

The Latter-Day Saints'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH
UNTO THE CHURCHES.—*Rev. ii. 7.*

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ELEVENTH GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,

TO THE SAINTS IN THE VALLEYS OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND THOSE SCATTERED ABROAD
THROUGHOUT THE EARTH, GREETING.

(From the "*Deseret News*," April 13.)

Beloved Brethren—Ever feeling a deep and abiding interest in the prosperity of Zion, and the advancement of our Redeemer's Kingdom upon the earth, and being also desirous of benefiting, cheering, and consoling the Saints in their warfare against the machinations of Satan, and the power of the adversary, we feel to dedicate unto you, a short time in delineating a few items of the history of the past, our general welfare, intentions, desires, &c., for your edification and instruction.

Since our last General Epistle, we have received intelligence of the general success and spread of the Gospel of Christ, with few exceptions, wherever it has been preached; which is cheering to our souls, and causes our hearts to rejoice in the goodness of God towards our fellow men, by inclining the honest in heart among the nations of the earth, unto the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

Prosperity has generally characterized all our efforts, both at home and abroad; and the work is making rapid progress throughout the earth. The Lord has opened the way before the Elders in foreign countries, and upon the islands of the sea, in the most remarkable manner. No mission has been appointed, but the Elders appointed to go, have been able to reach their destination with little or no delay; and in all, except Prussia and the West

India Islands, been permitted to remain and promulgate the Gospel in its fulness.

Brothers Hosea Stout, James Lewis, and Chapman Duncan, returned from the China mission, after having arrived at Hong Kong, and without effecting any impression, or establishing the standard of truth in that mighty empire. This was owing to the disturbed state of the country, which hindered them penetrating the interior, and acquainting themselves with the manners, customs, and in some degree the language of the people.

In the Sandwich Islands, under the superintendence of Elders Philip B. Lewis, George Q. Cannon, B. F. Johnson, and others, the work has been eminently successful. By advices received from brothers Lewis and Cannon, dated Honolulu, November 20th, 1853, we learn that over three thousand had been baptized, and that native Elders were engaged, heart and hand, in publishing the glad tidings which are unto all people. The mission, it is expected, will establish a press, and publish in the native language, the Book of Morimon being translated and ready for publication.

In the Society group, persecution has continued to rage against the Saints, inasmuch that communication has measurably been cut off, the American Elders having been obliged to leave; they are, however

endeavouring to again open communication with the natives, many of whom, notwithstanding their persecution, continued, at last advices, to teach as well as practise those principles of life and salvation which they had formerly received from Elders Pratt and Grouard and others, who had been sent among them. The brethren are exploring to find an island where they can gather together and live in peace with each other, free from the pernicious influence that so unhappily pervades them, in all their intercourse with foreigners, in their present locations.

From Australia we have the most cheering accounts. Elder Wandell has arrived at San Bernardino, and Elder Augustus Farnham, of this city, was chosen to preside in that mission. A paper, called *Zion's Watchman*, had been established at Sidney, New South Wales, with a very fair prospect of being well sustained, and accomplishing great good. The Saints in the various Conferences numbered several hundreds, and were constantly on the increase. Elder Burr Frost was at Melbourne, and the other Elders scattered over the colony at various places. Elder Farnham expected to send from Sidney a mission to Hobart Town, Van Dieman's Land, and New Zealand.

The Calcutta mission, under the superintendency of Elder N. V. Jones, has been wonderfully preserved from the pestilence and tempests peculiar to that region, while passing from place to place, in the discharge of their various duties. The Elders have visited, from this point, Ava, in the Burman Empire, Dinapore, Chinsurah, Madras, and Ceylon, and it is expected that brothers Ludington and Savage are now at Siam. Elders Findlay, West, and Dewey are at Bombay, and Elder Willis has been labouring in the Northern Provinces of India.

Elder Jesse Haven was, at last advices, at Cape Town, where he had made a small beginning with good prospects.

