

**THE LIFE AND
GOSPEL EXPERIENCE
OF MOTHER ANN LEE**

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The life and gospel experience of Mother Ann Lee by Henry C. Blinn

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THE
LIFE AND GOSPEL EXPERIENCE
OF
MOTHER ANN LEE.

"The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace, and
joy in the Holy Spirit."

BY
ELDER HENRY C. BLINN.

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PREFACE.

MORE than a century has already passed since the witnesses of this gospel testimony received the revelation of the word of God. It became a fire of inspiration in their souls, and carried them into an element so far above that which was earthly and sensual that they freely consecrated their lives to the gospel cause. In this they were able, more effectually, to become the servants of the living God.

It was not a new order of life to be a witness of the truth; the world has been favored with this class from the days of "righteous Abel," and the spirit that leads men to recognize the humanity of man has gradually won a permanent place in the race. Judges, prophets, and apostles have all been active workers to establish the religious element among men and to make their lives of practical righteousness.

It was a work that came as gradually as the rising of the morning sun, and like that beautiful gift from the hand of God, its light and warmth gave hope and courage to those who were watching and praying for a full

deliverance from the entanglements of a worldly life. Many have desired to see the day that would bring to them the gift of salvation, and the power of the Holy Spirit, which would enable them to walk in the testimony of Christ Jesus.

The publishing of God's word, from the first message, has awakened the spirit of persecution, and these witnesses of this last great work were destined, as those before them, to walk in the midst of deep sorrow. Jesus was a witness of God, in advance of either Moses or John the Baptist, and taught a more beautiful ideal of Deity, and a far more consistent form of duty for man to exercise toward man.

The inspiration of this wonderful gift of God that had illumined the mind of Jesus was signally revived in the life of Ann Lee, and by her it was denominated a revelation from our Heavenly Father. Like every religious dispensation that had been revealed, it had to encounter much cruel opposition. The self-denial which was demanded of the order separated them from the world, and the legitimate result of this act was, as has been testified by Jesus,—“Ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

Ann Lee and the Elders experienced this fact, as the record of their gospel travel so vividly represents.

It is well to keep before the world “the reason for

the hope that is in us," and to present this so clearly that there need be no mistake in the forming of a correct understanding. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments."

The interest which we manifest in the keeping of the laws of God will go far in determining the depth of our honesty. There is, among all classes of men, a general understanding of what sin is, and the duty devolving upon mankind to suppress it, "for sin is a transgression of the law," or a transgression of the light which has been received into the mind.

As it was the mission of Jesus to preach a system of righteousness more exalted toward the realms of spirituality than was ever before known, so it was within his mission to publish a new commandment, and, at the same time, zealously to stimulate his followers to fulfil in their lives the Mosaic commandments and the God-given testimonies of the prophets.

As a faithfulness in this work of self-discipline was necessary to lead the soul to God, so it was equally necessary to establish the soul in the Christ life,—a state or condition where one can with confidence say, as did the apostle, "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height,

nor depth, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.¹⁷

Jesus the Christ gave to the world, and illustrated in his life, the grandest ideal and conception of human society of which the world has ever dreamed—a social and religious fabric to be reared on the eternal principles He enunciated; of which his immediate followers only had a blessed foretaste in the Pentecostal Christian church, in whose decline we see aptly illustrated the tendencies of human nature to drift with surrounding circumstances, and gradually lower the high standard, raised by those whose souls were inspired by lofty principles and whose lives were examples of heroic sacrifice.

If our eyes are closed we may not see the beautiful treasures of God's love that are over and around us, and if our ears are dull of hearing, we may not even recognize the voices of the good angels as they pass above us. We need, in its fullest sense, ministrations which shall lift us from worldly, sensual relations, into those which are spiritual and heavenly.

“Jesus walked in lonely ways. He knew no home, and there were few to call him friend. His deeds were lowly, but his soul was deeply toned to human needs. He was but a man, but possessed a soul so rich in gen-

teness and charity, so full of love to all mankind, that God could dwell within and work great and mighty deeds. Pure and stainless was his life,—beautiful, true, and good; and yet we crown him every day with thorns. Oh, how we pierce his hands and feet and kiss him crucified!”

“When shall we learn to love him as we ought? Not until we feel the need of living lives of goodness, truth, and love. It was his life, and not his death, that makes us blessed. He is our light to heaven's courts, and when we walk among the poor and lonely we shall feel him by our side.”

“That Mother Ann Lee was the chosen witness of God to usher in a new dispensation of the gospel, to rend the veil of the flesh, which separated the soul from God, to enter into the holy of holies, and become the first spiritual mother of all the children of the resurrection, we most firmly believe.”

“That the elders with her were true and faithful ministers of the gospel, and through their labors and sufferings with Mother Ann the testimony of eternal life has been revealed and confirmed unto us; that a foundation has been laid for the salvation and redemption of man, and that the spiritual Zion, now established on earth, first originated from these faithful witnesses.”