

## APPENDIX VI

### A REMARKABLE OCCURRENCE IN THE CARDSTON TEMPLE

by Mrs. Sols Guardisto

Mrs. Guardisto was one of the 50,000 people who toured the Cardston Temple prior to its dedication in 1923. While in the temple she had a very unusual experience, which is told below as she wrote it to President Wood. She was not a member of the Church at the time, but she has since joined.

We have been to the temple erected by your church, wherein the sacred rites are to be performed in accordance with your faith. The first time I was strongly impelled to describe to you my impressions. I did so, but before the completion of the letter I received some news which so affected me that, acting upon the spur of the moment, I destroyed the document in its entirety.

The continued feeling within me of dissatisfaction as of something left undone, coupled with the desire upon the part of members of my household, who had not visited the temple, led to our second visit to Cardston, in which you so kindly consented to accompany us; notwithstanding the inclement weather and personal inconveniences to yourselves, which the journey necessarily entailed.

It is because of this and many other evidences of your friendship that has given me the privilege to presume to bother you with what, after all, may be only the foolish fantasies of a too impressionable mentality. To me it does not seem so, for never before in my lifetime has such powerful impressions been impinged upon my inner consciousness as during my visits thru the temple. Especially was this so at our second visit; the impressions of our first visit were repeated with such overwhelming intensity and variety of detail that I must positively inform you of my experiences.

It seems to me it is a sacred duty on my part to do this, and knowing as I do that your friends will not lightly ridicule to outsiders what to me is a personal matter, I am going to give you in detail my experiences in the hope that if, as it may well be, it is something more than imagination, that you or others of your faith may wisely analyze and correctly use whatever may be gleaned from this letter.

A fortress in a time of storm was the first thought that shaped itself in my mind with my first view of this ancient yet modern Temple, mellowed with the spiritual usages of ancient civilization and customs, yet alert, virile and watchful. A grand, solemn, strong, beautiful, useful house of spiritual progression which seemed to be the embodiment of architectural expression of ancient civilizations and glories, suddenly reincarnated and waiting for a future and higher civilization than our own.

Strength and beauty exaggerated the more flimsy houses and buildings of the town and gave a painfully obvious example of how truly the soul within is expressed through its material body, either in the individual, a nation, or a race; either in the man or his architecture. Try how I would I could not get away from the feeling that the town itself was inferior to the latest building. So new and yet so old. Even the electric lights and autos failed to change this thought, that the Temple and the town represent two different epochs of humanity's spiritual developments expressed in architecture.

The town embodied the present epoch, science, art, invention, harnessed purely for trade or commerce, irrespective of past or future developments. The Temple embodies the accumulated knowledge of the ancient world, combined with the modern inventions of science and inspiration as the road to a higher future development so near at hand.

Let me put it even yet another way. There is a place called Cardston. It was once a present-day modern town. A Temple linking the past with the future has now been built at Cardston, and the town has now become a collection of flimsy huts nestling at the feet of the Temple. These will soon pass away into oblivion, but the Temple will continue to function for the spiritual purposes for which it was raised.

Just as the exterior impressions compared the present and future epochs so did the interior also reflect the comparisons. Of the beautiful and artistic effects I need not dwell. Abler pens can, and will, describe the interior from this viewpoint. Sufficient for me to say that the shape of the Temple is a cross that each apartment is symbolical in the artistic and structural effects of some stage of humanity's progress down through the ages. In fact everything physical is a stepping stone to spiritual progress as such is typified in these ceremonies. All this was kindly and intelligently explained to us by Mr. Duce on one occasion and by Mr. Wood on our second visit; but I am afraid I was very indifferent and inattentive member of the party upon both occasions, for which I tender them my sincere apologies. I had no intentions of being rude or discourteous, but from the moment of entering the Temple to leaving, I was placed in a position of having, as it were, to listen to and grasp a dual narrative all the time, with the result that so engrossed was I at times, that I am afraid I was so absent-minded as to appear inattentive, if not positively stupid..