In Europe the missions have all been successful, with the exception of the Prussian. In Germany, France, and Italy, the work is slowly but surely progressing. The Book of Mormon has been translated and published in the Welsh, German, French, Italian, and Danish languages. No death among the foreign mission has been heard of, except that of Willard Snow, who died on board of ship, sailing

from Copenhagen to Hull, on the 25th of August, 1853.

The Elders appointed to go to the West India Islands, remained there but a short time, as their presence seemed to be regarded in rather an unfavourable light by the authorities. They, together with those appointed to British Guiana, sailed for the United States, where, with the exception of Elijah Thomas, who returned last fall, they have since been labouring.

Elder Orson Pratt is still at the City of Washington, publishing the *Seer*, but will return this season; as also will Elder S. W. Richards, now presiding in Great Britain, and H. S. Eldredge, President at St. Louis.

Elders Lyman and Rich are still at San Bernardino, presiding over that Stake, which is said to be in a flourishing condition. The remainder of the Twelve Apostles have been labouring, since our last, in this territory, through the various settlements, as duty seemed to require.

On the 15th of November, a company raised by brother Orson Hyde left for Green River County, and have settled on Smith's Fork at a place they call Fort Supply. The settlement consists of about one hundred efficient men.

There have also been considerable accessions to the various settlements south, in accordance with the instructions given at last Conference.

On the 16th of October, the main company of Saints, emigrating by the aid of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, arrived in good health, having accomplished the journey across the plains without accident, or any material loss, except cattle.

On the 25th of the same month, the Valley of the Great Salt Lake was covered with snow, but the weather continued mild thereafter, until about the 10th of January, since when, until about the 18th of March, we have had pretty constant cold or stormy weather—the thermometer at times ranging nineteen degrees below zero.

On the 8th of November, Captain Morris, with his command, and the remainder of the lamented Captain Gunnison's Pacific Railroad Exploring party, arrived in this city; since when they have remained here waiting for orders, and for the season to open, until the 4th day of April, when they left to resume their explorations.

During the winter, common schools

have been taught in the various wards; also, evening schools for lectures, and the acquisition of various languages. Elder P. P. Pratt has taught the Spanish, D. B. Huntington the Utah and Shoshone dialects; he has also published a form or dictionary of a collection of Indian words and phrases, in each of those languages, for the benefit of the young learner. There have been regular meetings in all the Wards, and Quorums, which have been very regularly attended.

The Regency have formed a new Alphabet, which it is expected will prove highly beneficial, in acquiring the English language, to foreigners, as well as the youth of our country. We recommend it to the favourable consideration of the people, and desire that all of our teachers and instructors will introduce it in their schools and to their classes. The orthography of the English language needs reforming—*a word to the wise is sufficient.*

On the 5th of November, the Deseret Dramatic Association opened at the Social Hall; since when, with few interruptions, amusements of various kinds have been kept up in that building, until the present time, as often as once or twice a-week.

On the 5th February, the Seventies held their Quarterly Conference, in the Social Hall, which, although the weather was very stormy, was well attended, and continued two days. During this meeting, three new Quorums were organized—the 37th, 38th, and 39th.

The Wall around the Temple Block has advanced considerably since our last Epistle; the stone and adobie work, except the coping and gates, being completed on two and a half sides.

The City Wall is also fast progressing, and it is expected will be finished the present season. Many of the settlements have secured themselves by fortifying in; but much remains to be done. It is desirable, and we urge it upon all the Saints, to not cease their vigilance, nor their exertions, until their defences are completed. Although the Indians are quiet, and have been for several months, yet we have no assurance that they will remain so; it therefore becomes necessary for your temporal salvation and the quiet of the territory, that you should be prepared for any emergency that may arise. On no occasion trust yourselves to go into canyons or bye places, where an Indian can lurk unseen by you, without first explor-

