

PERSECUTIONS, DUTIES, AND PRIVILEGES OF THE SAINTS

AN ADDRESS BY ELDER DANIEL H. WELLS, DELIVERED TO THE CHILDREN WHO FORMED
THE PROCESSION ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE PIONEERS INTO
GREAT SALT LAKE VALLEY, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, JULY 24, 1854
Reported by G. D. Watt

Beloved Friends—We are met in commemoration of the important historical fact, that on the 24th of July, seven years ago, a band of brethren came to this place, seeking a home, an asylum, where they might rest awhile from their arduous and toilsome march, and feel secure from the wrath of wicked, reckless, infuriated men, who had, in times past, pursued and hunted them with relentless fury, and driven them from the abodes of civilization. Directed by the same God who led Moses and the children of Israel out from the land of Egypt, they, with our beloved President at their head, located in this valley.

This becomes an important fact from its associations, fraught as it is with momentous consequences to us as a people; transplanting us from the narrow limits of a single city, to a large territory, in which we are fast becoming a mighty people. We perceive the hand-dealing of a wise and beneficent God in this, who has said, by the mouth of His Prophet, that it was “His business to provide for His Saints.” This also furnishes a strong illustration of high Heaven’s economy, in overruling and turning the wrath of man to its service and praise, and from “seeming ill still educing good.”

This day, in reality, is the Anniversary of our Birthday as a free people. We may say that it was a bloodless

conquest, and yet our path has not been strewn with flowers, as witness the parting pang when exhausted strength has been laid low in the dust, and bitter tears have only been dried in view of a better future.

We this day rejoice together in union and harmony—in peace and prosperity; and as the sun of gladness has arisen upon our horizon, so may it never again become darkened by the mists of sorrow, nor the storms of persecution be permitted to obscure its genial rays.

We now possess a country sufficient for our present necessities and purposes, institutions which we have received from God, through His Prophets, and, under the broad folds of our glorious Constitution, American freedom.

We now have the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of our own consciences, and no one to disturb, or make us afraid.

What more can we ask? What more can we expect? The balance rests with ourselves. If we would be happy, if we would be great, have the knowledge and wisdom of God, and be prospered, it remains with us to pursue that course, to perform those duties, and to live that life, which shall conspire to produce those blessings.

The kingdom will advance, and bring with it the treasures of know-