

destroy the Church? Oh, no. If they had taken our houses and lands and private properties it would not have destroyed the Church; for the Church is not to be destroyed. God has established it and will provide for it, and it will endure.

Do not be afraid that the Church and Kingdom of God are about to be destroyed or broken into pieces; for they will not be. The Lord overrules all these things. No nation goes up and no nation goes down but what the Lord has a hand in such matters. He has a hand over the earth and all that there is in it, and He will control for His honor and His glory, and for the accomplishment of His purposes in the earth. I thank God that our troubles have not been more serious. I thank God that there have not been very many lives lost, but that the people have been preserved; I thank the Lord that we are not subject to mob violence, as we were in early times; I thank the Lord that those days are past; and I trust they are past forever.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is increasing in numbers, increasing in faith, increasing in strength, spreading abroad, occupying a greater territory in every direction. The Lord is doing it and we cannot help it. Let anyone take the trouble to try to stop the progress of the Lord's work; let some great man amongst the Latter-day Saints try, and see whether the Church and Kingdom of God will be stopped or not. Let him apostatize and turn away from the truth, and see whether the Church will begin to halt in its progress. If you have not seen efforts enough of this kind in the past, try, some of you who are very powerful and feel that in the Church of God nearly all depends upon you. Make the effort if you can afford to. We have no need to trouble, no need to fear, only for ourselves. Let every man be energetic and faithful, and a good Latter-day Saint; let him be true to the Kingdom of God; true to his covenants; let him overcome all his weaknesses, folly and besetting sins; free himself from them, and make of the Lord his chosen, reliable Friend; lean upon Him and have His support, and then we are safe; and there is no safety without this.

We cannot depend on one another for support; but every man must depend for his support upon God our Eternal Father. Our lives should be consistent and pleasing in the sight of the Lord. We should be

pure in sentiment, pure in our thoughts, upright and just in all our ways. We should listen to the counsels of the Holy Spirit, and be a united people. We should not break up into fragments, politically nor religiously. We cannot afford to do it.

Efforts have been made by some of our people to hold to democratic principles—to join with the democratic party. But the democratic party would not have us. The republican party do not need us and do not want us; and the only chance in the world for us is to be one united party of the people. We may hold to principles which are good and true that the democrats hold to, and those which are good and true that the republicans hold to. Any doctrines and principles that are good and right in the republic, we should hold to, and foster; but we cannot take part in those which are not sound and true. Then let us stand by the party that has taken us safely through so far—the party of the people; let us be true to our own politics, hold together unitedly, and make the very best use of the very little franchise that has been recently reserved to us.

We live in a republic; where it is said the majority rules; but it is discovered now that the majority does not rule in any republic. It is not the rule of the majority, but it is the rule of the minority—the same as it is with all other earthly governments. The minority rule and not the majority. I know of no government on the earth where the majority rules, except among the Latter-day Saints. The majority rules among them. No man can hold a position, or stand in a responsible place among the Latter-day Saints except by common consent—by the voice of the majority; and when the majority are against him he must go.

But it is not so in the United States; it is not so in this Territory, so far as our political organizations go; it is not so in any government of the earth that I know anything about, except among the Latter-day Saints. You may take our organization, and there is not a man stands when the majority is against him. Let the majority decide against an Apostle and he must leave his place; he cannot stay unless the people sustain him. The people may reject something that God wants, but it takes the voice of the people to sustain an Apostle. I never saw one ordained, set apart and maintained in his position,

without the support of the people—the majority. It is so in every Stake. Whenever the people of the majority say they do not want the President of that Stake they must then have a new President. Whenever the majority of the people of a Ward decide that they do not want the Bishop of that Ward, then there must be a new Bishop for it. Whatever is done, whatever office of authority and position is held in the Church of Christ, it must be by the voice of the people. This is truly republican.

Who rules in this Territory? Who makes choice of the officers? The majority? No. As a matter of fact, the voice of a very few in our precincts and cities and counties and Territory, and in the United States, determine who shall be the men to rule. If the voice of the majority had determined, so far as the voters of the United States were concerned, we would have had different men for Presidents at different times, and we should find that the majority of the popular vote would be in favor of Grover Cleveland, instead of General Harrison; but a majority of the States were in favor of General Harrison.

Now, I expect the time to come when the majority of the people will determine this important question, when the voice of all intelligent people may be heard, as when we come together here at our general Conferences, and at our local and quarterly Conferences, or in our Wards, when we vote for Bishops and other officers to preside over us, to be our servants and to labor for us; we let all come who have the right and the voice, and allow them to speak and vote for the man of their choice. The majority rule. I expect to see the time in governments also when that will be the case—when not only men but women will have the privilege of voting, and have their voices heard in the selection of men to preside over them, and to be their servants and rulers.

I expect the time to come when what is done upon this earth will be done as it is now done by the Latter-day Saints—by the common consent of all. The man who faithfully serves the people, has at his back the whole of that people. He has their faith, their prayers, their good wishes, and good will; and so it should be in every department of government. The man who serves the people, ought to have their united support, and then they have strength.