ing and ascertaining that all is safe. Go in companies sufficiently strong to intimidate the foe, and you will be less liable to be attacked. So with all your preparations, you will be less liable to have to fight, go on expeditions, or suffer loss, if you are always prepared, ready, and fully capable of defending yourselves at a moment's notice. It is in the moment of indolence, carelessness, or infatuated indifference and negligence that destruction comes upon you; "out of sight, out of danger," has become too practical a proverb. We tell all the Saints in the valleys of the mountains, in the name of Israel's God, if you do not better observe the counsel which is given, and comply with the requirements of your leaders, you will suffer loss, the natural consequence of disobedience. The Lord will have a people who will do His bidding, who will comply with His reasonable requirements. If willingly, so much the better; if not willingly, they may expect to be chastised; for the Lord is not to be trifled with after pouring out His blessing of intelligence, in floods of light by revelation of principles pure and holy, of deliverance from oppression and mobocracy, and unequalled prosperity in peace and quietness.

From henceforth let one and all go forth with one accord and build their forts, wall in their cities and villages, herd and guard their cattle and other property, and keep their guns and ammunition in good order and convenience, ready for instant use; and then, when thus prepared and ready at all points to ward off danger, to defend yourselves, and continually guarded against surprise, and you meet the Indians, treat them civilly, friendly; endeavour to get speech with, and treat with, them in a friendly manner; seek to gain their good will, and induce them from their hostility, their savage and warlike feelings, their propensities for theft, shedding of blood, plunder, and to follow the pursuits of peace and civilization. They, as well as ourselves and all others, are in the hands of God. Let us do our duty, and all will be well. Let us also exert ourselves to save Israel, not destroy them, for the promises concerning them will be fulfilled.

On the 12th of December the Legislative Assembly of Utah Territory organized in the State House of this city; and after holding the usual session, passing laws upon various subjects, and adopting vari-

ous memorials to Congress, adjourned, having accomplished what business came before them.

Among the most important of their acts will be found "An act regulating herd grounds and herdsmen," and a law authorizing the construction of a canal from Utah Lake, or the outlet thereof above the rapids, to Great Salt Lake, a distance of about 40 miles, which, when completed, will furnish water for irrigating many thousand acres of good land, which otherwise would remain comparatively useless.

The Legislature also memorialized Congress for a National Railroad across the Continent; and on the 31st of January there was a public meeting held in the Tabernacle, which was very numerously attended, spirited and enthusiastic in its proceedings; the Memorial of the Legislature was adopted, as well as a series of Resolutions expressive of their feelings in relation to that important subject.

The law concerning herding is of the more importance to us, as a people, to be observed, as the natural wealth of the country, which consists in grazing, induces heavy investments in stock growing. This fills our valleys with stock, which, too often ranging without proper herding, is often lost, and is liable to be stolen by Indian or white thieves: consequently not only lost to the owner, but actually furnishes inducements and temptations to the natives, who are truly ignorant, and know no better than to commit crime. For generations and centuries they have held and taught their children, that to be successful in robbery, thieving, and war, was the path to glory, the road to influence and power. How then can we expect them to refrain, when they have the opportunity, from taking our stock? Let us act wisely and take care of our stock and property, and not tempt them to take it by giving such ample opportunity by neither guarding nor herding it. It is like throwing irresistible temptations in their way.

On the 9th of November, the Indians burned six houses at Summit Creek; and on the 23rd of November, news arrived of their having burned a saw-mill near Manti; and on the 6th of January the place called Alfred's Settlement, which was evacuated last summer, was burnt to the ground.

On the 26th day of February, about

eighty head of cattle were driven from Spanish Fork and Springville settlements.

These are the last depredations that we have heard of being committed. And we now say, that every solitary instance of Indian hostility and depredation has been committed through neglect, disobedience of orders, carelessness, or disregarding the counsel which has been given from time to time. Brethren, when will you be wise, and follow in the precepts of wisdom? Must you first be destroyed and wasted away like unto the Nephites, or will you hearken unto counsel in time to save yourselves and your families, your flocks and your herds from destruction?

