

Let man be placed upon a lofty eminence, surrounded with the original elements of uncreated worlds—let him contemplate the confused and chaotic mass of unorganized existence; let him hear the voice of truth and power as its first sentence rolls in majesty of wisdom from the lips of Deity; let him behold the first movement of chaos as it begins to come to order; let him contemplate its various workings till the heavens and earth, and man and beast, and plant and flower, startle into conscious being, in all the beauty of joyous existence; let him observe every minute particular of its progress through time, in all its various changes; let him contemplate the changing seasons as they roll in hours and days, and months and years; let his thoughts reach to the stately heavens and view them in all their motions and revolutions—the sun in its daily course, the planets in their annual revolutions, the blazing comet as it moves afar in the wilds of ether, and returns from its journey of a hundred or a thousand years; let him return to earth and view the vegetable kingdom as it blooms and ripens, and falls again to decay in the revolving seasons—the time worn oak of a thousand years as it braves the tempest, or the modest flower whose life is but a day; let him view the animal creation in all its variety as it appears and passes in turn from the stage of action; let him contemplate man from his infant formation through all the changes of his various life till he returns to dust; let him view the laborious revolutions of the growing earth and its various inhabitants through all their temporal career, till wearied nature sinks to rest, and worn by slowly rolling years, the earth itself shall die; lastly, let him contemplate all nature regenerated, renewed, and starting into being, while death itself shall be conquered, and immortality alone endure.

The vision ended: Man! what hast thou seen? Answer: Nothing out of the ordinary course; all I beheld was nature moving in perfect accordance with the law of its existence; not one single deviation or shadow of turning from the immutable laws of truth.

But hast thou seen no miracle? Yes; it was all miraculous; it was all achieved by the law of light, which was the immediate power of God—but it was all upon the most natural, easy, simple, and plain principles of nature in its varied order; and which to call the most miraculous I know not! Whether it was the creation of a world, the blossoming of a flower, the hatching of a butterfly, or the resurrection of the body, and the making of new heavens and new earth. All these were so many displays of the power of God.

All these were miraculous.

All these were natural.

All these were spiritual.

All these were adapted to the simplest capacity, aided by the spirit of God.

All these were too sublime for an archangel to comprehend by his own capacity without the spirit of revelation.

## THE PROPHET.



SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 4, 1845.

Elder P. P. Pratt.

Will address the Saints in the city of New York on the 12th of January next, his instructions are particularly for the Elders and officers of the church, and he desires that all the Elders and officers in the surrounding branches that can make it convenient would be present on that day, as the instructions to be given will be of great interest, and very important, that they should un-

### Grant's Rigdon.

Is the title of a small work which we noticed in our last. It gives a sketch of the life of Rigdon in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois and Pennsylvania, with a full account of his trial and excommunication from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The author (Brother Grant the Presiding Elder of the Philadelphia branch) has been prosecuted by S. Rigdon for publishing the above work, which is sufficient, and ought to satisfy any candid mind, in regard to the instability of the course of this modern pretender, for he firmly declared the first time he spoke in this city, that he should not avail himself of the law against any man, and on the evening before he left the city, the last time he declared in my presence, that it made no difference to him what any person might say about him, he never should seek redress by law. He stated the same I am told in New Jersey and Philadelphia, but, it is very evident the truth begins to rub him close and makes him feel very uneasy. No doubt the old man will yet become a victim of his own folly. We would say to our readers that the above work can be had at 15 cents per copy, and the postage on it for one hundred miles and not over two, will only be one cent and a half per copy, and over two hundred miles two cents and a half.

We have a few copies of the "Voice of Warning" on hand which can be had by applying to this office.

From the Neighbor.

### Notice!!

After mature and candid deliberation, I am fully and satisfactorily convinced that Mr. Sidney Rigdon's claims to the presidency of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, are not founded in truth. I have been deceived by his specious pretences, and now feel to warn every one over whom I may have any influence to beware of him, and his pretended visions and revelations. The Twelve are the proper persons to lead the church.

WILLIAM MARKS.

Nauvoo, Dec. 9, 1844.

