

It is when God is with us, and what a miserable failure we make of it when left to ourselves. I feel more like absolutely trusting God in the prosecution of his work than ever before.

In the far-off, favored spot of Zion, I fancy the busy scenes of the conference, and the many dear brethren who have endeared themselves to me by the pleasant associations of the past, the blessed privileges of quorum meetings, the grand schooling, all of which my heart yearns to enjoy, but cheerfully make the sacrifice.

I came here one week today unexpectedly, announced at the Sunday school for preaching in the evening, and had quite a nice crowd. Have been preaching each night since. The Saints have captured everything for miles around here. We can get places to preach in and congregations to preach to, when others cannot. A more liberal and benevolent class of people will be hard to find than in western Pennsylvania. All vie with each other in making things pleasant for a Latter Day Saint elder. When I read of my brethren in the different parts of the world suffering for the want of a friend, how I wish I could send them some from these parts to administer to the aching wants, and drop a sympathizing word, of which I know the golden value, by the absence of them in other fields.

Yours in the eternal conflict,

F. J. EBELING.

FULTON, Iowa, April 18.

*Editors Herald:*—Some thoughts have come to me about fasting. The Saints were to fast before conference so that the Lord might see the humility of his Saints. Was that fasting, or is any or all fasting acceptable before God? Are we so living that we by fasting and prayer can receive the blessings we seek or ask for? Our Master at one time told his disciples of a certain evil spirit, This kind goeth not out but by fasting and prayer. Daniel, by fasting and prayer and supplication, sought of the Lord concerning the captivity of his people. The Lord saw the contriteness of his heart and granted his request. He had lived as was pleasing unto his heavenly Father.

The children of Israel did not please God. (Isaiah first chapter.) The Lord there tells his children what to do in order for him to love, hear, and honor them. He says: Relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Are we so living as a people? When calls come to us pleading for help, do we help those who are in need? In Isaiah 58 we read: "Wherefore have we fasted?" The Lord did not hear them, even if they had afflicted their souls, because they did not loose the bands of wickedness, did not undo the heavy burdens, nor let the oppressed go free.

Did not the Pharisees fast? Yes, twice a week. Did God hear them? Did they fast unto the Lord God? No. Christ told us how to fast: Not to be as the scribes and Pharisees, but wash the face, anoint the head, and be pure of, or in, heart; do unto others as we wish others to do unto us; live by every word

that proceedeth from the mouth of God; not thinking and doing those things that are not pleasing to God, and then fast to get in divine favor with God again. We can deceive men here, but will we be able to deceive God? No!

We should deal our bread to the hungry; the poor we should bring into our house. The naked we should clothe. Then shall we call and the Lord will answer. We shall cry, and the Lord will say, Here am I. Then the Lord will guide us continually; satisfy us so we will be like a watered garden, like springs of water that fail not.

If we do as the Lord directs, then his promises are yea and amen to us, but if we fail to serve him, take advantage of old or young, saint or sinner, we may fast and the Lord will not hearken to our prayers, but instead our fasting will be stench in the nostrils of our God.

While I do not fast as often as some others, perhaps, yet I do not think it wisdom to fast one day and the next day gorge these temples of ours, for we are not our own, but we are Christ's, and Paul says we must not defile the temples of God.

May God grant that we so walk before our Father that when we come before him with fasting and prayer, we may enjoy the Spirit of our God and that he will then grant our requests. There should be wisdom connected with fasting so that God may be honored.

Your brother,

JOHN HEIDE.

JOY, Ill., April 15.

*Dear Saints:*—It is through the goodness of Almighty God that I am permitted to write my experience in the last few months.

On December 4, my wife, little babe, and I went to Millersburg on business, where, at the home of my wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lunn, I was taken severely sick with what we thought heart trouble. That night we sent to Joy for Bro. J. W. Terry and E. T. Bryant, and they came and administered to me and I seemed to get better right away, although I was bedfast. I seemed to improve for a few days, and was then worse again. My wife, not being a member of the church, sent for the doctor of that place. He attended me for several days, but the more medicine he gave me the worse I got, until finally they quit giving me medicine at all. Then came the struggle between life and death. I lay there almost as if dead for two days, when the Lord opened the way for me to be healed. He poured out his Spirit upon me and I felt as though I could get right out of bed and show the people there that God has power to heal whom he may so will. There were some present who did not belong to the church, so they wanted to see if the burns and blisters were gone from my side where hot applications had been placed to relieve the pain; and when they looked, sure enough my flesh was as smooth and natural as could be. Surely God who had power to take away that severe pain also had power to take away those small scars from the outside of my body.

That was on Friday, and that night the

Lord opened the way to heaven and showed me the different rewards, or the many mansions in his house, and I also saw many wonderful things that God, the giver of all that is good, has in store for all those who love and serve him. He also brought before my eyes that awful place called hell, and showed me what misery and torment were in store for those who love evil rather than good. And a voice said unto me, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way; that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

I often think, Do we as Saints live as near to God as we know we ought? Do we think of the awful place of torment that we are sure to go to if we know the will of God and do it not? Dear Saints, this reward of eternal life promised to the faithful, is worth all of our efforts in this short life on this earth of sickness and death.

Just one week from that time I was able to ride home, a distance of seven miles. On the next Friday night I was taken ill again for some cause, I know not what. Two doctors attended me, but to no avail. I was out of my right mind and very sick. On Wednesday night they thought I was dying, but I rallied again. My people expected me to die at any moment. The next night I was so much worse they had the doctor come, but he could do no good, my pulse was almost gone, when I motioned for my Bible, as I was too weak to speak. When they understood me they gave it to me, and by the direction of the Holy Spirit, I turned to James 5: 14, 15. So they sent for Bro. J. W. Terry, who came and administered to me, and I went to sleep in a very short time, and when I awoke in the morning I felt much refreshed, and from that time on I have been improving, and am now able to get out of doors and around again. I am determined by the help of God to live nearer to him in the future than I have in the past, and to do all in my power to help spread this grand and glorious gospel of latter days. Hoping and praying for the welfare of Zion, and asking for an interest in the prayers of all God's people everywhere, I am,

Your brother in Christ,

ORAL E. SADE.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., April 23.

*Editors Herald:*—As this city is near the field of labor to which I have been appointed, and as Bro. John McKinzie lives here, I concluded to stop and see him and visit the state capitol. Bro. McKinzie is now eighty-two years of age. He was baptized in 1851, and has been living in this city nearly fifty years; and the best part of it is that he, though isolated, is strong in the faith and is well respected by the people.

This morning I found and talked with two Brighamites. One of them expressed herself as being well pleased with my visit and said she expected to unite with the Reorganization if she found the truth with us. It was an eye-opener to her when I told her of