Having received advices that Indian Walker was friendly disposed, and wished to make peace, Major Bedell, Indian Agent for this Territory, and Interpreter Huntington, accordingly went to Fillmore, the place fixed by him and his band, to meet them, and concluded a treaty of peace. But let no person presume thereby to fall asleep, lulled into a false security, to be awoken only by the war-whoop of the merciless savage.

We have also learned that some friendly Indians at Pe-teet-nete have finally succeeded in finding some of the cattle which were driven from Spanish Fork on the 28th day of Feb., and actually returned some 25 head of them—the remainder having been killed.

It is proper to state, that many of these depredations, in fact nearly all of them, have been committed in the absence of Walker and Arrowpine, and without their knowledge or consent. It is known that he was hostile in his feelings, but many of his men were much more so, and he found it impossible longer to restrain them.

It was not Walker nor his band who massacred Captain Gunnison and party, but a band of the Utahs called Pahvantes, with whom they had no communications at the time, and who had been uniformly friendly previous thereto, although they were, at the time of that unfortunate occurrence, actually gathering to come against the settlement at Fillmore, to retaliate upon them the murder of one of their own men by a company of California emigrants, who passed through their country a few days previous.

During the Indian troubles of the past season, Elder George A. Smith has been

very active; and to his influence and untiring exertions may be attributed the execution of those prompt and energetic measures which so suddenly placed the settlements in a comparative state of security.

We now most sincerely hope and trust that they will profit by the lessons of the past season, and hereafter not depart from the observance of those precepts which their experience has so fully illustrated were fraught with wisdom, and were for their safety and preservation.

The crops of grain and vegetables were generally good, and were tolerably well preserved; and it is presumed, notwithstanding so large an immigration, that there will, with proper economy, be sufficient to carry us safe through to another harvest. It is an evident truth that more grain should be raised. The constant influx of people from all quarters; the demands of the Indian tribes for bread, and the almost certain prospect of approaching thousands to our borders, bids us prepare for the future. Food for man and beast, is the cry; food for unnumbered millions who ere long will be pouring upon us like doves to the windows; food for a famishing world, spiritual and temporal; are the drafts we may expect to have to pay.

Then prepare; fill up your minds with knowledge and wisdom, and your storehouses with grain; raise and preserve your stock; raise your own wool and flax; make your own leather; and manufacture your own clothing, soap, candles, oil, sugar, molasses, glue, combs, brushes, glass, iron, and every other article within your reach, and save your money. In this way you will stop this great draining of the precious metals from our midst, and be enabled to do more for the spread of the Gospel, the gathering of Israel, the building up of Zion, and erecting a holy Temple unto the God of Jacob.

Brethren, pay your tithing; and pay it in such a manner too, as shall be of some benefit; as will avail something towards promoting the work of the last days. To him who thinks, if he can only obtain a credit upon the books, whether he does anything or not; who indolently passes his time for the privilege of drawing pay, but feels no interest in the work, or who grudgingly, penuriously settles and compromises with his own covetous soul whether to pay anything—to all such we say, you are mistaken if you consider that such offerings

are acceptable in the sight of God; you might as well, aye, far better, keep away, than thus expose your half-hearted, selfish spirit. It is too much like the hypocritical cant of the day, to get a great deal of credit for doing nothing.

Brethren, it is our counsel to you, to pay your tithing, to pay your debts to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, and make your consecrations in a spirit of liberality, and with a willing heart.

