do for me, after having received the ordinances of the Church, to see how little of the Spirit of God I can get along with and still be held in fellowship. If a man cultivates a bad spirit, it will, like the measles, come out on him sooner or later, and he will show his true colors. But we who have entered into covenant and have determined in our hearts to serve the Lord, are justified by the Spirit if it is in our possession, and we keep it there, determined that no act of ours shall grieve that tender plant which may be just springing into life within us, or it may have been there for many years, until it becomes a fixed inhabitant of the heart and never leaves the creature to wander from his Maker. I know that by experience. This Spirit must be in men and women like a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. It must shine through their eyes and be manifest in every act, because it must become paramount to all other spirits, if they would serve God with undivided hearts.

If these things abound in us, then are we servants and handmaidens of the Lord, and by the blood we are sanctified. I cannot but think of that sacrifice that was made for me. Christ came on the earth to offer himself up as a sacrifice. He knew the agony He would have to endure; He knew the terrible death that was to be inflicted upon Him; yet He offered himself up. For whom? For himself? No: for every man and woman, no matter what their color or their nationality. He died for all men. When I reflect upon His innocent blood that was shed for me, and know that thus far in my life I have conformed to His will and served Him to the best of my ability, according to the light I have had, (the time was when I did not have much) I am not at this day going to lose that Spirit and allow it to get beyond my grasp, if God will help me to keep it within my breast. I cannot do without it. I was writing a letter the other day, in which I stated that I was staying with President Woodruff; not that I believed my presence was necessary for his welfare, but I could not do without him. I cannot live without the Priesthood, because I cannot have the spirit in me that will guide me in the things that pertain to the knowledge that my leader receives. It never comes to me; it comes to my leader. The comfort that is necessary for the creature and for my family, that spirit is in me constantly, if I live for it; but that which is beyond my jurisdiction and rule must come to my leader and be given to me by the mouthpiece of God. Those are the facts in the case. We talk about having the spirit within us to guide us, and it is an absolute necessity that we do have it; but I tell you there will nothing come to the body of this Church only as it passes down from the Almighty through His organized Priesthood. I cannot break off by myself and become a law unto myself; but I can have all the revelation that is needed to guide me and my family individually. We are told that Christ will come and appear in the eyes of all. Do you not suppose that His Priesthood will inform the Latter-day Saints when He shall appear and at least give us time to dress. I think we will have plenty of time to put our shoes on. The Latter-day Saints that are living according to the light and intelligence of the Spirit of God, will have time to put on the wedding garment, and they will not go out naked

into His presence, nor will He take them unawares. True, the day nor the hour no man knoweth; but the Latter-day Saints, through the channel of the Priesthood, shall know all that is necessary for their salvation. God gave himself for us, to bring us into the position where this obedience and this justification might be wholly efficacious in our behalf. It could not be without it. One is not perfect without the other, any more than this body is perfect without all its members. All these things are given expressly for a perfect unity in the heart of the creature; and beside that, man is given his agency that he may receive them from the liberal hand of God or reject them. It is within my province to reject all these things, if I desire to do so. But I have not the result of that agency; that is beyond my control. My heart is given me, and it beats without any volition on my part. God has removed that from me. But it is there for a wise purpose. It is there to receive the Spirit of God. I am here to acknowledge the goodness of God and His sacrifice, with all the power that I have. I am here with my agency to benefit by the innocent blood that was shed for the transgression of Adam, which placed me again in the presence of my Father. The blood has sanctified this people, and I know it. I know that the prophets and apostles and saints, that have passed behind the veil look upon this people, and they say, "What more could God do for you than He has done?" There is no love that surpasseth that love which causes a man to lay down his life for his friend, and God has done that. Our Elder Brother has given his life, and His blood sanctifieth us to our eternal salvation in the kingdom of God. This is what has been done for this people. What shall we do with the blessings that we have already received? Will we from this time forth keep the commandment? Will we be justified by the Spirit? Will we be sanctified by the blood? Will we say in our hearts, "With the help of God, I will honor that which my Father has given me; I will honor my brothers and sisters; I will seek to love my neighbor as myself; I will seek to do good unto all men, and I will not allow the passions which men exhibit in the world to take possession of me and cause me to grieve the spirit, that I may stand justified before God when He comes to make up His jewels?" God bless you. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

TRIP OF A MISSIONARY.

MARION, Ill., Dec. 16, 1895.

It is not long since you heard from this part and I almost fear to write lest I intrude upon your valuable space allotted better to others. But, as I have some new features of experience to relate, perhaps a few items may be at least endurable.

By the kindly desire of David R. Roberts, who was honorably released from a most faithful two years' mission in this conference, on December 1st, to return to his home in Logan, Utah, I accompanied him as far as St. Louis, Missouri, where he took great interest in introducing me to his relatives and friends. I should state that a number of them live on the east side of the river, and as far south as Birkners and Bellville, Illinois, we also visited, and were received and treated very kind and cor-