

Living Stones

by Orilla Sheehy (The Saints Herald – volume 33, 1886)

“My friend, are you growing discouraged
In fighting the battle of life?
Does it seem in your weakness and darkness,
A hopelessly desperate strife?
Do you fear that your study and labor
Are destined to bring no reward?
Is the goal of your ardent ambition
By numberless accidents barred?
Despair not! true, thorough self-culture,
Is never unwisely bestowed:
The stone that is fit for the builder,
Will not always be left in the road.

Does it seem an injustice that others
Whose merits and fitness are less,
Through chances of fortune or favor,
Rush forward to easy success?
Remember that fortune is fickle,
And friends will not always endure,
So to those who depend upon either,
The future is never secure.
The tide that is now in their favor,
At some time may ebb as it flowed;
And the stone that's unfit for the builder,
Will be ruthlessly flung in the road.

Be patient! Life's loftiest prizes,
Are not to be hastily won;
Expect not to gather the harvest
The moment the seed has been sown;
A ravenous horde of pretenders,-
A pushing and clamorous crew,-
Will have to be tried and found wanting,
Ere you can be tried and found true.
The best by the side of the worthless,
Together may lie in the load;
But the stone that is fit for the builder,
Will not always be left in the road.

Go read the encouraging story,
Of eminent men in the past,
Who, long in obscurity toiling,
Compelled recognition at last;
Of men, who, in art, or in science,
Or letters, have conquered a place,
Or in the wide realm of invention,
Have left a rich boon to their race;
Their names upon history's pages,
Like stars in the darkness, have glowed;
Like stones that were fit for the builder,
They were not-to be left in the road."

sons, I thought by way of encouragement I would cast in my mite, and then give place to abler writers. Praying that our Heavenly Father may bless and prosper you all in this great and important work in which you are engaged, I subscribe myself, your sister in the one faith,

JULIA V. NEAL.

OAK ISLAND, TEXAS, March 10th, 1886.

Let God be the judge of ability. Do not by "giving place to others" "put your candle under a bushel." We need the prayerful, sanctified effort of every mother and sister who love the Lord Jesus Christ. "Let your light shine."—[Ed.]

FOUNTAIN GREEN TOWNSHIP,
Hancock Co., Ill., March 10th.

Dear Sisters:—Seeing the invitation in the "Home Column" for both the aged and young to contribute to sustaining it, and wishing to lend a helping hand towards carrying on the great work which has been commenced in these last days, I desire before I pass away, to place my testimony on record. I have been a member of this church, ever since its first organization on the 6th day of April, 1830. I am the only surviving sister of the martyrs Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and will soon be 73 years old. I can testify to the fact of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, and also to its truth, and the truth of the everlasting gospel as contained therein.

I well remember the trials my brother had, before he obtained the records. After he had the vision, he went frequently to the hill, and upon returning would tell us, "I have seen the records, also the brass plates and the sword of Laban with the breast plate and interpreters." He would ask father why he could not get them? The time had not yet come, but when it did arrive he was commanded to go on the 22d day of September 1827 at 2 o'clock. We had supposed that when he should bring them home, the whole family would be allowed to see them, but he said it was forbidden of the Lord. They could be seen only by those who were chosen to bear their testimony to the world. We had therefore to be content until they were translated and we could have the book to read. Many times when I have read its sacred pages, I have wept like a child, while the Spirit has borne witness with my spirit to its truth. Brothers and Sisters, who have obeyed the gospel and are members of the church of Jesus Christ, you have greater reason to be thankful than all the rest of the world, because the Lord has given you the gospel in its plainness, also revelations for the government of his church, and opened your eyes that you could see the truth, and touched your hearts with a desire to do his will and filled you with peace and love one for another?

