

ANOTHER PIONEER CALLED HOME.

THE long and eventful life of Mrs. Alice Walsh Strong came to a peaceful close on August 8th, 1924, at North Ogden, Utah. Such was the sad news which reached her son, Elder John Walsh, Sunday morning, August 10th, at Glasgow, Scotland, where he is at present laboring as a missionary. It is as remarkable as it is unusual to have had, as Elder Walsh, when departing for a mission at the age of three score years and twelve, the privilege of receiving a "God bless you, my son," from a mother ninety-four years old!

Sister Strong's passing emphasizes the fact that Death is rapidly thinning out the ranks of the early pioneers of Utah. From April 16, 1829, the birthday of Alice Fish (Strong), to August 8, 1924, is a long span of years—twelve months older than the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Very few of the sturdy characters remain with us now whose lives and heroic deeds fill the first pages of the history of the Church.

Their faith in God and in His servants was unshakable. Contemptuous sneers of former friends, persecution, mobbings, plunderings, the rigors of cold, the ravages of disease, weary hours with worn and aching muscles during days, weeks and months of plodding in handcart companies over a thousand mile prairie, death of loved ones from pitiless storms and exposure—such were the experiences and hardships through which the indomitable faith of the pioneers came out triumphant.

All these Sister Strong endured, yet cherished in the closing years of her life a testimony of the Restored Gospel firmer even than that which she had when as a young woman of sixteen at Darwen, Lancashire, she first accepted the Truth. In this she was but a true representative of all that group of dauntless, God-loving men and women who founded the Utah commonwealth. Self-sacrifice and service were dominant virtues in their lives. Truly, they sought first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things were added unto them.

In keeping with a life that had exemplified these principles, Sister Strong gave the following advice to Elder Walsh when he told her that he had received a call to go on another mission, intimating, however, that perhaps he had better remain with her as she was getting old and might not stay with them long. Said the mother:

"Go, by all means. If I die, all is well with me; if I live, it is the same. You can not keep me here when my time comes. Go: and the Lord bless you!"

Such is the self-sacrifice and the true spirit of service of our pioneer mothers, and, we may add with pride, of our Latter-day Saint mothers to-day.

God bless them all! And may He give us sons the desire and the strength to honor the memories of mothers departed, and to bring joy into the lives of mothers living, by practicing those virtues and eternal principles for which our Latter-day Saint mothers and fathers would give their lives.

While we extend to our fellow-laborer, Elder Walsh, our sincere sympathy, we also congratulate him upon the privilege that has been his, to have received at the age of seventy-two, a fond mother's farewell and parting benediction.

DAVID O. MCKAY.

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