

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

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ACKNOWLEDGING THE HAND OF THE LORD.

IN the fifty-ninth section of the book of Doctrine and Covenants, these words are recorded: "And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments."

It often requires the exercise of considerable faith to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all things. It may be a comparatively easy matter to confess His goodness when He showers upon us the blessings of temporal prosperity and bodily comforts, (though we are apt to claim these as the results of our own wisdom and effort), but it is not so easy to admit that adversity, sickness, or trials of any kind are manifestations of God's love for us, and are brought upon us for our good. When passing through such experiences we are sometimes inclined to feel ungrateful and to complain of our lot, and to think the Lord does not deal so kindly with us as with others whom we think are more fortunate. But if we have learned this important lesson of confessing the hand of the Lord in all things we will discover that everything through which we are called upon to pass is for our welfare. Every trial will be looked upon as a blessing in disguise. To be able to thus view our experiences it is necessary to look into the future by the eye of faith. We must learn to trust the Lord, knowing that He doeth all things well, and feeling that the outcome of each trial will be a blessing. By having full confidence in the Lord and by enduring all our sufferings with patience we can derive valuable lessons from every experience of life.

It is a mistake to think that others enjoy more prosperity and endure less trials than ourselves. We are not always capable of judging this matter aright. What we may think to be our neighbor's good fortune may in reality be a trial to him; or while we are suffering reverses our neighbor may be enjoying prosperity only to be overtaken with misfortunes later on while we are rejoicing in prosperity. In judging others' happiness in comparison with our own we only consider present appearances, without thinking what changed conditions the future may bring about, or even what the past has been.

Whatever our condition may be we have occasion to feel thankful that it is no worse, for if we will look about us we can no doubt find others who are not so favored as we are. If we are given to complaining of our lot it might be profitable to reflect upon and appropriate to ourselves the

lesson of the old story about the man who thought himself very unfortunate because he was poor and had no boots to wear. While in this condition of mind he one day met a man who had no feet. He at once was convinced that he had much less of a misfortune to bear than this poor fellow, and from that time ceased to complain. E. F. P.

AN AGREEABLE CHANGE.

THE following brief extract from a letter written by Elders Charles L. Haight and George T. Wride who are laboring as missionaries in Birmingham, Alabama, U. S. A., shows the change of sentiment towards the Latter-day Saints in that part of the country:

"Three years ago, Elders F. M. Belnap and Alexander Campbell came here to canvass the city. They stayed at the hotel, but paid for it, now we stay at the hotels gratis. They were put in prison with negroes and had to pay about twenty-five dollars to get out, for carrying a Gospel tract to a citizen's door; we are invited into the parlors to explain our teachings; to sing, preach and pray, and then they give us needed money before leaving. God is softening the hearts of the people. * * *

"We made no preparations for money, yet we have not wanted for anything; laundry, ties, collars, hats, have all been provided as we needed them. It gives us pleasure to go up to the hotel proprietors and tell them that we are servants of the Lord, traveling without money. We are seldom turned away. All the time our brethren were here they stayed at a \$3 hotel free; and since we have been here we have stayed sixteen days in twenty-three at hotels or public boarding houses. They usually say, 'Come again, when you need a place to stay;' or, as Mr. Gelders, the restaurant man said, 'We don't take thanks. Just come any time you get hungry.' At the Florence hotel we have a room which is ours as long as we want it. We could relate many instances, but, to say much in little, we are cared for in Birmingham, a strictly modern city of 60,000 people. An engagement for dinner is now awaiting us and we must hasten to meet it."

STREET PREACHING IN BROOKLYN.

ELDER D. J. WATTS, who is laboring as a missionary in Brooklyn, New York, writes the following about the introduction of out-door meetings in the Eastern States Mission:

"The work here is assuming larger proportions. About three weeks ago Elder Kesler, president of the mission here, introduced the English method of reaching the public, that is, by street-preaching. Our first meeting was held on the aristocratic Brooklyn Heights, within speaking distance of Plymouth Church, where once was heard the remarkable oratory of Henry Ward Beecher, and now-a-days the equally remarkable theology of Reverend Lyman Abbott. Our meeting was not a complete success, or a complete meeting. Elder Kesler had just made a few introductory remarks, and the growing crowd were just becoming interested, when a