

would be less ready to find fault, more ready to help.

"If we know the cares and trials,
Know the efforts all in vain,
And the bitter disappointments,
Understood the loss and gain,
Would this grim exterior roughness
Seem, I wonder, just the same?
Would we help where now we hinder?
Would we pity where we blame?"

"Ah, we judge each other harshly,
Knowing not life's hidden force;
Knowing not the stream of action
Is less turbid at its source.
Seeing not amid the evil
All the golden grains of good;
Oh, we'd love each other better
If we only understood."

I plead for the erring, struggling, misunderstood soul; that with love and kindness it shall be led, not driven, to a higher, a better, a nobler life.

God gave ten commandments. They are as binding as they ever were. Where is the Latter-day Saint that would make unto himself any graven image? Where is the one who would worship any other God? They are not Sabbath breakers; they are not profaners; they are not thieves; the teaching of the seventh commandment is sacred to them; the murderer is unknown among them. All of these commandments have they kept from their youth, up; but do they break the ninth commandment? Do they bear false witness? You ask me if I place the bearing of false witness upon the same level of crime as the breaking of the sixth, seventh, eighth or tenth commandment? And why not? God made no distinction when He gave them. He prefaced each with "Thou shalt not." I know of but one distinction made in Holy Writ—that which was made by the Christ. The first great commandment is this: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy might, mind and strength." And the second is like unto this—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Who is thy neighbor? Read the parable of the Good Samaritan? Do I love my neighbor as myself when with words I rob them of their honor, of their good name? You remember the words which the "Bard of Avon" has put into the mouth of his character of Iago? "Good name in man and woman, dear my Lord, is the immediate jewel of their souls: Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something, nothing; 'twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands. But he that filches from me my good name, robs me of that which nothing can enrich him and makes me poor indeed." "The crown and glory of life, is character." Wealth nor talent should be so priceless. Fame is oftentimes but a dream; wealth, but a will-o'-wisp.

Death robs you of your loved ones and sorrow fills the heart; friends prove false and regret floods the soul; wealth vanishes and leaves poverty; take away religion and the bright star of hope is gone; health goes, the vengeance of a violated law of nature remains. Wealth may be regained, health may return, other loved ones may fill the aching void, new friends take the place of those lost, the star of hope may once more shine, but take away honor and you leave nothing but desolation, heart-aches and misery! The sun of life is set; darkness alone remains. You have stolen that which can never be returned. And as surely as God lives you shall pay the penalty of that theft. The laws of the land may fail to reach you in this life, but the laws of God will reach you in eternity. You have broken a commandment and the penalty shall be paid.

The breaking of the ninth commandment has ever been followed by suffering, misery and death. The partial breaking of it by disgrace and dishonor. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Such are the commandments of God. Can we, will we, do we follow them?

The Origin and Destiny of Woman.

The following article appeared in the *Mormon*, a publication issued in New York City in the fifties, under the editorial management of the late President John Taylor. The date of the issue containing it was August 29, 1857. It has been reproduced in the columns of the *Dawson News*:

The Latter-day Saints have often been ridiculed on account of their belief in the pre-existence of spirits, and for marrying for time and all eternity, both being Bible doctrines. We have often been requested to give our views in relation to these principles, but considered the things of the kingdom belonged to the children of the kingdom, therefore not meet to give them to those without. But being very politely requested by a lady a few days since (a member of the church) to answer the following questions, we could not consistently refuse—viz.: "Where did I come from? What is my origin? What am I doing here? Whither am I going? And what is my destiny after having obeyed the truth, if faithful to the end?"

For her benefit and all others concerned, we will endeavor to answer the questions in brief, as we understand them. The reason will be apparent for our belief in the pre-existence of spirits, and in marrying for time and all eternity.

Lady—Whence comest thou? Thine origin? What art thou doing here? Whither art thou going, and what is thy destiny? Declare unto me if thou hast understanding? Knowest thou not that thou art a spark of Deity, struck from the fire of His eternal blaze, and brought forth in the midst of eternal burnings?

Knowest thou not that eternities ago, thy spirit, pure and holy, dwelt in thy Heavenly Father's bosom, and in His presence, and with thy mother, one of the queens of heaven, surrounded by thy brother and sister spirits, in the spirit world, among the Gods? That as thy spirit beheld the scenes transpiring there, and thou growing in intelligence, thou sawest worlds upon worlds organized and peopled with thy kindred spirits, took upon them tabernacles, died, were resurrected, and received their exaltation on the redeemed worlds they once dwelt upon. Thou being willing and anxious to imitate them, waiting and desirous to obtain a body, a resurrection and exaltation also, and having obtained permission, thou made a covenant with one of thy kindred spirits to be thy guardian angel while in mortality, also with two others, male and female spirits, that thou wouldst come and take a tabernacle through their lineage, and become one of their offspring. You also chose a kindred spirit whom you loved in the spirit world (and had permission to come to this planet and take a tabernacle), to be your head, stay, husband and protection on the earth, and to exalt you in the eternal worlds. All these were arranged, likewise the spirits that should tabernacle through your lineage. Thou longed, thou sighed and thou prayed to thy Father in heaven for the time to arrive when thou couldst come to this earth, which had fed and fell from where it was first organized, near the planet Kolob. Leave thy Father and mother's bosoms and all thy kindred spirits, come to earth, take a tabernacle, and imitate the deeds of those you had been exalted before you.

