

THE SAINTS' HERALD

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."—John 8: 31, 32.

"There shall not any man among you have save it be one wife: and concubines he shall have none."—Book of Mormon, Jacob 2: 6.

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Editorial

THE HERALD OFFICE BURNED.

It is no very good news that we have to convey to our readers through our second number for the new year.

The HERALD printing and bindery plant was entirely destroyed by fire, Saturday morning, January 5.

The fire started in the pressroom in the basement but its exact origin is not known and may never be known. It is suspected that a gasoline explosion may have been the cause or possibly it was started by the furnace. No one was in the room at the time, although two or three employees had left the room shortly before and they were not aware of any signs of fire and no lights were left burning.

Fire was first discovered by the girls working in the mailing-room just above the pressroom and Bro. John Garver gave the alarm at about twenty minutes of eight o'clock. In about sixty minutes from that time the building was burned, the walls had fallen, and the HERALD Office was in ruins.

The fire company, the office force, and the citizens did all that could be done to check the fire, but in vain. Efforts were at first directed toward extinguishing the fire and when it was discovered that it was impossible to accomplish that it was too late to prosecute any successful work of salvage. Within fifteen minutes from the time the fire was discovered the most of the rooms were filled with such dense

smoke that no one could enter and live.

The most of the bound books in stock in the manager's room, together with his accounts, cash on hand, and mailing lists, were saved, but nothing of value was saved from the pressroom, composing-room, bindery, or editorial rooms. Presses, paper, type, machines, books—everything went up in smoke.

The total loss is estimated at forty thousand dollars, ten thousand of which is covered by insurance. This was about as heavy insurance as could be obtained, as the office was considered a heavy risk.

The most lamentable feature is not the financial loss.

The church library, containing many rare and valuable books, was destroyed. Many of these can never be replaced. Bro. Heman Hale Smith, Church Librarian, succeeded in rescuing a few volumes, numbering with those loaned out about fifty volumes.

Nothing was saved from the office of Bro. Heman C. Smith, Church Historian. The work of years on the part of the Church Historians is lost. Many old historical documents were destroyed, which of course can not be reproduced.

Nothing was saved from the Church Secretary's office, and very valuable church documents and papers were destroyed there.

Nothing was saved from the editorial rooms. All manuscripts there awaiting publication were destroyed.

Bro. D. J. Krahl succeeded in saving most of the contents of the Bishop's room. The Bishop's books were in the fire-proof vault.

The books containing the records of church membership, in the care of Bro. C. I. Carpenter, Church Recorder, were in the fire-proof vault, and if it really proves fire-

proof they are safe. It has not yet been opened. Records of the Lamoni Stake and branch are lost.

It is safe to say that when the walls of the old historic building fell with a crash and a roar a sickening sensation visited every heart in the great throng of spectators. All stood hushed and awed and many were observed to weep. To many the HERALD Office had been a landmark all their lives long. Many of the spectators had worked in the office, some of them for nineteen consecutive years. More than one couple had formed the acquaintance there which resulted in marriage. It was like witnessing the death agony of an old friend.

Events move rapidly at such times. The destruction was about complete at nine o'clock; by ten o'clock headquarters were established down-town in the France Block, Bro. F. B. Blair, Bro. John Garver, Sr. Berta Johnson, Bro. W. R. Dexter from the Manager's room, assisted by a mixed force of compositors, binders, proof-readers, and pressmen, were arranging the rescued stock of books upon shelves, a few customers were being waited on, and the Editors were going through the morning mail in search of "copy"; and at one o'clock the compositors began in the "Chronicle" Office upon this issue of the HERALD—a paper without a home but with great expectations.

At eleven o'clock a citizens' meeting was held in the Farmer's State Bank to devise ways of helping the church to rebuild the establishment. A committee, consisting of W. A. Hopkins, Daniel Anderson, J. W. Smith, D. F. Nicholson, B. D. Fleet, F. W. Newcomb, R. J. Lambert, W. A. Grenawalt, Ferd Rauch, and M. P. Tilton, was appointed to solicit subscriptions. As a result of this meeting a mass-meeting of citizens was held in the basement of the Brick Church, Sunday morning, January 6, at eleven o'clock.

