

and difficulties to cope with, and many things of an unpleasant character. In one sense of the word, he parts with his friends unpleasantly; but it is an important duty that he feels now called upon to perform, and there will arise from the performance of these duties honor, and eventually glory and exaltation. He is well satisfied in regard to this point: but the mission is not a pleasant thing to contemplate altogether. He is selected for this divine mission and holy labor because of his faithfulness and his purity of conduct. In like manner we come into this world because we kept our first estate in the midst of all the trials and difficulties in the other life. It was not all of the family of God that preserved themselves in their first estate. One-third part of the host of the children of God, His offspring, traveled in a different direction, and were not worthy to come into the world. They do come sometimes, but they have to borrow bodies, not having any of their own. We, however, are here because of our worthiness in the past, as Elders are sent out among the nations because of their worthiness at home.

Now, in our Temples we allow persons to come in, after they have traced their ancestry, no matter how far back, and to be baptized for their dead father, grandfather, and great grandfather and so on, just as far as they can trace their line. Then we allow them to have the wives sealed to their husbands, all along the ancestry line, as far as they can trace it. Take the case of a virtuous young man who lived before the Gospel was introduced to the children of men. He desired to get him a wife and to raise a family. That desire is a proper desire. It is obeying the first commandment. Well, he married a wife, and he raised a family; but he never had the privilege of receiving the Gospel, as you and I have. However, he taught his family the principles of morality, and he was affectionate and kind to his wife and children. What more could he do? He should not be condemned because he did not receive the Gospel; for there was no Gospel to receive. He should not lose his wife because when he married her he could not go into a Temple and have her sealed to him for time and eternity. He acted according to the best knowledge that he had, and she was married to him for time, according to the custom of the country. We respect that marriage, solemnized according to the laws of his country. We do not think it would be right to take that wife, married to this man under these circumstances, and seal her to any other man, or the children either. As President Woodruff explained, we seal children to their parents and wives to their husbands, all along the line. Now, it should be an object in every man and woman's mind to come into our Temples and to perform this labor. It is a great labor, and an important one, too. When we go back into the other life and find our dead friends living there, if we have not performed the labor that is necessary for their exaltation and glory we shall not feel very happy and it will not be a very pleasant meeting. We ought not to wait for opportunities to be pleasant and agreeable always; but we should strive, even if it takes a little sacrifice on our part, to put ourselves in a condition to perform this labor. We have in the Salt Lake Temple between sixty and seventy persons that are employed

continually for the purpose of waiting on brethren and sisters who come there to do this labor, and they perform their service cheerfully. Very few indeed receive any pay; they give their labor for nothing. And we welcome the brethren and sisters when we see them in this Temple. It is the same in all the other Temples. We desire anxiously that the brethren and sisters should not neglect this important work. Do you know what will be the main labor during the thousand years of rest? It will be that which we are trying to urge the Latter-day Saints to perform at the present time. Temples will be built all over this land, and the brethren and sisters will go into them and perhaps work day and night in order to hasten the work and accomplish the labors necessary before the Son of Man can present His kingdom to His Father. This work has got to be accomplished before the Son of Man can come and receive His kingdom to present it to His Father. Every son and daughter of God will have the opportunity necessary for exaltation and glory, either by themselves or by their friends. For there is but one way by which exaltation and glory can be secured. We have to be baptized for the remission of sins and have hands laid upon us for the reception of the Holy Ghost. These and other ordinances are absolutely necessary for exaltation and glory; and where individuals have lived when the Gospel has not been accessible, these things can be attended to by their friends. We have come into the world now in order to do these things—at least, it is one of the chief objects of our coming. We cannot lay too great stress upon the importance of this work.

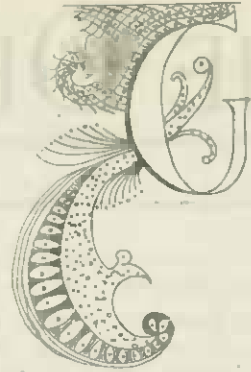
Well, brethren and sisters, offspring of God, everything before us is encouraging. Our prospects are just as great and glorious as any imagination could possibly anticipate; and we should strive to fit ourselves to receive these blessings. As to the foundation upon which we stand, it is pretty secure; but it may not be to everyone within the sound of my voice. No man should be satisfied until he has secured a perfect assurance that this is the path of exaltation and glory; that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God; that these things which I have been reading to you are actually of God; that Jesus, the Son of God, actually appeared in 1836 to some of the sons and daughters of God that were acquainted with Him in the other life. There is no question about this in my mind, and there are tens of thousands of Latter-day Saints that can testify to the truth of this work. They know it for themselves; but I fear there are too many that have not secured that assurance that is absolutely necessary, because every man and every woman will be tried to see how far he or she has an understanding in regard to these principles. May we be blessed in all our labors. May we understand the things that are required at our hands, and perform them faithfully, and be successful, so that when we have finished our second estate we may go yonder and there rejoice and receive the fullness of exaltation and glory. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

A valuable gold specimen from a Sonora, Cal., mine was stolen by a clever thief last week. The piece weighed about four ounces, but was valued at \$80.

Written for this Paper.

## AMERICAN STORIES FROM ASIA.

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EN. JOHN W. Foster is now on his way home from China. He has done good work in arranging a treaty of peace, and I understand that it was through his influence,

largely, that China got such excellent terms from Japan. Secretary Foster worked in the back-ground. He was the confidential adviser to Li Hung Chang and the Chinese envoys, and his great diplomatic ability entered into every question. A number of other governments have profited by Gen. Foster's skill in handling great questions and great men. He is the confidential adviser of Mexico in its affairs with the United States, and he has been frequently sent abroad as a diplomatic lawyer by our State Department. The story of his entrance upon his diplomatic career has, I think, never been published. Secretary Foster is a very reserved man. He seldom speaks of himself, and it will be news to the United States to know that he had an opportunity to go to Japan as our minister during the administration of Gen. Grant. He told me the story last spring, while we were sailing across the Yellow Sea from China to Corea in a little Japanese steamer known as the Genkai Maru. I had asked him how he came to be a diplomat. He replied: "It was through Oliver P. Morton. After I came out of the army I settled down at Evansville, Ind., to practice law, and shortly after this became interested in a newspaper there. Oliver P. Morton was then in the Senate. He was a man of incorruptible integrity and of sterling ability. I was anxious to see him re-elected to the Senate, and during one of the campaigns, when the outlook was very dubious, I organized the doubtful counties of Indiana for him. It was a very close year. There was great danger of everything going Democratic, and in fact, the Democratic candidate for governor was elected. As to the legislature, however, we had worked the field so well that it was Republican by a large majority. Morton's re-election was assured. He had been friendly with me before this, but he was so delighted with my work that he telegraphed me to come on to Washington, and that I could have anything there I wanted. I had been working very hard up to this time, and I concluded that a foreign appointment would give me a pleasant rest and the chance for reading and study, which I needed. I had not yet been out of the United States, and I wanted the culture which might come from a residence abroad.

"I was very modest in my views and I thought that I if could have the Swiss mission it would just suit me. I went to Washington and gave Mr. Morton my