

Zion's Landmarks.

DEVOTED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

"TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY."

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Zion's Landmarks,

P. D. GOLD, EDITOR.

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For a good reason please direct letters to me as follows:

P. D. Gold, Wilson, N. C.

Poetry.

A few months past when I was asked
To give a reason of the hope I had,
I could not deny, I felt like that would be a lie—
And I would sit and give them no reply.

My trouble was great when I lost my mate—
I felt like I could the world forsake—
To be in heaven and there to dwell,
Though I saw it was just if I was sent to Hell.

All glory to God, he has promised to be
In the darkest hour a Sun and a shield;
And if not deceived, it was the good Lord above,
That caused my heart his people to love.

And when I did with the church unite
I felt that I had done perfectly right,
Until Monday following, about two o'clock,
Satan, as I believe, gave me a shock.

I was reflecting on my happy feelings
And hoped the Lord had been with me dealing;
Thought I have now gone the road that
Jesus trod,
And something said, It is a lie on God.

Now you may know this troubled me,
Though I once was blind I how could see—
That it was Satan playing around
To see if there could be anything found.

So, on to Jesus my mind did fly,
To brighter mansions in the sky;
To show me if it was his holy will,
If my poor soul was deceived still.

Then all my travail was brought before me—
This caused old Satan from me to flee;
It seemed like then my heart was bright-
ened,
I saw it was Satan by whom I was fright-
ened.

I am oftener low than I am high,
For Satan is always near my side;
But, still in God I put my trust—
I know he will do all things just.

I know it is right I should be tempted—
I have so far from God descended;
But I try to pray to him on high,
To take me to Jesus when I die.

But when I do my sins review
I can't feel worthy to unloose his shoe.
Now to each dear saint I ask of thee:
If it is with you as it is with me?

Now to all the dear ones who have a law in
their minds,
To unite with the church and there to abide:
I think it is the best thing you can do,
To take up the cross and follow him too.

I humbly speak from experience to you,
For I believe I can say with the truth,
That where there is love pleasure will
abound.
For those who were lost and now have been
found.

But often did I so unworthy feel,
I could not to my Jesus kneel;
But, on my feet I would try to pray—
To my dear Jesus both night and day.

Now, to all the dear brethren and sisters too,
Though I may be far distant from you,
A stranger in the flesh, I too, may be,
But in the Spirit I hope I am with thee.

Remember me in all your prayers,
For if children, then ye are heirs;
For those who go another way
Will from Jesus have to stray.

The Bible to me does plainly show
That Jesus did all things foreknow,
That those who could but trust in him
Should be forgiven of all their sins.

But often do I fear that I am one
That does not trust in him alone,
But I try with all the power I have
To trust in God and not in man.

For I am left alone to sigh and grieve
With my little children who are but three,
And I know if I can trust in him,
I shall be protected in this world of sin.

And when my life on earth shall end,
May my poor soul to God ascend—
Where sorrow and trouble is never known,
And dwell with Jesus forevermore.

The world may make a mock of this
And think they have not done amiss;
So did Paul think he was right
Until Jesus gave him greater light.

All power is in the Almighty's hand,
To do as he thinks best for man,
And when their eyes are opened to see
They will think what they have read of me.
Trust ye in the Lord, for in the Lord
vah is everlasting strength.

CARRIE C. TURNAGE.

Communicated.

B. N. Jenkins to Nathaniel Arnett.

Beloved, grace be unto you and peace be multiplied! I really rejoice in your love, faith and zeal, in the cause of your Lord and Master. I also rejoice in your tribulation: knowing that "tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad." And it is through great tribulation that you enter the kingdom, for "in this world ye shall have tribulation." And you see, after the conclusion of earthly events, the angel showed John, in the vision, the train of Christ which filled the temple, Isa 6: 1; and says, "these are they which came out of great tribulation," Rev. 7: 14. So you may clearly see by the light of the sacred

scriptures, that tribulation, persecutions, afflictions, sorrows, pains, distresses, coldness, barrenness, fears and gloom are no strange things, for that they have been in the house of God from the earliest ages of the world, and will continue until Emmanuel comes again and puts them under his feet. Then you will be clad with a robe and found at his throne where John saw you in the vision; but, for the present you must suffer these things, more or less, as they are incident to all the household, and try to be exceedingly thankful that you are made worthy to bear these things for his sake, and count the present afflictions of the church light in this age of the world to what it was in time past. I could call your attention to a number of weighty cases in days past. Abel, the first plant God selected out of mortal beings, was slain by demon Cain, and about here the Serpent commenced his war with the Zion of the everlasting and true God, and by the mighty working of his seven princes he fill the whole earth with violence in the days of Noah.—Remember Job in the days of his captivity. Salem, Melchisedec too, were found no where it was filled with the seven nations. Remember Jerusalem in her captivity, and her last captivity was by corruption, violence of her own children—Read Heb 11: 36. Then we go to history—in 1172, thirty-five were burned in the fire and eighteen in another fire; in 1209 seven thousand and dead bodies were counted in one of the churches in France; in 1210 one hundred and eighty burned, now wars, ravages, carnage, slaughter and massacre had so reigned over the church that the historians declared that Anti Christ was verily triumphant in 1228: and, a great many more scenes of cruelty we could name wherein you could see their faith, love, patience and zeal towards God, counting all things loss for Christ's sake, and these reproaches better than all the treasury of Egypt. And we have no doubt but that they had their infirmities of the flesh, also with enemies without. Now you may see that your day in one respect is better than their day, that is, in religious reign, and freedom in the height of its glory, though we know not how long it will be so, for we think we see a great cloud of persecution now rising which we think will create one of the greatest wonders ever known, for we know that Baalzebub has already resorted to every artifice that his malicious sense could devise

except one and that he has espied recently and appears successful, for by the might of his seven sons he will transform the world so that your enemies will be those of your household (the church), for many, we think, will separate themselves, not having the Spirit, centering in and forming one head of persecution, wherein we think all earth-born societies will unite and make such a show of good things that were it possible would deceive the elect. But you need not fear any of them being lost, for they must all come to the throne where John saw them clad with that white robe of righteousness which Emmanuel made by his obedience to the just law of Almighty God. So, the honors of his throne will be maintained, he will obeyed, and children eternally saved with an everlasting salvation—world without end!

Now, dear Sir, let me tell you that it is as much impossible to destroy one of them as it is Christ himself.—But, as you speak so much about your fears, doubts, apprehensions and weaknesses—I say something about them: They are things I like to see, and I think they are things that are found no where else but in the christian breast—and no man put them there nor can man take them away, nor man can learn them except the Holy Ghost teach him them. You may preach them, write them so as to publish them on the housetop, on the mountains or in the streets, so that it may be a general theme from the Rio Grande to the St. Lawrence, and yet the natural man cannot know them for they are things of the Spirit. This is a ground point and place where a hypocrite never did nor never will come; yet, it is where all the beloved of God come as humble penitents depending on Christ as God for all things needful for this world and the world to come; and when they do come here they are being led by the Spirit, the Holy Ghost, now the Prime Minister in the church—to bring home the heirs of eternal life, and Christ is that eternal life, for he is made unto them wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Yes, here they find wisdom which is from above, and by it they learn that they are truly sinners before and against the best of beings.—Here they learn the depth and exceeding sinfulness of sin. Here they learn their distance from God. Here they learn more or less the perfection of God and that he cannot change, and learn also that the Ethiopian