I have stated that my exterior impressions of the building was that of a place of waiting for a higher civilization than our present

one. This would suggest a condition of emptiness, but that is not what I mean. An ordinary newly erected building has no atmosphere at all until it has been inhabited for sometime, after which, it has, as it were, a living atmosphere. What kind of atmosphere this is is largely determined by the spiritual development and thoughts of the persons using and inhabiting the building. This applies especially to places of worship, or consecration, and is very noticeable to a sensitive person. Sometimes such an atmosphere is agreeable, exalting, etc.; sometimes very much the reverse, depending upon the spiritual harmony or otherwise, of the person entering such building. The Temple being newly built and not as yet officially dedicated to its use, would seem to come under this atmospheric rule, but it was not so, at least as far as I was concerned.

Whilst outside the Temple I could not understand the overwhelming sense of ancient atmosphere, which the building actually possessed in its very granite blocks, in spite of the fact that I know a few months previous these stones had been laid. Yet the impression of age predominated. I dismissed the feeling as well as I could by thinking that the plan of the structure was responsible for the suggestion of the age.

But when I entered the Temple how quickly I found an intensified repetition of the same thing in another way. Inside the Temple there was nothing to suggest to me that present day atmosphere of which I have spoken, but was it empty? Emphatically no!

Time and again as I listened to the speaker explaining some phase of the building or its meaning, I would be seeing beyond him some illustration of a kaleidoscopic nature depicting what he was describing, only more completely and more vividly. The characters were so plain to me that I required all my self-control to keep silence from room to room. This continued and only ceased when we emerged into the frost and snow once more.

There was no set plan for presenting these pictures or expressions to me. It seemed as if when I thought of something mental a picture instantly presented itself in explanation of some word of the conductor, which would have the same effect. I was not afraid, only awed by the wonder of it all and the fearful impressive feeling I received, which seemed to imbed every little detailed scene into my brain, from which I feel it will never be erased. Every now and again I would seem to receive a command, observe, remember and record, and vivid as all of it was, these incidents herein related are the ones upon which I received the instructions.

The scenes which I observed of an historical character seemed chiefly to verify and amplify the speaker's outline of past history and so I do not feel impressed to record such, except to state that the same patriarchal characters whom I observed directing and influencing the early movements of the church, were the same down through every age and epoch and as the scene advanced to more modern times, I saw among these spiritual counsellors persons whose features I had previously observed as being in the material body on other historical occasions.

It seemed as though the Temple was filled with the actual spiritual bodies of these previous leaders of the Church, each seeming to have a definite work to do, automatically taking up in the spirit world the work that person was engaged in whilst in the flesh. In that Temple I saw persons who were leaders of your Church during its march across the American Desert, now engaged in helping those patriarchs under whose orders they seemed to be working. It was these leaders of your Church, or spiritual leaders, if I may use that term, who seemed instructed to show me the scenes here recorded.

I can give no time as to the happenings except that the impressions I received was of actual present or immediate future.

I saw first a brief but comprehensive sketch of the present state of the world, or, as you would term it, the Gentile Kingdoms. Each country in turn was shown, its anarchy, hunger, ambitions, distrusts and warlike activities, etc., and in my mind was formed from some source the words, "As it is today with the Gentiles."

I saw next international war again break out with its centre upon the Pacific Ocean, but sweeping and encircling the whole globe. I saw that the opposing forces were roughly divided by so-called Christianity on the one side, and by the so-called followers of Mohammed and Buddha upon the other. I saw that the great driving power within these so-called Christian Nations was the Great Apostacy of Rome in all its political, social and religious aspects. I saw the world-wide dislocation and devastation of production and slaughter of people occur more swiftly and upon a larger scale than ever before. I saw an antagonism begin to express itself from those so-called Christian nations against your people. I saw those of a similar faith to yours in the Far-East begin to look toward Palestine for safety.

I saw the international world war automatically break down, and national revolutions occur in every country and complete the work of chaos and desolation. I saw geological disturbances occur, which helped in this work as if it were intended to do so. I saw the Cardston Temple preserved from all of this geological upheaval. I saw the international boundary line disappear as these two governments broke up and dissolved into chaos. I saw race rioting upon this American continent on a vast scale.