Bishops, we have a word of counsel to you. You are the fathers of the poor, and stewards in Israel. Lend your efficient aid in collecting together the tithing and consecrations of the Saints; and see that all is preserved and taken care of, and faithfully deposited in the Storehouse of the Lord, and not diverted from its legitimate use. True charity to a poor family or person consists in placing them in a situation in which they can support themselves. In this country there is no person possessing an ordinary degree of health and strength, but can earn a support for himself and family. But many of our brethren have been raised at some particular trade or employment in the old country, and have not tact and ingenuity to turn their hand to anything, which forms a strong feature in American character. It therefore becomes our duty to teach them the way to live. They are generally good citizens, of industrious habits, and with a little teaching will soon be able to support themselves. We desire the bishops to give them employment which they can perform, and exercise a little patience in instructing them; and it will soon be found that they will no longer prove a burden upon the public funds. They are frequently landed here without food or means of any kind; for a short time they will necessarily need assistance; but if the above suggestions are complied with, they can soon not only sustain themselves, but repay all that has been advanced.

Let not the honest poor suffer, but administer unto them in wisdom. So shall the Lord reward you, and the cries of the poor not arise unto the Lord our God in testimony against us.

There are many thousands of dollars now owing to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, from those who have received assistance from the Company to emigrate to this country. When we consider the great good annually accom-

plished by the agency of this Fund, we feel that all Saints should aid, and contribute of their means to accomplish the emigration of the poor Saints from among the various nations, where oppression holds her bloody sway, famine menaces, and gross darkness and wickedness pervade the minds of the people, holding them enchained in the bonds of bigotry and ignorance.

While the God of all the earth is pouring out His judgments upon a wicked world, in fulfilment of His word spoken by the mouth of His Prophets in past and present generations, by pestilence, famine, tempest, and devouring flame, men and nations, drunk with their own fury, appear impatient to hasten their own consummation. In recklessness and wrath they destroy each other upon the rivers of water, and rail roads, the wide spread lakes and open sea; they rush to their own destruction. Nation rises against nation; civil discord engenders strife; and war, crimson war, with all its attendant horrors, lends its desolating aid to depopulate the earth.

Thus, amid crime and famine, pestilence and war, the convulsions of nations, and of the earth, and the elements around the earth, the Gospel of salvation, by the discerning honest mind, is hailed as a beacon of joy, and is no sooner received than it begets an earnest desire for deliverance from wicked Babylon, that they may pass the ordeal and withstand, in unison with the Saints in Zion, the scourge, the consumption which God has decreed shall make the earth empty, when they may rest until His fiery indignation shall be overpassed.

Then haste, ye Elders, to the work which lies before you; and let all the Saints go to with their mights to prepare for the great day of power and devastation which will assuredly come upon the whole earth, for the day when the Son of Man shall appear, the Ancient of Days shall sit in judgment, and each and every one will be required to render a faithful and true account of his stewardship.

Humble yourselves, O ye Saints of the Most High! for the day draweth nigh! Let your division, discord, envying, and wickedness cease from among you; and dwell together in peace and unity. Give your hearts to God, and your might, mind and strength to the accomplishment of His purposes in the last days. Let nothing

swerve you from the path of duty. Awake to the importance of your calling and the work which is for you to accomplish. Shake off the lethargy which enwraps you as a mantle; and let your works and faith appear like the noonday sun in brightness and glory to all around. Have continually in your minds the work of God, the salvation of Israel, the deliverance of the poor from the tyrant's grasp and the oppressor's rod.

And to the poor we say, Be industrious and faithful; and so soon as you shall be able to return in some available means the advances which have aided you in your deliverance, remember those who, in like circumstances with yourselves, are anxiously looking to the same source for relief.

In these secluded vales we gather the Saints that we may enjoy the rights and privileges of the Constitution, denied to us elsewhere; that we may have the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of our own consciences. We gather that we may enjoy not only the rights of citizenship, but live in peace, and have the respect and courtesy extended to ourselves and our families by our associates, which is denied to us in the world. We gather that we may obey the ordinances and keep the commandments of God, and concentrate our ability in rolling forth the great work of God upon the earth, establishing His kingdom, building temples, and preparing the way for the coming of the Son of Man. And when those professing to be Saints, gather with us, we naturally expect them to be influenced by the same motives.

We are gathered here, not to scatter around and go off to the mines or any other place, but to build up the kingdom of God. And those who gather for any other purpose, we wish them no harm, but cannot consider or hold them as in fellowship. We have no fellowship for those who embrace this work for aught else than the love of the truth and the testimony of Jesus: who are not willing to endure all, leave all, sacrifice all and everything for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

It is the duty of the rich to relieve the suffering poor, to administer to their necessities, and faithfully apply their means to the gathering of Israel, the spread of the Gospel, and the building up of the Kingdom.

On the other hand, the poor should ap-

preciate the blessings extended unto them, and be willing to reciprocate accommodations, and repay in faithful labour as fast as they can. It is a matter of regret that too many who have been assisted by those having means, no sooner get located in a country where plenty and peace smile upon them, than they forget the hand which wrought salvation and deliverance for them. It is owing in a great measure to this cause, that those who have means are reluctant to impart of their substance. Ingratitude is a crime which rankles deeply in the hearts of those upon whom

it is practised. To do a kindness to a man and have him turn and rend you, shuts up the bowels of compassion, and keeps others from exercising that charity and benevolence which otherwise would have been their joy and delight to have extended.

We therefore caution the poor Saints who have been assisted to come from the old countries, not to fail to repay, and remember in kindness those who assisted them, that others who yet seek deliverance may not be excluded from the blessings which they enjoy, by their acts of selfishness and ungrateful remembrance.

(Continued on page 426.)

THE MORMONS IN SAN BERNARDINO.

(From the "Daily Alta California.")

Among the many singular features of California, one worthy of especial notice, is the San Bernardino settlement of Mormons—genuine Latter-day Saints, who believe that Jo Smith (not John) had a direct commission from Heaven to convert the earth, and to preach the only true doctrine suited to the advanced position of our times,—and who follow his evangel as their pillar of fire by night and cloud by day, through the wilderness of life.

The persecution of the Mormons in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois, made them wanderers. Previous to '45 they had sent forth emissaries to seek a Canaan, it being nearly plain that they could not remain in peace in the Mississippi Valley. Some of the emissaries came to California and made a favourable report. In '47 a battalion of Mormons came with Colonel Cook to the Pacific coast, and many of them remained here. A Mormon discovered the first gold, at Sutter's Mill; and the proximity of their settlement at Utah enabled them to be among the first to reap the golden harvest. The families returned to Salt Lake, but carried back with them the fame of the fertile soil and sunny clime of the valley on the California coast. In 1851, they determined to make a settlement near San Diego, to which point they have their shortest and best road to the Pacific.

Amasa Lyman, one of the Twelve, and Elder C. C. Rich, were deputed, with the approval of Brigham Young, to choose

the new home of five hundred immigrants; and they purchased the San Bernardino Branch, (on the San Diego and Salt Lake road,) with cattle, horses, &c., for 70,000*g*. In the fall of 1851 the immigrants arrived, fenced in a lot of 2000 acres, built a fort for protection against the Indians, put in their grain, and built houses. The large enclosure was not common property, but each person had his share to sow and reap. There were some difficulties, quarrels among the congregation, as well as wants and trials, during the first year, but the settlement prospered, as every Mormon settlement has. Roads were made; houses, grist mills, and saw mills were built; new immigrants arrived; and in '52, before the colony was a year old, they sent flour to the San Francisco market, and made large purchases of San Francisco merchandise.

The present population is something more than a thousand, and it promises to increase. In no portion of the State is there a more busy or thriving settlement, or one which, in proportion to number, is working more effectively.

They promise that San Bernardino shall be the most beautiful city of California; and to judge by their beginning, and what they have done elsewhere, their promise will be kept.

By the last Legislature, San Bernardino was constituted a separate county, and thus the Mormons have a little government of their own. Jefferson Hunt has