At this meeting speeches were made by D. F. Lambert, Heman C. Smith, Fred B. Blair, J. W. Smith, John Smith, and W. A.

Hopkins. Tellers were then appointed, and under the direction of W. A. Hopkins, began the work of taking subscriptions.

The subscriptions ranged in amount all the way from fifty cents to one thousand dollars. They came from middle-aged people, young people, little children, and very aged people. Rich men and poor widows contributed. The total amount subscribed at the meeting was thirteen thousand forty-five dollars and fifty cents.

The committee was given power to appoint other solicitors for the purpose of canvassing the town and country. The esteem in which the Saints are held in the community was evidenced by the very generous way in which nonmembers donated.

These subscriptions are made payable on condition that the HERALD Office be rebuilt at Lamoni; and they are payable in cash or in bankable notes to be paid in three periodical payments, three, six, and nine months from the date of acceptance by the church.

The citizens' soliciting committee met at the home of the chairman, W. A. Hopkins, Sunday afternoon at five o'clock, and selected fifty-two additional solicitors to canvass Lamoni and adjacent territory, Evergreen, Oland, Lone Rock, Eagleville, Pawnee, Greenville, Davis City, Leon, Grand River, Kellerton, Mt. Ayr, Andover, Tuskeega, Lee, and Pleasanton. The committee will endeavor to double the amount subscribed at the mass-meeting. They also ordered a special published giving a report of the speeches made at the mass-meeting and a list of subscriptions to date.

The HERALD Office will be rebuilt and it will be a better building than the one which was burned. In time it will be better equipped than the old one was.

The HERALD will continue to be published we presume without serious delay. This issue is smaller than usual, but just as full of determination. Some plans which were about to be put into execution for the immediate improvement of the paper have been temporarily disarranged; but in time we will get back to our old standard and

we fully expect to rise above that standard.

In the meantime, patrons of the office must be patient. An immense amount of work was done at the old plant. Many books, tracts, and pamphlets were printed, besides the regular publications, the SAINTS' HERALD, Autumn Leaves, Zion's Hope, the Exponent, and the Gospel Quarterly. This output of course can not be kept up with any equipment now at the disposal of the Board of Publication without some serious delays.

ELBERT A. SMITH.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

Board of Publication met at the home of F. B. Blair at 9 a. m. Members present: E. L. Kelley, T. A. Hougas, Oscar Anderson, H. R. Mills, and F. B. Blair. Also F. M. Smith of the Presidency, H. C. Smith of the Twelve, and E. A. Blakeslee of the Bishopric.

On motion F. B. Blair was chosen secretary of the meeting.

An informal expression of those present was had touching the issuing of the regular publications.

Resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that the Board of Publication take such steps as they deem necessary to continue the issuing of the regular church periodicals without interruption. Carried.

Resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that the Board of Publication secure at once plans, specifications, and estimate for the erection of a proper fire-proof publishing house and building.

FRED B. BLAIR, Secretary.

LAMONI, Iowa, January 7, 1907.

ADDITIONAL FIRE NOTES.

For many years nearly every subscription paper that has been circulated through the town or country has visited the HERALD Office, and few, even of the little children who came selling candy to get a Christmas Offering, have gone away empty handed. Why should not the community respond when the office is in need?

Saturday certainly saw a saddened people in Lamoni, and the office force had as much cause as any to feel the blow, because it might ultimately

mean to them the loss of employment and perhaps of homes; yet when they rallied in the France Building they faced the situation cheerfully and each one indulged in a smile at some one else's expense. The Assistant Editor was heard to ask the Associate Editor if the blue pencil was saved. It was not, and so a new one was speedily provided. The old one perished with its friend, the typewriter, and with its natural prey, "copy submitted for publication."

The Editors want copy, "good copy," short articles on gospel topics, plainly written with a pen or typewriter. Our views as to the character of these articles have not changed since we wrote the editorial in the number of the HERALD just preceding this one.

Copy contributions to *Autumn Leaves* were mostly in the office of the Editor at his home and so escaped; some few, however, were at the HERALD Office. Some of the HERALD articles which were burned and which we were expecting to publish were valuable and we deeply regret their loss. Concerning some others we maintain a profound silence.

A pleasing feature of the citizens' mass-meeting was the well sustained rapid fire of subscriptions from Graceland students and faculty.

The loss of the HERALD Office means more to the community at Lamoni than it does to any others of the Saints. The welfare of this town is indissolubly connected with the HERALD Office, and the citizens propose to see that the loss is more than made good.

The valuable original manuscript of the Book of Mormon was in the fire-proof vault at the time of the fire.

Sunday-schools in need of *Quarterlies* for the present quarter should write the office at once. If a sufficient number is needed they will be reprinted. State what grades are needed and the number of each.

The mass-meeting at the Brick Church, Sunday, demonstrated what might be done if the whole church were aroused to build a sanitarium, a children's home—or a temple. At that meeting the average donation was about thirty dollars for every individual present, and there were numbers of children and aged people present. It is a fact too that the congregation was composed mostly of poor people. When the heart is touched a "surplus" can be located.

The mass-meeting Sunday morning ran over into the afternoon so far that it was impossible to hold

the regular sacrament-meeting and it was held in the evening. Fervent thanks were offered for the generous way in which the people were rallying to the aid of the church in rebuilding the HERALD Office.

The Board of Publication met at Lamoni, Monday forenoon. All members were present; also E. A. Blakesley of the Bishopric, Fred'k M. Smith, of the Presidency, and Heman C. Smith, of the Twelve.

Original Articles

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS.

How checkered are the scenes of life with the falling athwart each other of lights and shadows.

The beauty of a picture on the blending and harmonizing of light and shade, as well as of grace in outline, or correctness in detail, or harmonious coloring. The perfect artist is the one who is skillful along all these lines, and if we trust the life-picture to the Master Artist, we may be sure the lights and shadows will be given in correct proportion.

Too many think their life-picture requires more light and less shadows, and so create artificial lights of worldly pleasure and sensual delights, endeavoring thus to dispel the shadows of care and responsibility; thus giving their life-pictures an unnatural, and sometimes even a lurid glare, not at all harmonious nor pleasing to the Master's eye. And oftimes the shadows are darkened and deepened by our foolish tampering.

Excess in those things that are legitimate pleasures will cast across the picture dark shadows of sickness and poverty and despair.

Estrangement of friends, the misunderstandings that sometime will arise in the minds of our loved ones are only shadows, some darker and denser than others, which often may be dispelled by the light of truth being shed over the matter, that we may see things as they really are—to see, perhaps, a right motive behind what seems like a wrong, or a foolish act.

The dark shadows of death, unless illumined by faith, cast a dark background to

every picture; but it seems as if the saddest of all the shadows that darken the life-picture, is the shadow of sin, whether cast by our own sin, or that of our loved ones. Ah! that is the shadow that always mars the perfect harmony of blended coloring, and mingled lights and shadows. But the Master Artist can correct even this, and in the place of this evil shadow set the lights of truth, purity, and virtue, if we will but submit our work to his hand.

Health, friendship, neighborly kindness, and brotherly love, are lights that will illumine our life-picture, even if under the shadow of poverty which only these lights to a better advantage. Had we no needs, we would never know the pleasure of having our needs supplied.

“We measure our wealth by the wants we have known.”

Were it always high noon there would be no rosy dawns, no restful, soothing twilights.

I love the dawn with its renewed possibilities for joy, peace, and service; for without service there is no true joy, and peace follows service faithfully performed.

I love the calm twilight after the toils and cares of the day, a fitting time for the visit of the angels of comfort and consolation; and after a day well spent, how near they sometimes seem. Though our eyes be holden, we can feel the fanning of their wings cooling our fevered brows, and hear their gentle whispered words of commendation and encouragement.

But the fresh, inspiring loveliness of the dawn, and the calm, restful beauty of the twilight, are both only the blending of lights and shadows, by the Master hand.

How lovely the morn of youth; but how quickly does it give place to the strong, high lights of adult life, the noontide of our little day; then how swiftly the twilight of old age comes on, softening the midday glare with the first faint but fast-approaching shadows of the long night that awaits “after the day is over.” How sweet if we can, in that twilight hour, sit with folded hands, and hear the gentle whisper of the