After the records were translated and the book printed, we often met together and held prayer meetings. Some of our neighbors would come to these meetings and ask us mockingly, if we expected with our little band to convert the world and make them to believe the golden bible? Thank the Lord, the truth did go forth and the gospel was preached in power and demonstration of the Spirit, to the converting of hundreds and thousands, who are to-day rejoicing in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free, and of the heavenly gifts of the gospel. I was one of the number who met in the first conference held in these last days, when the church was first organized. We only numbered thirty, but we

were a happy little band. It was a great day of rejoicing for us, and a number were added to the fold by baptism. My brother William and myself are all who are left now, and we shall soon pass away, but while I can I will bear my testimony to the truth of the latter day work, both spiritual and temporal. I know that it is true. I saw its rise and saw its fall. Saw the sheep scattered without a shepherd, but thank God, after the dark days I have seen it rise again, and the shepherd whom the Lord has raised up calling the sheep together, and may the work roll on till the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord, and all Israel is gathered home.

And now, dear sisters, go on in the good cause you have begun. Train up your children in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it. Beware of pride. It was pride and seeking after the vain things of the world that caused the Nephites' fall. Be humble and the Lord will bless you all. I may write again, for I have only told in part what I wish to say.

Your sister in the gospel,

KATHARINE SALISBURY.

[Please let us hear again. We earnestly desire the testimonies of the aged, those who have grown up with this work, and surely we need aid from their wisdom—wisdom gained from experience and from the service of God.—Ed.]

LISBON FALLS, Me., March 22d.

Sister Frances:—I send these lines of poetry for the "Mothers' Home Column," if you think appropriate. I found them while walking along by the road-side the other day, so obliterated I had to study out some of it. I thought at once of the "Home Column," so welcome to our home circle, in its weekly visits, cheering our hearts and making glad our pathway. Praying for its success and prosperity, through our dear sisters who have so kindly strengthened and encouraged us with its contents. I remain your sister,

ORILLA SHEEHY.

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Correspondence.

The printed name on the colored label on your paper gives the date to which your subscription has been paid. If it shows you are in arrears, please renew.

KIRTLAND, Ohio, March 30th.

Editors of Herald:—Three services were held in the church here yesterday. And an enjoyable and comforting spirit prevailed. The old gospel fire was in our midst. Among the number of believers present were sisters Maggie Miller and Marie E. Salyards of Pittsburg, Pa. It has been very muddy and disagreeable in getting about for a time, but the roads are drying off and a pleasant spring-like atmosphere prevails. The third term of school commenced to-day—Miss Laura Bishop, of Malvern, Iowa, teacher. All goes well in the village, and the villagers are enjoying a feast of maple sugar and syrup which are made here in abundance.

I should have mentioned some time ago that on January 23d last, I visited New Philadelphia, Ohio, where reside an excellent little band of Saints who are striving to maintain the honor and success of the cause. A good interest was manifest in the meeting held while there which increased. A good work can be done in that community with some one to set forth the faith, who can stay and answer the urgent calls. I found a pleasant home with Bro. E. Steinbaugh whose companion is a good helper in the cause. May unity and success attend the faithful there.

On the way I stopped at Wheeling a few days and found the Saints doing well—all in the faith. They miss Bro. and Sr. Griffiths since they moved away. I was unwell while there but received good care at Brn. Smith's and Salyards' and the sisters Gill. There are some good witnesses for the cause in Wheeling.

On the 26th I went to Pittsburg to attend the conference announced for that place and found a home and good care at sister Smith's. Conference convened on the 27th and the business was transacted with commendable unity. The good Spirit prevailed in all of the meetings. It was easily discerned however that there was at work a counter leaven of some kind that disquieted some, but the causes were not so apparent. As is usual, perhaps the real causes may have been in fancy and misapprehension. Quite a good representation was had, and an increasing interest was reported from various parts of the district. Six were baptized on Sunday by Bro. Griffiths. They had been convinced by his preaching at some point out of the city and arrangements were made to unite with the church while at the conference. Bro. M. H. Forscutt was present and preached a good discourse on Sunday evening. On the whole the prospects are quite encouraging in the district.