

fierce light, and it was with difficulty that he restrained his exultation.

The keeper of the seal lost no time in his fearful preparations. Calling together the royal scribes, he dictated letters to every satrap, sealing them with the king's signet ring. These letters commanded that "on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, should be slain,—not one to be spared,—and all their wealth taken for a prey."

"The post went forth in haste by the king's commandment"—so runs the sacred record—"and the king and Haman sat down to dine. But," adds the ancient writer, "the city of Shushan was much perplexed."

Great, indeed, was the mourning throughout the kingdom of Assyria among God's chosen people. A decree signed and sealed by the king was beyond the power of repeal, even by the king himself. Such was the law of the Medes and Persians. The Jews knew their enemies to be both numerous and eager to

carry out the king's decree. Unless, therefore, the God of their fathers should intervene, their doom would be sealed: henceforth Israel must speak only from the tomb. What could now possibly save them?

As always in times of national peril, they congregated in their places of worship, and there, through fasting and weeping and wailing, called in mighty prayer upon their Father in heaven to deliver them.

On the night succeeding the sending out of the king's couriers, as Haman passed through the gate towards his lordly mansion, he beheld, instead of the insolent Jew who had so long defied him, a man sitting on the stone seat in a crushed and dejected attitude, dressed in sack-cloth, and with ashes sprinkled upon his head.

The prince smiled. It was the last drop of bliss that could come to him, and his cup of happiness overflowed.

[To be Concluded.]

## LEONORA CANNON TAYLOR.

*Mary Alice Cannon Lambert.*

Leonora Cannon was born in the town of Peel, Isle of Man, Oct. 6, 1796. She was the eldest daughter of Capt. George Cannon and Leonora Callister.

She was a beautiful child, both in mind and person, and was brought up very tenderly. She was left fatherless when only thirteen years of age. After her father's death, her mother, having more room in her house than she required rented part of it furnished to an English family named Furnible.

Mrs. Furnible was a daughter of

Lady Manering. Miss Furnible and Leonora became very fast friends and when the family went out to London Lady Manering insisted upon Leonora's accompanying her granddaughter, which Mrs. Cannon finally consented to. While there she was treated as one of the family and spent years of her youth in London, mingling with the best of society. She was presented at Court by Lady Manering at the same time as was her granddaughter, Miss Furnible.

Leonora was well educated and

very attractive, her mind being stored with good and useful knowledge. She was a great reader, very witty and enjoyed a good joke. She was always religiously inclined. When quite young she depended on the Lord to direct her in all her movements. She became a Methodist when quite young and was very sincere. She had a very beau-



tiful head of naturally curly hair. After she became a Methodist, thinking curls sinful, she covenanted with the Lord that henceforth she would never wear them, and she never did.

After her mother's death she went to reside in England, with her sister, Mrs. Vail. Later she became an inmate of Governor Smeltz's family, residing in Castle Rushen, Castletown, Isle of Man. Here she met with many distinguished persons from England, among them Mr. Mason, secretary to Lord Aylmer, Governor-General of Canada. Mr. Mason was about to take his

wife with him to that country, and wished to find a lady to go with them, as a companion for her. He applied to the governor to recommend some one suitable. The governor did so, saying he did not know of any one more so than Miss Cannon. When this was proposed to her she said she could not think of such a thing, but upon being urged, she made it a matter of prayer. She was in the habit, when about to take any important step, of inquiring of the Lord, asking Him to direct her to a suitable passage in the Bible for an answer. On opening her book the twelfth chapter of Genesis presented itself in force. She read what the Lord said to Abraham, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred and from thy father's house, into a land that I will shew thee." This decided her and she left home and kindred in May, 1832.

After reaching Canada, she became associated with the Methodist Church, through which she became acquainted with her future husband, John Taylor, who was her class leader. His first proposal of marriage was rejected, but afterwards, through a dream in which she saw herself associated with him, she was convinced that he would be her husband. So when he renewed his proposal, he was accepted. Refined by nature and education, gentle and lady-like in manner, witty, intelligent, possessed of deep religious sentiments, and withal remarkable for the beauty of her person she was a fit companion for John Taylor, to whom she was married Jan. 28, 1833, in the city of Toronto. Here the Gospel found them in 1836. Here also her two eldest children were born, George J. and Mary Ann. She was baptized in company with her husband, May 9, 1836, by Parley P. Pratt.



She bore up bravely through all the trials and troubles she was called upon to endure. While traveling through Indiana they had to leave their carriage in the sloughs. Her husband put her and her little daughter on one horse and he and the little son rode the other to the nearest settlement. This was only a few days before their youngest son was born. Here the Lord made manifest His power in her behalf. After being in extreme peril at the birth of her two former children she was wonderfully blessed and was able to be out with her babe in two weeks and they continued their journey to Missouri, where she suffered much in common with the Saints, being often without food for herself and family. But the Lord sustained her, and when ordered to give up her home and leave it, she did so cheerfully. After reaching Illinois, they stopped for awhile in Quincy, and then went to Montrose, opposite Nauvoo, in Iowa. Her husband having previously been called on a mission to England, he obtained one room in a miserable log barrack for his family, and then started on his mission, leaving his wife sick in bed with fever. Here I will state what she says about it: "He dedicated his wife and family to the care of the Lord, and blessed them in His name. At the thought of the hardships they had endured, of the uncertainty of their continuing in the house they then occupied, and that only a solitary room, the prevalence of diseases, the poverty of the brethren, their insecurity from mobs, together with the uncertainty of what might take place during his absence, produced feelings of no easy character. These sollicita-

tions, paternal and conjugal, were enhanced also by the time and distance that was to separate us. The thought of going forth at the command of the God of Israel to revisit my native land, to unfold the principles of eternal truth and make known the things God had revealed for the salvation of the world overcame every other feeling."

Leonora had three small children to provide and care for, the eldest, George J., being only six years old, would take a bucket, and go sit by the well until some one would come by and fill it for him. Then he would take his sick mother a drink.

After being restored to health and strength she worked bravely on, caring for her family. On the father's return he found her sick near unto death. After her recovery they moved across the river to Nauvoo.

It was soon after this that the order of plural marriage was revealed to them. It was a great trial to her, but she knew it was true, and has often testified to me of its truthfulness. She also told me that Sister Emma Smith told her that she had received a testimony of the truthfulness of plural marriage.

In 1842 she gave birth to another daughter, who died in 1843. She also lost one of her fingers while her babe was sick. This was at the time that her husband was entering the order of plural marriage. I do not wonder at her being tried, yet I have heard her give some of the best counsel to those tried in that order. She possessed the rare faculty of adapting herself to all classes of people and hence made many friends. To me she was all that was beautiful, and I loved her as my mother.