

W Woodruff
[REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."—JESUS CHRIST:

No. 17. Vol XXXI.

Saturday, April 24, 1869.

Price One Penny.

AN ADDRESS

TO THE FEMALE RELIEF SOCIETY, DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG,
IN THE FIFTEENTH WARD MEETING HOUSE, FEB. 4, 1869.

(Reported by David W. Evans.)

I am happy to have the privilege of meeting with you, my sisters, on this occasion. It is gratifying to me to see such marked signs of a lively action among those who profess to be Latter-day Saints, and who are capable of doing so much good as the female portion of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "Female Relief Society" is a very marked expression, and full of meaning, and brings more to my mind in contemplating the sex, than almost any other expression that could be used.

As the sisters are here from the Relief Societies in the various Wards in the city, and perhaps some from a distance, I wish, in my remarks, to lay before them what I, as an individual, consider to be the duty of this portion of our community. Not that I expect to go into the full details, but to touch upon a few points in regard to their duties.

Before me I see a house full of Eves. What a crowd of reflections the word EVE is calculated to bring up! Eve was a name or title conferred upon our first mother, because she was actually to be the mother of all the human beings who should live upon this earth. I am looking upon a congregation designed to be just such beings.

This life, that we now possess, is just as good, and fraught with as great interests, as any life that any being

possesses in all the kingdoms that are, consequently I shall commence by saying to these, my sisters, it is their imperative duty before God, their families and their brethren, to exercise themselves in the capacity in which they are placed, according to their ability, in order that they may magnify, promote and honor the life they now possess. Permit me, sisters, to say, that we are endowed with a capacity to enjoy and to suffer and to be delighted. Are we delighted with that which is obnoxious? No; but with that which is beautiful and good. Will we promote this? Yes. In the first stages of life we should know how to promote that which we desire, and which would cheer and comfort the hearts of individuals, communities, or nations. To effect this should be the first consideration of all.

Here are young, middle-aged and aged women, who all have experience according to that which they have passed through. On this point I reflect very much and talk but little. Let a young woman start out in life and magnify her existence by helping to fill the world with her posterity as mother Eve was commanded to do, and she should know, in the first place, how to conceive and bring forth that which she would delight in, and which would be a comfort, consolation and pleasure to her in her meditations.

This is a matter that people think little about, and upon which but little is said, though there is a great deal yet to be said in regard to this particular point to the mothers and daughters in Israel. The inquiry arises, how shall we do this? I can say, truly, we must possess the spirit of meekness, kindness and longsuffering; we must possess patience, that in patience we may possess our souls. We must seek to enjoy the spirit of intelligence that comes directly from Heaven. We should govern and control every evil passion, and order our lives so that we may enjoy the meek and humble spirit of the Lord Jesus. You know how apt we are, in certain cases, to be passionate, and how apt mothers are to be full of extreme desire; it seems as though every feeling of the soul was wrought up. I have known mothers actually ruin their posterity through giving way to the inordinate desires of their own hearts. You see some children who are naturally fond of strong drink, or who are addicted to swearing, lying and stealing. Mothers entail these things in a great measure upon their offspring, and although they may not realize it, yet it is so. My sisters will pardon me when I say there are portions of our community who actually believe it is no harm to lie; others will steal, and their hands would have to be cut off to prevent their taking that which is not their own, for, just as sure as they come to something that they can secrete, they will do it. I attribute a great deal of this to the lack of wisdom in fathers and mothers. You may think this is strange doctrine, and may believe that we have control of ourselves in every particular, but it is not so. We do have that power in a measure, and through grace and fervency we can gain control over ourselves; but we have not this power naturally. With regard to traits of character, we see marked difference among children of the same family. We see one child with whom it is as natural to lie as it is to breathe, while with others of the same family it is quite different, and you may depend upon anything they say as being strictly true. I see some with whom it is natural to pilfer, and with others of the same family it is just the reverse.

These differences in character among members of the same family have come under my observation, and your experience confirms the truth of these remarks.

Now for mothers to do their duty, for these matters depend far more upon the mothers than upon fathers,—they should be filled with patience and kindness, and should seek continually to sanctify themselves and to overcome their weaknesses. Some women have a longing desire for ardent spirits, yet by faith, and the close application of that faith in their prayers to God, they may so far overcome that desire that it will never affect their posterity. Others are given to evil in language, in deeds, or in thoughts, which should be overcome in order that the ends of their being may be answered and a righteous posterity raised. For us to start correctly, we should know how to produce our own species, so that they may enjoy all the blessings that are in store for the faithful, without their having such an immense struggle to overcome the sin that is within them.

If the mothers in Israel could bring forth their children so that they would never have an inbred desire to swear, or do a deed that they should not do, how much more easy and satisfactory it would be for such children to pass through the ordeal of life, than to be tried and tempted, often beyond their strength. I shall leave these points with you for your consideration, being satisfied that a word to the wise is sufficient.

