

Recorded —

Mother Ann's
Staff of Love,
to the Aged —

Shaker Museum
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Mother Ann's

Staff of Love and Remembrance

To all her First-born Children upon Earth.

Written by Inspiration,

October 31st 1840.

1.

The following is ^a Communication made by Mother Ann; the forepart of which is addressed to the middle-aged and rising Generation; the latter part to all her first-born Children. Delivered by Inspiration, in the presence of both Orders of the Church when assembled at the Meeting-House on Sabbath afternoon the 10th of Oct^r and written by Inspiration on the 31st of the same month A.D. 1840.

Beloved Elders, Mother Ann and all the rest of our Heavenly Parents are here. And Mother says, if the beloved Elders feel union, she has a few words to speak to all the middle-aged and young. The ^{Elders} readily assented, & the speaker proceeded.

O that my children (says Mother) could know and sense, in truth, the importance of well improving the day in which they live! the importance of walking in the true fear of God, and possessing a heart filled with gratitude & thankfulness for every gift and blessing that God, in His great condescension and loving kindness, has been pleased, through us, to bestow upon you, whom He hath called to ~~to~~ to be bright shining examples of purity and holiness to the nations of the earth.

Yea, (says Mother,) truly great, very great, is the responsibility that rests upon each and every one of you. I do entreat you, my beloved children, (says Mother,) to be prudent and saving of the many, yea, very many precious gifts of God which we have conveyed to you, that

a further and deeper planting of the gospel of Christ might be effected in your souls.

For I say unto all the middle-aged and rising generation, (says Mother,) that for the use ye have made, and may hereafter make, even of the very least of these holy and sacred things, which we have given you, God will require a strict account at your hands. Therefore I say unto all, be ye saving and prudent; for the very least of these crumbs will yet become the most precious morsels in your ~~own~~ mouths.

When days and years of heavy and deep tribulation roll on from every hand and side, and clouds of thick darkness hang over you; then would your hearts gladly bow in tears of gratitude and thankfulness to God, and to your Heavenly Parents, if you could but obtain one of the least of these crumbs, as they are now given in this day wherein you all do now live. A day in which the spiritual avenues of communication, between those in time and those in eternity, have been opened through the loving kindness of God, your Heavenly Father, according to His own will and wisdom. A day in which the food of Angels is poured down from the windows of Heaven, in showers of great abundance upon you.

And all you who are wise, (says Mother,) will lay up stores of these precious gifts of God, now in a day of

plenty; that ye may have wherewithal to clothe & feed yourselves, yea, and to give to others, (as those before you have given to you,) through the days and years of mourning and deep tribulation, which my first-born children have been passing.

Yea, (says Mother,) They have freely nourished and fed you, that you might not faint and fall by the way. And this they have done from that store and substance of good which they received at our hands, when we were upon earth, says Mother; which day was unto them, as this day is unto you, my beloved young brethren & sisters.

A day in which you are called to plant your feet upon that immovable foundation which God hath laid, and which will never be overthrowen. That ye may stand unshaken through storms of persecution, and days of great darkness and deep tribulation. As those before you have stood; so must ye in like manner stand; or ye can in no wise fulfill the order of your calling, says Mother. And these days must come upon you, that your faith may be tried. And those that abide, shall be washed clean and pure in the furnace of tribulation.

For God will surely visit the earth and the inhabitants thereof, with a heavy hand of judgment, for the awful abominations which they have committed thereon. And the power and spirit of the serpent will

be aroused in rage and malice, to persecute the true worshippers of God.

But all such of you as have wisely and faithfully improved the time and day which God has given you, to clothe your souls with a garment of righteousness, shall safely dwell beneath His Almighty hand of protection, says Mother Ann.

Now, with your union, beloved Elders, (says Mother) I have words of truth, peace and consolation, to impart to all my first-born Children, that are yet remaining with you; and it is my desire that they would all draw near, that they may understand my words. The aged brethren & sisters then came forward & stood in front of the meeting, and Mother proceeded.

Hearken unto my voice, O my dearly beloved Children! (says your blessed Mother Ann) At my face, while I was upon earth, did you receive, (together with the rest of your cross bearing companions, who are now gathered home, to rest from their labors on earth,) a sure and stedfast planting in the gospel of Christ's second coming; which you believed, (as I taught you, says Mother,) was without sin unto salvation; leaving no room for the indulgence of any part of a fallen, corrupt nature of the flesh.

