

influence felt among the nations of the earth, and people would respect us for our virtue as they now did for our industry and thrift; for we could show them a noble example of self-sacrifice. Thus would our testimony increase.

The world would some day recognize the fact that Joseph Smith was no impostor, but a man of God filled with the Holy Spirit, who died a martyr to the cause of truth, and whose every desire during his lifetime—from the moment he was called to the ministry—was to benefit his brethren and sisters, recognizing all as children of the same Father.

May God help us to endure unto the end, so that we could stand firm in the face of temptation and finally be found worthy to inherit celestial glory.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

said the subject of the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith was one of deep interest to himself, as he had no doubt it was to all Latter-day Saints. It ought, indeed, to be one of intense interest to mankind; because if Joseph Smith was what he professed to be, and what the Saints testified he was, the world should know it. If he were not what he professed to be, then it was equally important, at least, that the Latter-day Saints should know it. The evidences which were at hand, and within reach, upon this subject were so numerous that it would require much longer time than they had at their disposal that afternoon to bring them forward; but there were a few that might be now enumerated as worthy of their consideration.

Allusion had been made to the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon, which was published in the year 1829, and among other predictions which it contained was one that was very remarkable, considering the circumstances which surrounded this nation. It was predicted that this Church would be organized—for at the time the Book of Mormon was issued it was not in existence—and that it should be persecuted and pass through a great variety of distressing conditions. At that time, too, such a thing as religious persecution was unknown and unheard of in this land of freedom. The corner-stone of the Republic, it might be said, was religious liberty. Yet no sooner was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints organized than persecution commenced—an event that would have been unlooked for ordinarily—and this continued until, as foreshadowed in that book, the Saints were compelled to leave civilization and come out into this wilderness—to seek a home in these remote valleys from the persecutions of civilized men. He well remembered his own feelings at that time. Though quite a youth, yet he felt that if when they reached here they could only have bread and water and live in peace, it would be the happiest condition of existence imaginable. Because, before journeying to this region their principal men had been slain for no offense except that they worshipped God differently from their neighbor, and the lives of others among their leaders had been sought for so continually, so persistently, and so unrelentingly that for months and years before they left Nauvoo their houses

had to be guarded, in order to keep them out of the hands of men who would have treated them as they did Joseph and Hyrum Smith and those who were associated with them. That prediction was literally fulfilled, and in connection with it there was another concerning the gathering together of the people who should join this Church, having become converts to the Gospel as preached in its purity. There was on record, among the revelations given to Joseph Smith, one dated September, 1830, five months after the organization of this Church, in which it was plainly set forth that the members thereof would be gathered from every nation under heaven and become one Church which should be called Zion—a land reserved especially by the Almighty for this purpose—a land which had been hidden from the eyes of the world lest it should be overrun by the nations—that would become a land of refuge. Whoever saw the like of this remarkable prediction? What could have put it into Joseph Smith's mind? Unless God did, who could think that the man whom He ordained and sent forth to preach the Gospel should have had the power to convince the people and gather them together from the four quarters of the earth? This revelation, again, had been perfectly fulfilled. The spirit of gathering still rested upon this people, and they had today to use their influence to restrain the inhabitants of New Zealand, of the Sandwich Islands, the Navigator Islands, and all the lands however remote where the Gospel had been proclaimed by the Elders of the Church. The doctrine of gathering together might not be told to them nor anything he said concerning it, yet the spirit thereof rested down upon them and they wanted to come to this country and be associated with their brethren and sisters. One of the most extraordinary features connected with this preaching of the Gospel was that wherever the Elders went this Spirit accompanied them. Here we had a people from every land, with different traditions, a different education, brought up in different creeds, and yet when they received the Gospel the same Spirit was with them, and they gathered eventually with the Saints of God.

There was still another remarkable prediction the value of which had never been properly estimated and understood. On the 23rd of December, 1832, Joseph Smith received a revelation from the Lord concerning the great civil war which broke out in this nation. That revelation was written and stood for upwards of twenty-eight years before it was fulfilled. Among the Latter-day Saints it was well understood. They looked forward to the consummation of that prediction just as much as they did to the setting of the sun. The very spot at which the war would commence—in South Carolina, was designated twenty-eight years before it occurred. Fort Sumpter was attacked in 1861. It looked for a while as if the war would not break out there; but circumstances were so shaped that it did, and the events connected with it had been plainly predicted, also its causes and what should follow. He knew that a great many in the early

days, while dreading its fulfillment, wondered at the delay which had occurred, because they anticipated that the war would come quicker than it did. But everything foretold by the Prophet Joseph in this regard had come to pass, together with other things that were not written in that revelation.

Notwithstanding these and the many other predictions that had been given, however, the Latter-day Saints had not been disturbed, though others had been by apprehensions as to the future, such, for instance, as the labor troubles—capital arrayed against labor and labor against capital—and various disturbances between the different sections of our country. Though the Latter-day Saints were exposed to all these influences, yet there prevailed among them a feeling of serenity and confidence, a freedom from apprehension and fear that was very delightful. This had its origin in the fact that they firmly believed God had revealed His mind and will as to the future; that there were prophets today as in ancient days. This confidence ran through the entire people and had been in their midst always. It had given them peace of mind in all their trouble.

Joseph Smith predicted that the time would come when the Latter-day Saints would go to the Rocky Mountains, which was then an unknown land to almost everyone. But for years before leaving Nauvoo they looked forward to the time when they would go into the western wilds, where the Prophet had declared they should become a mighty people. When the Saints started on their journey westward they had very little knowledge as to where they were going. Their ideas on this point were very confused. The speaker gave a graphic account of the journey of the pioneers and the companies which followed them. The pioneers, he said, had no idea whether they would go across the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas, or on which side they would halt. But they were led here by the spirit of inspiration. That same spirit which inspired Joseph Smith to declare before his death that the Latter-day Saints would become a mighty people in the Rocky Mountains inspired Brigham Young and his companions during their journeyings.

President Cannon next interestingly related how President Brigham Young upon the company reaching the mouth of Emigration canyon, and while he lay in the wagon sick with mountain fever, pointed towards Ensign peak and said, in effect, "At the base of those mountains we will build our city." "Here again the spirit of inspiration was manifest. After tracing the course of subsequent events in the history of this people the speaker went on to remark that some persons seemed to think that prophets were different from other men—that there must be something supernatural about them, that some great power must accompany them in order to convince everybody that they were really what they professed to be. What a ridiculous notion! Did they think the Son of God would have been crucified between two thieves if there had been anything so extraordinary in His person as to make Him known as the Son of God to