### Proclamation.

To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.—Greeting:

I, Parley P. Pratt, being duly appointed by the first presidency of the whole Church, to the special presidency of the Churches in the Eastern States; and being about to enter upon my arduous and highly responsible duties in the same, I deem it expedient to send forth this message, or proclamation, explanatory of the duties of my calling; of the relation which I sustain to the Church and of the several duties of the officers and members, now under my special charge.

First of all, I congratulate the Church, and offer a tribute of grateful acknowledgments to Almighty, for the peace, union, and prosperity which now pervades every part of our wide-spread and still-increasing society.

The Church of the Saints during the past year, has been called upon to sustain a shock almost without a parallel in the history of man. Murder and martyrdom has been in our midst, depriving us of the society and labors of two of the greatest and best men who ever graced our planet, or the annals of history in any age. The whole Church has been clothed in mourning and sack cloth, as it were; from the remote glens of the Rocky Mountains, to the Atlantic cities; yea more! Europe has felt the shock, and tens of thousands of the sons and daughters of monarchs have literally worn the garb of mourning, and shed the tear of grief over the horrid deeds committed in the bosom of a once free and happy country; dark deeds of blood at which even the red man of the forest has shuddered with horror.

Nor is this cruel martyrdom and grievous loss the only trial the Church has had to sustain; of late. The mountain waves of persecution have rolled over her with almost unabated fury. Dark clouds of war have gathered thick around her defenceless head, and threatened extermination; and its thunders have sounded dismal in the distance. But still she survives the tempest, and calmly smiles majestic amid the warring elements, as with increasing confidence and strength she glides o'er the boisterous sea of life.

the voice of the people is rather a sanction, strength and support to that which God chooses.

But they do not confer the authority in the first place, nor can they take it away; for instance, the people did not elect the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ; nor could they, by popular vote, deprive them of their apostleship.

As the government of the kingdom anciently existed; so it is now restored.

The people did not choose that great modern apostle and prophet, Joseph Smith, but God chose him in the usual way that he has chosen others before him, viz. by open vision, and by his own voice from the heavens. He it was that called him, and conferred on him the apostleship and priesthood for the restoration of all things spoken of by the prophets; and for the ushering of the latter-day glory, or millennial dispensation.

Again, the people have not chosen the twelve apostles of this last dispensation; but God has chosen them, and conferred on them the apostleship; and this by revelation through his servant Joseph, even as Moses called and made Aaron a priest; or as Jesus called, and ordained the other Twelve.

For proof of this, we refer to the various publications and records of the church of Latter Day Saints; in which the visions, revelations, experience, priesthood and calling of their apostles and founders are clearly set forth; and also to the works which follow, and to the spirit which bears record.

Therefore, we possess no authority from the people; neither can the people deprive us of any.

We hold the keys of the ministry and ordinances of salvation in this last kingdom; and if the people choose to be benefited by them, it is their own blessing; if not, it is their own neglect. They cannot essentially add, or diminish anything to our authority, or to our eternal power and glory. Our God can work, and enable us to work; either with or without their means or their aid. And in either case the result of our labors will be the restoration of the kingdom and government of God.

Hear it then ye people; this is the destiny of the small, the despised Church and kingdom of God, as established by him through the instrumentality of our murdered—martyred prophet.—For this he lived and labored; and for this he died.

This great and good man was led, before his death, to call the Twelve together from time to time, and to instruct them in all things pertaining to the kingdom, ordinances, and government of God. He often observed that he was laying the foundation, but it would remain for the Twelve to complete the building. Said he, "I know not why; but for some reason I am constrained to hasten my preparations; and to confer upon the Twelve all the ordinances, keys, covenants, endowments and sealing ordinances of the priesthood; and so set before them a pattern in all things pertaining to the sanctuary and the endowment therein."

Having done this he rejoiced exceedingly, for said he, the Lord is about to lay the burden upon your shoulders and let me rest awhile; and if they kill me, continued he, the kingdom of God will roll on, as I have now finished the work which was laid upon me, by committing to you all things for the building up of the kingdom according to the heavenly vision, and the pattern shown me from heaven. With many conversations like this, he comforted the minds of the Twelve, and prepared them for what was soon to follow.

