

MS, vol 72

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1910.

OUR MOTHER IN HEAVEN.

"A SMALL child with questioning eyes of blue, holding a thought in lensh, leaned confidently on the bosom of her mother, and with a voice full of repressed feeling, asked:

"Why don't you tell me 'bout the Heavenly Mother? Don't she give us anything?"

"A thrill of strange rapture shot through the heart of the mother as she pressed her child to her breast and manfully prayed that she might be able to give her a true and worthy thought. Then from her book of memory, she read in subdued tones, as follows:

"I knew a little girl once, almost like you, who thought about her Heavenly Father, how good and great he was, but ever and ever alone through eternity, with no one to understand Him and none to love. How understandingly men, women and little children on the earth, and angels in heaven loved each other; birds and beasts had their kind, but God had no one to love Him! How solitary and gloomy for Him to sit ever alone in heaven! This overwhelming thought of the solitude of God oppressed her little heart; it would not leave her. Overcome with sadness, she cast herself on the moist grass and sobbed herself to sleep, while in her dream a white-robed angel came and whispered something in her ear, and she awoke and arose, and with a voice of gladness cried exultingly,

"O, Heavenly Mother, I have found you! Strange I did not know: that no one told me! Why, there must be a Heavenly Mother if there is a Heavenly Father!"

"Can anyone conceive of a Divine Father without including a Divine Mother in the conception? No more than we think of a child without involving the idea of a mother and father. People prate glibly of a 'Parent' in heaven—yet look with compassion on the child who has only a *parent* on earth. The love of God is often illustrated by showing what an earthly father will do for a child.

But, does a mother do less?"

"When we draw nearer the Divine Man, lo! a Divine Woman is smiling down upon us! Much that is plaintive in music, sad in poetry, and pathetic in art, is the expression of the soul's insatiable sigh for a Divine Mother. In the Father's many mansions we shall find Her and be satisfied."—*Golden Age*.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

The foregoing brief treatise gets right at the heart of the matter in a simple and direct way. It does seem strange, indeed, that sensible, reasoning, liberal and high-thinking people should have overlooked the Motherhood of God. It is stranger still that when the fact is brought to their attention they should fail to rejoice, and even will frown down the thought. As showing the orthodox Protestant view of this really sublime subject, we are pleased to append an extract from a pamphlet setting forth Elder B. H. Roberts' answer to the Ministerial Association's review of the First Presidency's "Address to the World."

"One other item in which we offend these reverend gentlemen is that we believe Jesus had a Father as well as a Mother. Now, gentlemen, honestly, is it any worse for Him to have had a Father than it is for Him to have had a mother? You concede that He had a mother; that His body grew as your's did, in the womb of His mother; that He came forth of the womb by birth-pains; that He suckled at the breast of woman; that through the months and years of infant weakness He was watched and guided by the hand of a loving mother. Tell me, is it true, that in your philosophy of things it is all right for Jesus to have a mother, but a terrible sin and blasphemy to think of him as having a Father? Is not fatherhood as sacred and holy as motherhood? Listen, people, there is something else. Having objected to our idea of Jesus having a Father, these peculiarly pious gentlemen turn now and object to our faith because we believe that we have for our spirits a heavenly mother as well as a heavenly father! They quote in part that splendid hymn of ours on heavenly motherhood, the great throbbing hunger of woman's soul, and which was given to this world through the inspired mind of Eliza R. Snow; the hymn known to us as, "O My Father."

"In the Scripture we read: 'We have had fathers of the flesh, and we did give them reverence, shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and life?' So that we know we have had a father to our spirits; but because we hold that the spirits of men have had also a mother in heaven, as well as a father, behold these reviewers complain against us. Now observe the peculiar position of these critics: It is all right for Jesus Christ to have a mother, but it is all wrong for Him to have had a father. On the other hand, it is all right for men's spirits to have a father in heaven, but our reviewers object to our doctrine of their having a mother there. I sometimes wonder what in the world is the matter with you, gentlemen."

The particular point to which Elder Roberts makes answer in the foregoing paragraph is brought out by the declaration of the Ministerial Association in regard to the "Mormon" idea of Deity, as follows: "But when the full doctrine of the Deity, as taught in Mormon congregations, is known, it will at once be seen that no Christian can accept it. In fact the Mormon Church teaches: