

County, and to labor for a season with Brother Mills in the Northern District. I find by his diary that they held meetings in Oakland, San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Penn's Grove, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Willow Creek, San Benito, Stockton, and Sacramento. Elder Daniel S. Mills, writing to the *Herald* from Oakland, 1878, says: "Bro. J. F. Burton is with me for the season, and is becoming mighty in the gospel."

It was at the time of that visit to Sacramento, that he—Elder Burton—had a very remarkable vision. He was to preach Sunday morning of May 26 in a place near Brighton, Sacramento. It being a country place, he started out early in the morning for a walk in a field near by, for prayer and meditation, and there became rapt in vision and unconsciously fell to the ground. He wrote the vision briefly the following morning to his wife, and from that letter I now copy. He says:

I was blessed with instruction such as I never had before; I saw, and heard that as iniquity was abounding in the land the days were near when empires and kingdoms should fall, and governments be dissolved, and the artillery of warriors, pistols of communists, and daggers of assassins would deluge the earth with blood. The angel of the Lord would be sent forth with instruction to smite the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and they should break their bars. Fire from heaven should be sent upon the earth, sweeping with a terrific roaring, crackling noise through the cities, towns, and over the earth. I saw one sent from a beautiful city—a servant. The Master gave him a palm branch in one hand and on the other arm was written in bright, golden letters, "Bind up the law, and seal up the testimony." And as he went I heard a shout that resounded through, and filled the vault of heaven: "Come home. Come home! Come out of her my children! For her destruction is come." It was from one mighty and strong, and as the servant went forth he gave a small leaf from the palm to such as heard the message, for none of all the inhabitants of the earth heard it except the children. I saw them confronted by a crowd, apparently of hundreds of men, angry, savage, and determined not to let him pass. But as he neared them, they opened the way through the midst of them, and it was as though a great chain extended through the gap on either side which restrained the evil men; and the servant went through as calm as a child, only shouting his message of binding up the law and sealing up the testimony. No power on earth could harm or hinder him. There followed in his footsteps the fearful destructions of the first part of the vision, and the earth was covered with plague, pestilence, war, flood,

fire, and all the evil ever spoken of, and still the servant on his errand traveled until I saw that in his circuit he neared the beautiful city again. He was met by the Master; oh, what a welcome! and by the side of the servant was a little form looking continuously into the face of the servant and exceedingly happy. I saw then that there were a great many servants coming in, having finished their missions. They were to stay out until by giving each child outside the city a leaf from their palm, they had given all away, then they were to return. And as the servant and the little form by his side returned, the Master looked sweetly on them, and placing a crown upon his beloved brow said: "My Father told you he would give you a crown if faithful. He now fulfills his promise. Enter!" I heard dimly, as afar off, music; oh, so sweet! it drew nearer and nearer. We looked to see it, *you and I*. The atmosphere opened, thousands upon thousands of angels accompany the king, the Lord of glory! A voice by my side said: "Those who remain shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye."

This vision was written for publication by Elder Burton January 2, 1879, and published in the *Herald* of March 1 of same year, but I have copied from the letter because it was written while in the Spirit. It is more brief and yet contains all except the dark war cloud of smoke, and the noise of heavy artillery, and clashing of arms that appeared in the western part of Asia, and rolled westward until it enveloped all Europe.

From Sacramento Elder Burton came south by rail, arrived May 31, to the delight of the entire branch, as well as that of his family. His genial face, his counsel, and his influence had been missed in the meetings. He ever seemed to be the light of the prayer meetings, and was greatly blessed in administrations to the sick. It was the exception instead of the rule, when sick persons were not immediately healed.

June 19 finds him starting from home again for Pleasant Valley, where he held meetings, also on the Canejo, returning home again on the 28th.

The Spirit had often spoken to the Saints of Newport Branch, admonishing them to liberate the elders' hands that they might go forth with the gospel, and admonishing the elders also of the commandments of the Lord to spread the gospel farther and wider. The will and intention was good,