I shall now say a few words to you as mothers in Israel in a temporal point of view, in regard to your children and the sickness and disease in general to which they too often fall victims. Upon matters of this kind every mother should be well posted. Our bodies, especially in infancy, are liable to be filled with pain and distress; and our children often waste away and go into the grave through ignorance. I see many mothers who never take thought or care with regard to these things. A child will run out and play in the wet, get cold, and, perhaps, in an hour or two is in a high fever. The mother is very sorry and pets and kisses the child, but does

nothing to help it. Perhaps a child is taken sick in the night with the croup, —a disease which comes on suddenly, and which is quick in its operations. In great alarm the mother gets out of bed and lights the candle, and cries, "Oh dear! oh dear! what shall I do?" and immediately sends for a neighbor or a friend who, she thinks, knows what course to take in such an emergency. How much better it would be if the mother herself knew what to do to save her child! It is a mother's duty and business to know how to treat such diseases. They may seem small matters to some; but they are great in their results; for if not met promptly, they carry our children to the grave. In many instances mothers lose their beloved ones through neglecting duties of this kind, when, with proper care and attention, their children might have been preserved and their neighbors would never have known that they had been sick. These matters should receive the special attention of our sisters, and I anticipate that I am talking to ladies who will pay attention and try to carry out these counsels; if they do, they will realize great benefits therefrom. I urge upon the sisters the necessity of paying some attention to the various diseases of childhood. The people around are afraid the small pox will be here soon; but if they knew what to do, they need not be afraid of it. The same may be said of the measles and the whooping cough. Not but that there are cases of these diseases occasionally, through the weakness of the system, that our common medicines will not touch; but such cases are rare, and if the counsels given are followed, many of the diseases incident to this community, and others as well, would be overcome.

Now, my sisters, I will take up the subject of schools. I will commence by advising this congregation to pay attention to the education of their children. Some may think, "Oh we have our Selectmen appointed, our district set off and every preparation made, necessary to carry on the education of our children, and we need not give ourselves any further trouble about it." I will say that if the mothers and daughters in Israel will give

their attention to this matter, they will accomplish a great deal more in the same time than the men will. I advise the Female Relief Society of this Ward to look after the education of their children, and I recommend the introduction into their schools of the Deseret Alphabet; not that the old method may be thrown away or discarded, but as a means of facilitating the progress of the children in their studies. If mothers will take this matter in hand, and will take measures to encourage their children and create an interest in their minds in relation to education, they will accomplish much more than the fathers can do. The fathers must be called upon to foot the bill, but it is the mother's business to see that they are schooled.

Extending my remarks upon this subject, I should say that the education of females ought to be more thorough and practical than it generally is. For instance, wherever our school mistresses find a natural turn in their female pupils for the study of mathematics, or of any particular branch of learning, a class ought to be formed for the special study of that branch of education. You will find but few, females especially, who have a natural inclination for the study of mathematics; but where it does exist, such a woman, when properly trained, is just as capable of keeping a set of books and occupying a seat in the counting-house as a man; and the labor is not too arduous. To see a great, fat, lubberly-looking man, who ought to be conducting a railway train or using the pick and spade, sitting continually at a desk, is disgusting to me. The females should learn book-keeping, then they would be able to attend to our mercantile operations. I recommend the ladies of the 15th Ward to commence this branch of study. If they commence first, they will have the credit for so doing; and if they progress faster than others, they will have the credit of it, for a record of the doings of all these Female Relief Societies will be kept, and it will be known who were fervent and faithful in carrying out the counsels given them in order to enable them to magnify their high callings here on the earth.

We see the necessity of these things every day. Suppose a man, owning a little property, is taken away from his family, and his wife knows nothing about his business or books, or whether she has a dollar or ten thousand; her position would be much more advanta-

geous if she had an acquaintance with book-keeping, for then, without the help of any other person, she could settle up the business of her deceased husband, call in his debts, pay them off, square up his accounts, and possess what was left.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE DARIEN SHIP CANAL.

The attention of the world has once more been drawn by Mr. Cushing's mission to that narrow neck of land which joins North and South America, and which one never sees on the map without feeling it is there to be cut through. To aid the guillotining of that tempting neck, in the interests of American commerce, is the object of Mr. Cushing's journey. That the result of his negotiations with the government of New Granada will be the concession to the United States of a right of way to build an inter-oceanic canal, can be confidently anticipated. As to the rest, it may be laid down as a safe proposition that, great as are the difficulties in constructing a canal across the Isthmus, there are none to which the existing devices of modern engineering are not fully adequate.

To this stupendous engineering feat, compared with which even the Suez Canal dwindles in magnitude, none of the petty States contiguous to the Isthmus ever dreamt, of course, of addressing themselves. More than one commercial European Power has, however, carefully watched and weighed it. Everybody will recall the uneasiness with which in our country the surveys and experiments of English engineers, many years ago, were observed; and still fresher in memory is the outcry of indignation wherewith the French occupation of Mexico was instinctively connected by our people with this same grand problem. Often postponed—now by more pressing schemes of internal policy, now by political difficulties, anon by the war, and always by the prodigious character of the undertaking, this magnificent enterprise has yet never been lost sight of by Americans. What it means is no less than

the grand highway of commerce between Asia and the rest of the world, and as such it was felt that it must be built by American capital, under American auspices, and established forever under American control. The proper time for the task has now apparently come, and the sudden and vast increase of trans-Pacific trade demands that it be pushed forward without delay.

In another column a correspondent sets forth what has already been done and what remains to do to open this grand conduit of commerce. He shows that the various and shifting lines proposed in former years have now been reduced to two routes, either of which is, by the testimony of able engineers, perfectly feasible. One of these routes runs from the Gulf of San Miguel to Caledonia Bay; the other from the Bayano River to the Gulf of San Blas. The latter, whose total length is thirty miles, embraces the audacious feature of a tunnel through the Cordilleras (to which that under Mont Cenis is trivial) seven miles long, one hundred feet wide, and one hundred and fifteen feet high, through which, of course, the largest man-of-war could be made to pass. A tidal lock and an aqueduct over the Mamoni River are also embraced in the plan. The rude estimate of the total cost of construction is \$66,000,000.

It is to secure the privilege of further surveys, and a final right of way, that Mr. Cushing is now despatched by the Department of State to New Granada. Should his mission be satisfactory, a strong company of New York capitalists and engineers stand ready to begin the grand enterprise of an inter-oceanic ship canal—an enterprise