

new truth, that no such trifles would deter them from assembling where the Spirit of the Lord edified and taught.

All except three of that little branch of the Church of Christ were as babes in the work—had not heard of it until it came to them—and although they believed and rejoiced in what they believed, they could not yet claim the knowledge that Jesus promised, namely, “If any man shall do his will he shall know of the doctrine.” Mr. Burton had been convinced of the truth from the words of God found in his own Bible. He would not at first accept the teachings from Latter Day revelations. He rather stumbled in his mind concerning living prophets. He said he would not deny any of those things he did not know about. If they were true they would be unfolded to them in their time.

Now I will copy from his own writings as found in his diary. He first spoke of the day of his baptism, and by whom, and said:

After this I sought earnestly for a testimony, but received none until near three weeks had passed. I had attended a temperance meeting in the evening, and coming home late, found all the family in bed, asleep. I thought as all was quiet, I would once more supplicate our Father for a testimony in reference to the latter day work, that in its strangeness we had obeyed, because we loved it, but now wanted the promised evidence of its divinity. I bowed in prayer, but all I could utter was “Lord have mercy upon me, and show me the truth,” or words to that effect. I went to bed and was soon asleep. I dreamed my brother John and I were on the road to Hollister and as night drew on we had stopped for the night at an adobe house, were in bed in a room that had two doors, one by the head and one by the foot of the bed; while lying there the room got very dark, and the darkness increased until it caused an intense feeling of horror, so that I thought I must surely die. Just then a man who was standing at the head of the bed, but unobserved by us, said: “This always precedes a vision.” Then the darkness slowly passed away, and the room became lighter and lighter until it was filled with a beautiful, mellow light—very clear. Then a woman came into the room through the door at the head of the bed, carrying in her hand a lighted candle in a candlestick. She passed through the room, then came back and went out through the door by which she entered. I spoke to my brother, being very indignant that a woman should come into our room, but looking up towards the ceiling, I saw a hand holding a spear-head, with a few inches of the shaft attached. They appeared very

beautiful, with a halo of brightness surrounding them, greater than the light of the room, which I thought was as light as could be. While looking with much pleasure at this, the same woman entered the room again, with the same lighted candle and candlestick. Again I felt indignant, but as she passed by the bed, I sat up, and after she had gone through the room I found myself holding my hands together, and upon opening them—as one would open a book—found I was holding the spear-head. It dropped into seven pieces lengthwise, the first piece off one side, the second piece was the full length from the tip of the spear to the end of the staff: the other side fell into five pieces. As I sat examining these, the man who spoke before said: "These are the seven prophets of the last days, two have been, i. e., one was and one is." I then thought this: "Joseph was, and Joseph is. It is forty years since Joseph came; if the other five each have forty years it will be two hundred years yet till Christ comes, and that is too far off." The man answered my thoughts by saying: "Why do you murmur and wonder in your thoughts? Behold, the other five come quickly."

I awoke; the day was just dawning. I was happy and satisfied that God had sent to the world a great light. That Joseph was his servant and that Joseph is our prophet. May God ever keep us in the light till the bright millennial dawn; that we may ever be with our Lord.

The writer does not find the interpretation of the dream in his diary, but remembers well that when telling this dream or vision, he would give the interpretation that came to him at the time, like this. The room represented the world; he and his brother the religious and irreligious inhabitants. The world was in darkness when Christ came and lighted it by his presence. The woman with the lighted candle in her hand was the church in those days, and it was the religious instead of the irreligious man that had indignation because of her. Her going out was the first apostasy after Christ's time. Her coming back with the same light was the restoration of organization of the church in 1830. The second going out and speedy return was the latter day apostasy after the death of Joseph the Martyr, and the reorganization under the second Joseph, in the which was shown him the seven prophets of the last days.<sup>1</sup> He continues:

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<sup>1</sup>By the division of the spearhead it would seem to indicate that the five that were to come would occupy the same length of time as that of the first two, but it would not follow that they would succeed each other in the church. We read that there are to be two prophets at Jerusalem just prior to the end, who shall be slain. We read also that a prophet shall lead the lost tribes down from the north country, when they come to Zion.—E. B. B.

During the day, doubts came into my mind respecting the above being a testimony from God, and after worrying myself about it until towards evening, I went apart, to the foot of an old oak tree, where I used to go for secret prayer. I there made known to the Lord my feelings, and in my agony or great desire to know the truth of the matter, I said something as follows: "Lord, if thou wilt make known unto me whether the vision or dream I had was of thee, then whatsoever thou wilt command, I will do, thou helping me. But if I receive not, and this people, or doctrine, is wrong and I continue in it, at the judgment thou mayest not condemn me, for I have asked and you have not told me; I have sought, and you have not made known."

I arose and went to the house. The shades of evening were gathering around us. I took the lamp off the kitchen table, and went into an adjoining room and sat it on the table, and for some cause looked directly over my head towards the ceiling, when there was the hand and the spearhead clear and distinct. No doubts now. I thought I should sink through the floor. Oh, how unworthy I felt then! Could I doubt more? No. Emma also had this confirmed to her.

It was the last day of December (I think) when the foregoing took place. When Mr. Burton told his wife his dream in the morning, he requested her to ask the Lord to confirm it to her, if it was from him. Her request was, if what had been shown to her husband was a vision or inspired dream given for their instruction, that he would grant to her her hearing for one day, and that upon the coming New Year's Day, when the members of the branch would be together, so that it would be a confirmation to the people, as well as to themselves.

All the members of the Jefferson Branch had previously been invited to spend the New Year's Day at Brother Carmichael's (he being president of the branch), and eat a turkey dinner. Mr. Burton, with his wife and children in the wagon, called and took Mrs. Page along with them—she was then Sister Page. She had not been with them but a few minutes till she said: "Why, Sister Burton, you have got your hearing?" Mrs. Burton had been administered to several times, that she might have her hearing restored. She smiled and asked the sister if she thought she heard better—she knew herself that she had heard since her first waking in the morning. The reply was: "I don't think anything about it; I know it,"