I say, (says Mother,) you embraced it with full purpose of heart, that this was the requirement of God. And this you was enabled to do, without doubting; because you believed in what you were taught by those whom God had appointed and anointed with power to open the door of full salvation to fallen man.

And often did I, with the rest of your beloved Elders, (says Mother,) exhort and encourage you to persevere on, and abide faithful to the end of your days; for the time would surely come that this gospel would greatly increase amongst the children of men; and by your faithful and crossbearing perseverance, to continue your travel in the road which you had begun; that the light thereof would be greatly extended, and that the time would come when the branches would flourish and bend with precious fruit, that all might know the root thereof was holy.

But you that embraced the gospel when I first proclaimed it in this land, (says Mother,) and are yet remaining upon the earth, have passed through ~~the~~ many dark and adverse scenes; yea, and in days and years of tribulation have you waded, almost despairing of ever seeing this my gospel flourish and bring forth fruit to God's acceptance in those that were called after we had left the earth.

And in the days of this darkness, in which the power of evil was busily at work, blending & seeking to blend his benighted influence with my pure & holy gospel; bringing in the forms and fashions of the children of this world, and withal partaking of their spirit; opening the door for ease and indulgence; and laboring more to appear popular in the eyes of the world, than to possess my gospel in its purity, did your spirits, my beloved first-born, mourn and weep with me, and I with you, says Mother.

For in a great portion of those that came after you, did you, with me, behold the true and genuine ~~pr~~ principles of this gospel held only as matters of secondary importance to them. And in these days did your souls, my dearly beloved, breathe forth in prayer to me, that I would gather you home from the scenes of time, to dwell with me in eternity, where your spirits would no longer be grieved with those passing and soul darkening scenes upon earth, which, at times, appeared to be fast gaining influence among those ~~there~~ that professed to be my children.

But remember, my dearly beloved, I have mourned and wept with you; yea, ^{and} I have united your prayers with mine, in humble supplication to God, our Heavenly Father, that He would open some door, whereby Zion should be purged from her sins, & that darkness which had gathered upon her.

And you that are now remaining upon the earth, have beheld with your eyes, the door which God, through us, hath opened; and you have supported it with the strength of your whole heart and soul, says Mother. And you have set a righteous and godly example in partaking of these my precious gifts, tho never so small, with hearts of gratitude and thankfulness, replenished with the fear of God.

And remember, my beloved, that your strength and support with your godly example, has been that help and comfort to us, since the present work & manifestation began, that tongue cannot relate.

Altho this present work was not needed so much on your account, as on the account of those who were middleaged and young, for whom it was mostly designed; that they might have an opportunity to gain that planting in their own souls, (if they would improve it,) which you gained while we were upon earth, says Mother.

And you have been patient to wade thro' tribulation, bearing with your spirits, and by your examples, against that body of darkness, that was striving to overshadow the Lion of God upon earth. Yea, says Mother, and ye have fed the young of the flock (as many as would receive) with that same food and support, ^{with} which we fed you when we were with you upon earth.

You have led them gently by the hand, with comfort-
 ing and cheering words of consolation, promising them,
 that if they would be faithful and obedient, the time would
 surely come, that the rays of gospel light and purity would
 brighten and enlighten their path before them, giving
 them new courage to pursue the strait and narrow path,
 in this sin-destroying gospel, until they should reach the
 Kingdom of God, and gain the prize of salvation.

And now, my dearly beloved, your eyes behold the
 fulfilment of your promises, and the answer of your
 prayers, as it respects those of the middle aged and rising
 generation, who have remained in obedience, according
 to your counsel: for surely there is no good thing withheld
 from our children on earth, says Mather, that will serve to
 encourage & strengthen them in the pure way of God.

And the blessing and strength of you, my dearly beloved
 first-born children, has been of unspeakable worth to those
 of the middle aged and rising generation, whether they
 are sensible of it or not. Therefore, my ~~dearly~~ beloved, be
 not over anxious to leave this world, Altho your bodies
 may become feeble; yet that substance of good which you
 have gained, imparts great strength, and affords much
 help to those who are of that age and class, upon whom
 the burden must shortly fall.

Yea, says Mather, altho the most part of my first-born

have left all mortal things below, and are with me in eternity; yet those few that are remaining upon earth, shall be comforted and supported at my hand. For I will never forsake you, my dearly beloved. For you that have borne the cross from the beginning, and have made my gospel the first object of your pursuit, you come the nearest to God and to me, says Mother; and ye are the peculiar objects of my love, delight and pleasure.

