

TIMES AND SEASONS.

"TRUTH WILL PREVAIL."

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CITY OF NAUVOO, ILL. JULY 15th, 1841.

[Whole No. 30.]

TIMES AND SEASONS.

CITY OF NAUVOO,

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1841.

PSALM—124TH.

"If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say;

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us;

Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:

Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul.

Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.

Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Since the rise of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, there has been a continual and increasing opposition manifested towards it from all classes of society, high and low, rich and poor. False reports have been circulated with an industry which would have done honor to a better cause, and the cry of "delusion," "false prophets," "imposters," have been borne on every breeze. And, when we take into consideration the immense force which has, from time to time, been brought to bear against the Saints, and see them stand fast and immovable, we are led to exclaim "it is the Lords doings and it is marvellous in our eyes."

If it had not been that the Lord was on our side, we certainly, before this, would have been *mince meat*, for the philistines who have dared, from time to time, proudly to stalk abroad, and threaten our overthrow.

It would be impossible for us to trace the Church through all its movements, and record the sufferings and persecutions to which the Saints have been subject: Suffice it to say, that not only has all manner of evil been said against us, falsely, but all manner of evil has been done to us, without any just cause or pretext whatever. We would ask, what have our enemies gained by their conduct? What great object has been accomplished by their vexatious law suits, tarring and feathering, whipping and stoning, mobbing and murdering the Saints of God? Have they extinguished the hopes of the Saints, or undermined the religion of heaven? Such arguments, we believe, are powerful to the fearful and unbelieving, but they are es-

teemed as chaff by the Saints who know in whom they have believed, and who prefer the cause of truth to this world and all its pleasures—rejoice in tribulation, and count not their lives dear, so they may finish their course with joy. "The enemies have indeed shot at us, but our bow hath abode in its strength, and our arms have been made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob," and, instead of our adversaries prevailing over us, they have been instrumental in forwarding the great work of the last days. When the enemies of righteousness persecuted the saints at Jerusalem, so that they had to flee out of the city; the messengers of salvation spread into different places, the gospel was no longer confined Jerusalem and Judea, but other people and other nations heard the tidings and left off their heathenish worship and became obedient to the gospel of Christ. "The word was every where preached." If we had been suffered to have remained in quiet in Missouri, the sound of the gospel would not have spread as it has done nor would such great interest have been excited; but the Saints being expelled from that inhospitable State, thousands have listened to their tale of woe, and the gospel of Christ has been prominently held forth wherever the Saints have been scattered, and thousands in this and other states have listened to those things which, heretofore, had not been told them.

In all these things we mark the hand and dealings of our Heavenly Father, who orders all things by his unerring council, and can make the wrath of man to praise him, while the remainder he can restrain.

In all the circumstances in which the Saints have had to pass through, there has been a consciousness of the hand of God in all their movements,—a belief "that he would temper the blast to the shorn lamb," and that all things should work together for the good of the Saints. Hence, they have enjoyed joy in the midst of sorrow, order in the midst of confusion, light in the midst of darkness, peace in the midst of war, and life in the midst of death.

One great and blessed consolation is, that the Lord is on our side. Yes: "The Lord of Hosts is with us the God of Jacob is our refuge." This affords comfort in the midst of the most heart rending and trying circumstances which can possibly fall to the lot of Saints, and having this consolation, they rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, and can say—

"Yea, let men rage since thou wilt spread
Thy shadowing wings around my head."

Under the protection of Jehovah, have the first elders gone forth "weeping, bearing precious seed," and after struggling, with persecution in its various forms, they have returned with joy, bearing their sheaves with them;" and now, tens of thousands on this, and thousands upon other lands, join in an ascription of praise to the God of all grace, for remembering his covenant and restoring the fullness of the everlasting gospel.

"The Lord is on our side." Think of this ye ministers of the sanctuary, while engaged in proclaiming the gospel far from the home of your childhood and the habitation of the Saints, and while sorrow may overflow your soul, and you feel disheartened on account of the hardness of the people, and their clamour for your blood, and your sorrow will depart, you will be inspired with new energy, and shall exceedingly rejoice, and be ready to exclaim "although an host should encamp against me yet I will not be afraid."

Think of this, you sufferers in the cause of bleeding Zion, who have been driven from your homes and pleasant places of abode, and who have had to bear the fury and indignation of the enemy, and let joy spring up in your bosoms, for the Lord will bless you, and abundantly reward you for all your toils and sufferings.

Think of this, all you that are engaged in the cause of truth, and are endeavoring to establish Zion, and prepare a sanctuary for the Most High; and let not your hands be slack, neither be afraid, for "the Most High hath spoken and shall he not perform? He hath commanded and shall he not bring it to pass?"

Think of this, ye widows and fatherless, who have had to mourn the premature loss of husbands and fathers who have fell martyrs to the cause of truth; although you are not permitted to dress their graves, or drop a tear upon the sod that covers their sleeping dust, they will one day burst the tomb and come forth in glory and splendor, and you shall hail them with unspeakable joy which shall be durable as eternity, and you will then, if not before, have to exclaim, the Lord has done all things well, blessed be the name of the Lord.

DIALOGUE ON MORMONISM. NO II.

BOOK OF MORMON.

Between Mr. Mathews, Mr. Roberts, and
Elder Pierce.

Mr. M. I am glad to see you and Mrs. R., I was ready to think that you were not coming this evening.

Mr. R. Indeed Mr. M. I must say, I felt no very great desire to come, but as I had given you reasons to expect my company, I thought you would think me too much prejudiced against your favorite doctrine of Mormonism, if I staid away. It was not so with Mrs. R. she no sooner heard of a Mormon preacher being at your house, than she made every preparation to come. You are aware that women are somewhat curious.

Mr. M. I am aware that is their prevailing characteristic; indeed I think we all ought to have curiosity enough to induce us to listen to truth. Elder P. had just commenced to give me an account of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, I suppose you are curious enough Mr. R. to listen to his statement.

Mr. R. This was the object of our visit. I shall be pleased to hear Elder P. proceed.

Elder P. The subject I was speaking upon was the much abused Book of Mormon, or as it is termed, by way of ridicule, the Mormon bible. Their being many foolish and extravagant stories afloat respecting it, I always deem it important to correct the public mind on this subject, before I proceed to any other item of doctrine in our religion. One impression that has gone abroad, is, that we put it in the stead of the Bible, the scriptures of the old and new testament. I presume you have heard it represented so.

Mr. R. Certainly I have, by several individuals, and I must say that I felt surprised when Mr. M. told me this morning that such was not the case.

Mr. M. This has been the received opinion of this neighborhood, and is yet by some, for when I told Deacon Jones last evening that it was an erroneous idea we had imbibed, he plainly told me he knew better, and would not listen to any argument on the subject.

Elder P. Well gentlemen, I will endeavor to inform you what the Book of Mormon purports to be and then you can judge for yourselves. The Book of Mormon is a record of the aborigines of this continent, (America,) which was engraven on plates of precious metal, and handed down from father to son, from generation to generation. It gives an account of the first settlement of this land by the seed of Israel in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, some time before the Babylonish captivity. While in Jerusalem