He proceeded to confer on Elder Young, the President of the Twelve, the keys of the sealing power as conferred in the last days by the spirit and power of Elijah, in order to seal the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, and the whole earth should be smitten with a curse.

This last key of the priesthood is the most sacred of all, and pertains exclusively to the first presidency of the church, without whose sanction and approval, or authority, no sealing, blessing shall be administered pertaining to things of the resurrection and the life to come.

After giving them a very short charge to do all things according to the pattern, he quickly surrendered his hoary and his life into the hands of his blood-thirsty enemies, and all this to save the people for whom he had so long labored from threatened vengeance.

Thus nobly fell our worthy founder and leader in the very bloom of life; and thus the responsibility of bearing off the kingdom triumphantly now rests upon the Twelve.

He has organized the kingdom of God.—Wo-

No officer in one district will hold jurisdiction in another, or be privileged to minister beyond the bounds of the district where he is appointed; where he belongs.

Young men, who wish to attend the school of their labor beyond their own district, can only do so by going to head quarters, being ordained into a quorum of the presidency, and after due qualification, be sent to some other district, under the immediate superintendance of a president of their own quorum, and eventually they will be confined to a certain district, or removed to another by the proper authority.

These regulations will save the church from imposition, fraud and false doctrine; endless calls for money to support the moving too, and fro of elders, and from ten thousand snarls, troubles, difficulties, jarings and confusions, to which they are now exposed. "Great apostles of the Gentiles" (falsely so called), "Great lions of Mormonism," "Big Guns," etc., etc., will no longer run from church to church, from city to city, from state to state, contrary to the counsel of the Twelve; teaching false doctrine, professing powers which they do not hold, sending people to eternal life, which they themselves do not possess, and swindling the saints out of money, which ought to be given to the modest, unassuming and faithful laborers, who are laboring among them, and who never say much about their necessities, except to God.

We shall proceed to this regulation as fast as possible in the eastern states, and in the mean time—before these regulations are fully established, this part of the vineyard will be under the general superintendance of Elders Brown and Benson, who have been sent from the west to aid in the general presidency and care of the churches, together with such other faithful men as are found among you, who will be named in due time.

No elder or other officer, except the Twelve; and those whom they may appoint for the purpose, has a right to travel from state to state, or from city to city, to call conferences, to regulate branches, to ordain officers, to collect tithings, to raise contributions, or to visit and settle branches, and the presiding officer of each branch, and all other members, are hereby instructed and forewarned not to receive such, but rather to support those who are known and faithful among themselves, and such others as are especially appointed and sent unto them.

The fact is, when the keys of the kingdom are fully established, the Twelve are the only general officers of the church, whose jurisdiction is universal.

The seventies are so, in one sense of the word; that is they are called, like the Twelve to be special ministers, in all the world; but an individual of the seventies, or a number of individuals of them, under their respective presidents will be limited even to their proper district, as may be appointed from time to time.

A well might we say that the Governor of New York has authority to preside over, and govern the affairs of Missouri, to say that an elder or high priest from Boston or Philadelphia has authority in New York, or some other place, out of his social jurisdiction, unless sent by the Twelve for that very purpose.

Therefore let no conferences hereafter be appointed in these eastern states, except under the direction of some of the Twelve; or such general presiding officers as are or may be hereafter appointed by them. And should we select any portion of the country, application may be made to us by a presiding elder, others, and appointments made as far as necessary, and duly attended to by us.

Let no ordinations be administered, except at the conferences; and then let each candidate come well recommended by the branch where he resides.

Let none be sent on foreign missions except by the Twelve, nor on any mission out of their immediate locality, except by the general presiding officers at the conferences. Each conference, of course, holding the authority to regulate its own internal affairs under the direction of the Twelve, or others who preside.

Every member of the Church of Saints, whether male or female, will stand in need of an endowment in the Temple, and sanctuary of our God, as the only means by which they can be sanctified, purified and prepared for that high and holy order of God; even the fullness of the celestial glory. It is only when God has a sanctuary and tabernacle on the earth; that the church can attain to the fullness of the priesthood; and of the celestial laws, and consequent glory.

For this cause God has commanded the saints of this age to build a temple wherein to receive the ordinances and healing blessings pertaining

Council

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