At length the time arrived, and thou heard the voice of thy Father, saying, go, daughter, to yonder lower world, and take upon thee a tabernacle, and work out thy probation with fear and trembling and rise to exaltation. But daughter, remember you go on this condition, that is, you are to forget all things you ever saw, or know to be transacted in the spirit world; you are not to know or remember anything concerning the same that you have beheld transpire here; but you must go and become one

of the most helpless of all beings that I have created, while in your infancy; subject to sickness, pain, tears, mourning, sorrow and death. But when truth shall touch the cords of your heart they will vibrate; then intelligence shall illuminate your mind, and shed its luster in your soul, and you shall begin to understand the things you once knew, but which had gone from you; you shall then begin to understand and know the object of your creation. Daughter, go, and be faithful in your second estate, keep it as faithful as thou hast thy first estate.

Thy spirit, filled with joy and thanksgiving, rejoiced in thy Father, and rendered praise to His holy name, and the spirit world resounded in anthems of praise and rejoicing to the Father of spirits. Thou bidst Father, mother and all farewell, and along with thy guardian angel, thou came on this terraqueous globe. The spirits thou had chosen to come and tabernacle through their lineage, and your head having left the spirit world some years previous, thou came a spirit pure and holy, thou hast taken upon thee a tabernacle, thou hast obeyed the truth, and thy guardian angel ministers unto thee and watches over thee. Thou hast chosen him you loved in the spirit world to be thy companion. Now, crowns, thrones, exaltations and dominions are in reserve for thee in the eternal worlds, and the way is opened for thee to return back into the presence of thy Heavenly Father, if thou wilt only abide by and walk in a celestial law, fulfill the designs of thy creation, and hold out to the end. That when mortality is laid in the tomb, you may go down to your grave in peace, arise in glory, and receive your everlasting reward in the resurrection of the just, along with thy head and husband. Thou wilt be permitted to pass by the Gods and angels who guard the gates, and onward, upward to thy exaltation in a celestial world among the Gods. To be a priestess queen unto thy Heavenly Father, and a glory to thy husband and offspring, to bear the souls of men, to people other worlds (as thou didst bear their tabernacles in mortality), while eternity goes and eternity comes; and if you will receive it, lady, this is eternal life. And herein is the saying of the Apostle Paul fulfilled, "that the man is not without the woman in the Lord, neither is the woman without the man in the Lord." "That man is the head of the woman, and the glory of the man is the woman." Hence, thine origin, the object of thy creation, and thy ultimate destiny, if faithful, lady, the cup is within thy reach, drink then the heavenly draught, and live.

Keep Still.

Keep still! When trouble is brewing, keep still; when slander is getting on its legs, keep still; when your feelings are hurt, keep still till you recover from your excitement at any rate. Things look different through an unagitated eye. In a commotion once I wrote a letter and sent it, and wished I had not. In my later years, I had another commotion and wrote a long letter; but life rubbed a little sense into me, and I kept that letter in my pocket against the day when I could look over it without agitation and without tears. I was glad I did. Less and less it seemed necessary to send it. I was not sure it would do any hurt, but in my doubtfulness I learned to reticence and eventually it was destroyed.

Time works wonders. Wait till you can speak calmly, and then you will not need to speak, maybe. Silence is the most massive thing conceivable sometimes. It is strength in very grandeur. It is like a regiment ordered to stand still in the mad fury of battle. To plunge in were twice as easy. The tongue has unsettled more ministers than small salaries ever did or lack of ability.—Exchange.

LATTER DAY SAINTS

SOUTHERN STAR

"BUT THOUGH WE OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL UNTO YOU THAN THAT WHICH WE HAVE PREACHED UNTO YOU LET HIM BE ACCURSED." 2ND COR. 11:13

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WOMEN AND WAR.

Eda Wheeler Wilcox.

We women teach our little sons how wrong
And how ignoble blows are; school and church
Support our precepts and innocents

The growing minds with thoughts of love
and peace.

"Let dogs delight to bark and bite," we say;
But human beings with immortal souls
Must rise above the methods of a brute
And walk with reason and with self-control.

And then—dear God! you men, you wise,
strong men,

Our self-announced superiors in traits,
Our peers in judgment, you go forth in war!
You leap at one another, mutilate
And starve and kill your fellow men and ask
The world's applause for such heroic deeds.
You boast and strut; and if no song is sung,
No laudatory epic writ in blood,
Telling how many widows you have made

Why then, perforce, you say our bards are
dead

And inspiration sleeps to wake no more,
And we, the women, we whose lives you
are—

What can we do but sit in silent homes
And wait and suffer? Not for us the blare
Of trumpets and the bugle's call to arms—
For us by waving banners, no supreme,
Triumphant hour of conquest. Ours the
slow,

Dread torture of uncertainty, each day
The hopeless battle with the same despair,
And when at last your victories reach our
ears,

There reaches with them to our pitying
hearts,

The thought of countless homes made deso-
late

And other women weeping for their dead.

O men, wise men, superior being say,
Is there no substitute for war in this
direst age and era? * * *

Why should we women waste our time and
words

in talking peace when men declare for war?

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT.

BY ELDER DAVID H. ELTON.

"How'er it be, it seems to me,

"Th' only noble to be good,

Kind hearts are more than coronets,

And simple faith than Norman blood."

—Tennyson.

Herein lies the secret of true happi-
ness, "to be good," and the "simple faith"
once delivered to the Saints will bring
to pass this "true happiness"—heartfelt,
everlasting and eternal. Our subject topic,
"God's greatest gift," is an important
one, for it most vitally concerns
the inhabitants of the earth in every land
and clime under the sun. When once we
realize its beauty, glory, magnificence and
heavenly splendor, we shall never rest

contented, our souls will never be
satisfied, until we have reached its
blessed portal, and obtained its
peace and bliss. To specifically
and distinctly define God's great-
est gift, means to say that He is the
Author of many rich and perfect
blessings; all of which we shall need go
to make up this supreme gift or sweet-
ness of divine favor. James, the
Apostle, says, "Every good gift and every
perfect gift is from above, and cometh
down from the Father of lights, with
whom is no variableness, neither shadow
of turning." (James 1:17.) From this
we learn that "every good gift and every
perfect gift" emanates from the throne
of God; that they are bestowed upon the
sons of men, by the "Father of
lights, with whom is no variableness,
neither shadow of turning." Let us not overlook this
fact; that there is "no variableness,
neither shadow of turning" with Him
who is the Giver and Bestower of all
"good gifts;" therefore can we place all
confidence in His promises; all faith in
His holy words; and implicit trust in His
righteous decrees; for being an unchange-
able God, He will be the same yester-
day, today, tomorrow, and forevermore.

There are "good gifts," and there are
"perfect gifts," all of which come from
the one source, the fountain head of
Truth, God, the Eternal Father. We
may define the "good gifts" as health,
strength, food, raiment, homes, habita-
tions, and all that we really enjoy of a
temporal nature, or it may be said, all
blessings that are more nearly connected
with our earthly existence, happiness,
and maintenance. These are all "good
gifts," yet, they are precious gifts and
much to be desired; but there are other
blessings, which the Apostle wisely des-
ignates as "perfect gifts," which pertain
to our eternal natures, and which exalts
the spirit, cleanses, purifies, redeems, and
immortalizes the body of man. God's
gifts are given unto man to counteract
the evil influence and wicked power of
the adversary. Thus, health combats
sickness; strength conquers weakness;
food allays hunger; raiment shields and
protects from exposure and inclemency;
homes provide a shelter from the storms;
and habitations supply for us a place to
dwell. The Father of all mercies and
the Author of all things beautiful and
good, is the Giver of these choice tem-
poral gifts. Yes, for in the beginning
when all was pronounced "good" by the

Maker, and sin and wickedness had no
place in all the footstool of Omnipotence,
the Lord blessed our first parents—Adam
and Eve—yes, He gave them health; He
gave them strength; He gave them food;
He gave them the new-born earth for a
blessed home, and the Garden of Eden
for a celestial habitation.

"The earth is the Lord's, and the full-
ness thereof; the world and they that
dwell therein." (Psalms 24:1.) He
hath loaned it, with all the blessings it
produces, with all the rich gifts which it
affords, and the hidden treasures which
it possesses, unto the children of men for
a temporary habitation. As Jehovah is
the creator and preserver, so is He the
owner of the world, and all things there-
in; and He has a perfect right to rule,
govern, and dispose of all as seemeth
good and righteous in His holy sight.
Purity of heart, chastity of conduct, and
obedience to divine commands are essen-
tial to our enjoying the good and perfect
gifts of God.

This, then, naturally leads us up to the
subject, "God's greatest gift;" for if
there is one gift more precious, more
profitable, and greater than all others,
it behooves each and every one to dili-
gently seek for this paramount blessing;
that they might receive of the Lord's
highest rewards. It will be agreed by
all concerned and interested in the re-
demption of the soul of man, that "God's
greatest gift" is salvation, exaltation,
and life everlasting in His celestial king-
dom. Yes, for then we shall be given
this earth, sanctified and glorified, for an
everlasting inheritance, and an eternal
dwelling place. Says one: Is it possible
that this earth will be prepared, cleansed,
renewed, and made the eternal home for
immortal men? Yes, kind reader, such
is verily true, and the Scriptures of Holy
Writ are replete with passages confirm-
ing the same. With your generous con-
sideration, let us do as the Lord Jesus
hath commanded, "Search the Scrip-
tures," and in them we shall find an
abundance of testimony and evidence to
support and sustain the stand taken in
this regard. "And the Lord said, I have
pardoned according to thy word; but as
truly as I live, all the earth shall be
filled with the glory of the Lord." (Num.
18:20-21.) Why "all the earth filled with
the glory of the Lord?" for this reason:
"the valleys shall be cleft as wax before
the fire." (Micah 1:34), and this same