I saw hunger and starvation in this world granary of the American Continent sweep off vast numbers of these conflicting elements. I saw disease produced by hunger, strife and chaos complete the end of this present order or epoch. How long these events were in reaching this consummation, I do not know. But, my impression was from the outbreak of the international war, these things developed in a continuous procession, and almost ran concurrently, as it is with a sickness, the various symptoms are all in evidence at one and the same time, but in different stages of development.

My intensified thought was, "What of the Church, if such is to become the kingdom of the earth?" The thought was immediately answered by



a subconscious statement, "As it is in the Church today," and I saw these higher spiritual beings throughout the length and breadth of the air, marshalling their spiritual forces and concentrating them upon the high officials of your Church on earth. I saw these spiritual forces working upon these officers, impressing and moving them, influencing and warning them. I saw these spiritual forces begin to unfold these things into the minds of your elders and other high officials, especially during their spiritual devotions and official duties, and those activities which exalt the mind of the individual or groups. I saw the impressions take hold and inspire the more receptive and spiritual men, until it was all clearly revealed to them in the way the spiritual patriarchs desired.

Again I seemed to hear the words, "As it will be." I saw the high officials in council, and under inspired guidance issue instructions to your people, to reconsecrate their lives and energies to their faith. To voluntarily discipline themselves by abstaining from all those forms of indulgence which weaken the body, sap the mentality, and deaden the spirit or waste their incomes. I saw further on, instructions given whereby the places of refuge were prepared, quietly, but efficiently by inspired elders. I saw Cardston and the surrounding foothills--especially west and north--for miles being prepared for a refuge for your people, quietly but quickly.

I saw artesian wells bored and other wells dug all over that territory, so that when the open waters were polluted and poisoned that the people of the Church and their cattle would be provided for. I saw the fuel resources of the district developed in many places, and vast piles of coal and timbers stored for future use and building.

I saw the elders, still under Divine guidance, counselling and encouraging the planting of every available acre of soil in this district, so that large supplies could be near the refuge. I saw the Church property under cultivation of an intensified character, not for sale or profit, but for the use of the people. I saw the inspired officers giving instructions as to what would be the best crops to plant and cultivate, not for profit but for use in storage at the time of chaos. I saw the territory carefully surveyed and mapped out for the camping of a great body of people of the Church. I saw provisions also made for a big influx of people who at present do not belong to the Church, but who will gather in their tribulation. I saw vast quantities of surgical appliances, medicines, disinfectants, etc., stored in the Temple basement. I saw inspiration given the elders whereby the quality, quantity, and kind of things to be stored were judged, which might not be attainable in this territory during the time of chaos. I saw defensive preparations made and stored as suggested by the power of inspiration. I saw the elders working out the organizations of the camps upon maps. I saw the mining corridors used as places of storage underground; I saw the hills surveyed and corrals built in sequestered places for cattle, sheep, etc., quietly but quickly.

I saw the plans for the organization of the single men, and their duties, the scouts, the guards, the nurses, the cooks, the messengers, the children, the herders, the Temple guards, etc., etc., I saw all these preparations going on practically unknown to the Gentile world, except to

the Great Apostacy, whose knowledge and hatred is far-reaching in this day of its temporary power. This was going on piece by piece as the elders were instructed so to do for the refuge.

I saw other officials obeying the inspired instructions carrying their messages and exhorting your people to follow out from time to time, the revelations given them. Whilst all around throughout the Gentile world the chaos developed in its varying stages--faction against faction, nation against nation, but all in open or secret hostility to your people and their faith. I saw your people draw closer and closer together as this became more intense and as the spiritual forces warned them through the mouth of your elders and other officers. I saw the spiritual forces influencing these members who had drifted away to reenter the fold. I saw a greater thing than ever before. I saw vast quantities of necessities supplied by members whose spiritual eyes had been opened. I saw a liquidation of properties and effects disposed of quietly and quickly by members of the Church, as the spiritual influences directed them.

I saw the inspired call sent forth to all the Church to gather to the refuges of Zion. I saw the stream of your people quietly moving in the direction of their refuge. I saw your people moving more quickly and in larger numbers until all the stragglers were housed. I saw the wireless messages flashed from Zion's refuge to Zion's refuge in their several places, that all was well in the world. And then the darkness of chaos closed around the boundaries of your people, and the last days of tribulations had begun.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>"Family File of Edward J. Wood."