

said Jesus to his twelve disciples, "but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit." And so it should be and is now. Therefore though you separate yourself from all apostate churches, and give up voluntarily everything that has marked you as belonging to the clergy ordained of man, to use your own words, yet that will not justify you in taking upon yourself authority to act and speak for God, and by raising up followers to yourself add something more to the confusion already too great in the religious world.

Seventy-six years ago now, the Lord revealed to Joseph Smith, the truth which you now say God has made known to you, namely, that the Christian churches are wrong; that they teach for doctrines the commandments of men; that they draw near to Him with their lips, while their hearts are far removed from Him; and that He does not acknowledge them as constituting His church or His kingdom. But the revelations of God to this young man Joseph Smith did not stop at that. They went beyond that. They continued until a new dispensation of the Gospel was completely restored to him, including the authority of the holy apostleship, which gave him the right and power not only to teach the Gospel anew but to re-establish the Church of Christ on the earth with all its officers, keys, powers, blessings, and noble truths, with a divine commission to preach the Gospel in all the world, calling upon men to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins that they might receive the Holy Ghost, and to warn mankind of the glorious coming of the Lord; Jesus Christ and the judgments that shall attend upon that event, or rather precede it. And their work has been going on in the earth for more than half a century, and if hitherto it has escaped your notice, I now, as a humble Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ, call your attention to it, and ask you to give it a patient investigation. Do not be hindered in such investigation by any prejudice that exists against the Latter-day Saints, or Mormons, as the members of the Church of Christ are commonly but improperly called. Remember that the Christians in the early centuries of our era were evil spoken of and accounted by the proud, intellectual Romans as the outcasts of the earth and the enemies of mankind. Jesus, for the comfort of His disciples, said: "Marvel not if the world hate you; it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." And so now in the new dispensation of the Gospel of Christ, in the dispensation of the fullness of times, wherein God has promised to gather together in one all things in Christ, both things which are in heaven and things which are in earth, even in Him and consummate His work in respect to the salvation of man and the redemption of the earth, it is not to be wondered at if the Prophets of such a dispensation are slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus, as they were in former

dispensations; or if the father of lies, adopting the methods he has employed against the work of God from the beginning, shall seek to destroy the reputation of the people and servants of God in this dispensation. I pray you, therefore, be not moved by any of these things but pursue your investigations of the truth.

To aid you in that pursuit of truth I send you with this a few books and tracts that I think you will find of service. One especially, "A New Witness for God," deals at considerable length with questions alluded to in this letter, and I trust you will give it an impartial reading.

May the blessings of God attend upon your investigations, and may His spirit that has led you to the discovery of one great truth, viz.: the apostate condition of Christendom, lead you to the discovery of another, or rather, to that other half of the one you have found, to-wit: that God has given a new dispensation of the Gospel to men, restored divine authority and re-established the Church of Christ.

Very truly yours,  
B. H. ROBERTS.

334 Constitution Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.

### THE CHURCH IN MUNICH.

The following letter is from a son of President Lorenzo Snow, now on a mission in Germany:

MUNICH, Bavaria, Germany.

March 23rd, 1897.

Pres. Lorenzo Snow.

My Dear Father—"God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;" and the ways of God are not man's ways. As the word of the Lord rolls on we approach nearer to that great and dreadful day of the Lord spoken of in Joel, 2nd chapter. But the end is not yet here, for "one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law," till all be fulfilled. Matt. 5: 18.

The most prominent prophecy now being fulfilled in this portion of the Lord's vineyard is: "If ye were of the world, the world would love its own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Again, "If they have persecuted me they will also persecute you." "But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not Him that sent me." Our consolation is found in our Savior's words, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." It is not alone for His name's sake that we suffer, but for our own salvation, which alone is worth passing through the most severe trials of the flesh to obtain. Our trust is in the Lord, our joys and pleasures come from Him, and by persecution we are strengthened, our joys and pleasures become sweeter, and pains and afflictions are smothered.

Bro. W. Meldrum is my new companion; he arrived just a week ago. We find ourselves in quite peculiar circumstances, and not of the most agreeable character. I shall copy last Sunday's events from my diary:

Elder Meldrum and myself arose at 6:30. The morning was devoted to the study of the Scriptures. After prayers I went into the city and made two visits, having very interesting Gospel

conversations. Today Brothers Hasenreiter and Thum are distributing tracts from house to house. We have spent the entire past week visiting Saints and friends (over twenty visits in all) and therefore expect a large attendance at our meeting. Before leaving for meeting we had prayers and fasted, as is our custom every Sunday. The place of meeting was in Gollier Strasse, at the house of an elderly lady not in the Church, though a believer and a sincere friend.

By 2 o'clock over twenty Saints had assembled and ten strangers. I arose and was about to call the meeting to order, when two government officers entered and declared the entire congregation under arrest. Well we politely gave everything into their hands. They demanded order and to know who had charge, and who did the speaking. We told them, no one in particular had charge, that we had only met in friendly conversation, that we had performed no religious ceremonies nor done any preaching. Brother Fink then stepped forward, saying "I am responsible. I have invited these people to spend a few hours with me." The police then became very angry, and made several inquiries, wishing us to give some answer that they might accuse us of breaking the law. One of them said: "It is these men from America, from Utah, we are after." He then singled me out and commenced questioning. I knew he would endeavor to bring answers out of me which would condemn us. I did not know the law but all my trust was in the Lord, and from his questions I endeavored to study out the answers he sought for and in this way I could quite easily tell what the requirements of the law were. I was very careful not to say too much and therefore only spoke when it was positively necessary. The Saints stood by us like heroes. They kept interrupting the police until losing patience he exclaimed: "This young man has quite a clear head, let him answer for himself." Well, he finished, but was not at all satisfied, as he had proved nothing. They then confiscated all our song books and tracts, and they then saw the bread and water for the Sacrament. The glasses were slightly colored which gave the water the appearance of wine. He said, "Yes, here is wine, this is for some religious ceremony." One of the members called out, "You are mistaken, it is only pure water, or Mormon beer, as we call it; taste it, do not hesitate." He tasted it and said: "Yes, it is only water," and he then went to Brother Fink, who is but lately a member, and said: "You are baptized, are you not?" "Of course, I am," was Brother Fink's answer. "Where were you baptized?" To which he replied, "In water, naturally." This caused a laugh. Elder Olson, now in Switzerland, baptized him, so they can do nothing about that.

Well, they took the name and address of every one present and said we would be heavily fined. One of them exclaimed, "The Mormons have a hold here in Munich, but we will clean them entirely out."

The truth may sometimes appear