

day is near, and the hour fast approaching, when it shall be said—"Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him!"

Allow me here to close by giving you the translation of a stanza from a celebrated German poet—

"Calmly bear the frowns of fortune,  
Soothe the heart oppressed with woe;  
Sacred keep the plighted promise, True  
alike to friend and foe. Manly pride display to Princes, Give to modest worth its due, Cherish truth with all her vot'ries, Deprecate the faithless crew."

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## GATHERING AND SANCTIFICATION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

A SERMON BY ELDER GEORGE A. SMITH, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 18, 1855.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

Brethren and Sisters—I must express my gratification at the address which was delivered for our consideration in the former part of the day. I do not feel as much in the spirit of preaching as I do in that of listening; but as there is still a short time to be occupied, at the request of the brethren I will offer for your consideration a few remarks.

According to the example already given this afternoon, I shall commence by taking a text, which will be found recorded in the 23rd chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthews—"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."

While I call your attention to this passage of Scripture, I have in view the rich items that have been presented here today, the light of the Spirit which has been manifest in revealing to us our duty, that purity of life, that submission of conduct, that correct course which are calculated in all things to enlighten the Saints, and

prepare them for exaltation and eternal lives. How often, says the Savior, would I have gathered thy children together, O Jerusalem, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and would have nourished you, but you would not.

These words were uttered by the Savior while looking at the vast city and surrounding country which was then inhabited by the Jews, who were residing there in security, surrounded with plenty, and were at the same time almost universally in open rebellion against the law of heaven.

It has been a very common saying in the world that the Lord was able to do everything, that he could do anything he had a mind to do, and accomplish what he pleased; that he possessed universal power, and could accomplish what he undertook. But what says our text? "How oft would I have gathered you, but you would not." This indicates that he could not do it, because they were not willing; that is the way we understand the language. It is plain also from the text, that if the people of Jerusalem, the children of Israel, would have listened, and would have been gathered,