Therefore, think not, my dear children, that you are forgotten by your blessed Mother, or by any that were with her on earth. And those few of you that are still remaining in an earthly tabernacle, are a great help, yea, ~~strong~~ strength and comfort to us, your heavenly Parents, who are in eternity, says Mother.

Yea, my beloved, you well know that we have been doing a great work with those that are called to succeed you in the gospel on earth; and we have still more to do, that they may be prepared, and enabled to stand & abide, and pass through those days of tribulation which God hath purposed they shall surely pass through.

And you, my beloved, have been workers together with us, from the beginning; and you still are a great help and comfort to us. And our everlasting blessing, love & thanks are justly due to you, says Mother, and these I give unto you, to lean upon, in your advanced age. For I want, says Mother, if you feel as tho you could, that the most

part of my first-born, that are upon earth, should remain a little longer. Do you feel as tho you could? says Mother.

Do you feel as tho you could remain a little longer upon the earth, and unite and travel with us in tribulation? for we are certainly passing through deep tribulation, says Mother; and if you my beloved, with the rest of the Church, and all wherever this may go, will unite in prayer to God, and drink this cup with us, we will be exceeding thankful: for this will be a great comfort to us, says Mother.

But this I will promise you, my dear children, that none of you shall be left upon earth to witness the days, in which shall be accomplished the greatness of that tribulation, which God hath purposed shall come in the days of those upon whom the burden must fall.

For you, my beloved, passed those scenes of deep tribulation, when you first believed my gospel; and God does not require that you should again pass through them on earth. But you shall be gathered home to dwell with me, in a peaceable mansion of rest, which I have prepared for you, my faithful and obedient children.

The time is surely fast approaching, says Mother, when those days which I spake of, while on earth, shall be accomplished. The eyes of thousands and thousands shall be turned towards Zion, and great multitudes shall flock thureto; some for good, and some for evil. And great

will be the hearing, distress and tribulation which they will unavoidably bring upon all my true children who are then upon earth.

But God has purposed these sufferings for them, not for you, my dearly beloved. But you, with us, must prepare and enable them to meet and go through these sufferings; that they may be rightful and true heirs to that sacred and holy inheritance which they are called to possess.

And the days will surely come, that nations and kingdoms will say, Who is safe on earth, save those that stand in the Lion of God, where sin does not dwell, and where blood is not shed? Yea, says Mother, these days are rolling swiftly on, in God's own time.

Now, dearly beloved, receive my everlasting thanks, love and blessing; also the thanks, love and blessing of all those that were companions with me in sufferings on the earth. Not one of you, my dear children, have I forgotten, nay, and never shall; for you are precious jewels in your Father's house; and in your Mother's sight, objects of her delight.

The middle-aged and young, says Mother, God does require, and we do require, that they should highly prize every day that they are blessed with your presence on earth: for in no other way can they receive the blessing with which they must be clothed, in order to do the will of God.

So be of good cheer, my dearly beloved; for I will never forsake you, nor leave you; for ye are spirit of my spirit; and that spirit unto me will shortly return. And whenever you read, or hear this read, — says Mother, if you will hold out both hands, and make four gentle bows, my Angels of Love shall stand before you, and put into your hands the love of all your ~~to~~ Heavenly Parents, and take a portion, a good portion of love, right from your hearts, and bring unto me says Mother. And sometimes I shall come and get it myself, and give you mine.

Therefore receive this my Staff of Love, O my dearly beloved children! and upon it you may lean while you are on the earth, and it shall never grow old, nor cease to yield you support and comfort. And whenever you feel a desire, you may invite all that have clean hands and pure hearts to partake with you.

I have long had this my Staff of Love in store for my first-born upon earth, who have been faithful ^{tribulation,} through ^{to} until the present day; but the time had not come for me to give it unto them, in full, until now; tho I have briefly spoken of it to those in the Church, only. But now, beloved Ministry and Elders, with your union I send it forth, wishing to have it put in the form of a small pamphlet, and given to the

Elders of each family wherein there are any of my first-born living; and for them to see that it be read in their meetings twice a year, so long as there shall be any of my first-born living in that family, who believed when they saw my face, or the faces of those that suffered with me in tribulation on earth.

It is my desire that this should go to all my first-born, throughout Zion's habitations, as soon as it may be convenient, if the beloved Lead feel union, with this my Staff of Love & Remembrance unto them: for I have prepared it with my own hand for them. And others may gain good from it, says Mother Ann.

So fare ye well, my dearly beloved; yet will I never forsake you; for they that have never forsaken me, God forbids that I, or any that were my companions in sufferings on earth, should ever leave or forsake them.