

followed and located at Kirtland, Ohio. In 1831 they numbered about 2000 souls, a fact which gives some idea of the progress of the work in its first year. Later a conference was held in Jackson county, Missouri, where the Saints had been directed to build up Zion. Joseph Smith declared that the whole American continent was the land of Zion, but that Jackson county was the particular place where Zion should be built up. There should be reared by the tribe of Joseph a great city called the New Jerusalem, while the old Jerusalem was to be rebuilt on the eastern continent by the other tribes of Israel. The word of Micah should then be fulfilled: "It shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come and say, 'Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his path; for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.'" Joseph Smith designated the spot where the city and Temple of Zion should be built, and in the summer of 1831 the land was consecrated for that purpose and for the gathering of the Saints.

In 1833 our people were driven out of Jackson county. The Saints were misunderstood and misrepresented, then as now. It was said that they had come to Missouri to forcibly dispossess the earlier settlers of their homes, and the rumor was circulated that their intention was to unite with the Indians in Indian Territory (now Kansas) for the purpose of carrying out this design. The truth was, however, that the Saints had been commanded to purchase the land and to oppress no one.

They were to commit no overt act. Their mission was one of peace. They were to lift up a standard of peace to all nations. They taught the Indians to cease their wars and bloodshed and to become civilized. The Book of Mormon taught them that the Indians were their brethren, descendants of Joseph, to whom God had given this land as an inheritance; that these Indians, today so loathsome and degraded, would yet become a white and delightsome people and take part in the building up of Zion. This was the message the "Mormon" Elders conveyed to the Indians. There was not the slightest thought of stirring them up to war against the Gentiles.

Another charge was that the Saints believed in the abolition of negro slavery. This was sufficient to blacken their characters in the eyes of the Missourians, most of whom were from the South. They were also accused of communism, which was falsely said to include not only their property, but their wives. They were also charged with being poor, and the Missourians of that period had no use for poor people. The consequence was that in the fall of 1833, the Saints, numbering from twelve to fifteen hundred souls, were driven, with fire and sword, from Jackson County. They have never since been permitted to return and possess their lands in that locality.

But the work of God went on. Mes-

sengers were sent across the sea, the British Mission was opened, and the word of the Prophet Micah began to be fulfilled. The people of other nations commenced to flock to Zion. Joseph Smith had been told at the outset of his career that his name should be spoken both well and evilly of among all nations. Today we can see how this has been fulfilled. The Prophet's fame, from being unknown outside his native village, has become the property of two hemispheres.

In 1838 Far West was founded in Caldwell county, Missouri. In the latter part of the year, the Saints numbered 15,000 in that State alone, besides thousands in Great Britain and the several States of the Union. In the winter of 1838-9 occurred the exodus from Missouri; the entire community, men, women and children being forcibly ejected from their homes, under the inhuman order of Governor Boggs, that the "Mormons" must be exterminated or driven from the State. This was for differing religiously and politically with the Missourians. They next founded Nauvoo, in Illinois, which was at one time the most densely populated city in that State, and was talked of as the coming capital, while Chicago was little more than a village.

In 1846 owing to troubles similar to those in Missouri, and after the murder of the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum, the Church was compelled to flee into the wilderness. Halting on the Missouri river, their march westward was delayed by the enlistment of 500 of their best men sent to help the United States in the war with Mexico. Hence the "Mormon" Pioneers could not commence their projected journey to the Rocky mountains till the following spring.

In 1847 Brigham Young at the head of 143 pioneers started for the West and entered this valley in July. They were told by Colonel Bridger, an experienced mountaineer, that they ought not to think of planting a colony in this valley until it had been demonstrated that grain could be raised here. Salt Lake valley was then a wilderness of sagebrush and sand, the paradise of the lizard, the cricket and the rattlesnake. He said he would give \$1000 for the first ear of corn grown here. Cache valley, although cold, was thought to be the most promising spot in which to locate. But in spite of the barren condition of the country and the advice received as to colonization, Brigham Young declared that this valley was the one first to be settled. He had seen it in a vision. A tent had settled down from heaven, and a voice had declared to him: "Here is the place where my people Israel shall pitch their tents."

The world can now see that he was right. Today there are about 200,000 in the Church, and the work accomplished has been done by a people despised and downtrodden, "scattered and peeled" from the beginning. They have redeemed a desert, colonized the waste places, dotted the landscape with cities, towns, villages, farms, fields and vineyards, enthroning civilization in the midst of solitude and sterility. The speaker was reminded of the testimony of one who came among us some years since, Mr. Phil Robinson, a celebrated Englishman, who said to the Gentiles, in his correspondence to a

great New York paper: "You say the Mormons are deluded; that their religion is a delusion and a fraud; but I defy you to stand upon the bench of Cache Valley and survey the scene spread out before you, towns and villages, fields and farms stretching out in every direction on what was once a desert, and say in your heart with truth and honesty, that Mormonism is either a fraud or a failure."

We have grown little by little, as a snowball rolling from the summit of mountain, increasing till it becomes an avalanche filling the whole valley below, or as a tiny trickling stream among the mountain tops, losing itself, but again re-appearing and finally forming a torrent or a mighty river hastening on to the ocean, that bears upon its heaving bosom the commerce of the nations. And our growth has not only been in numbers and in temporal works, but in spiritual things as well.

This Church was founded on the rock of revelation. God has given us line upon line, precept upon precept, for our guidance. There has never been a time in which God has ceased to speak to His people. Continuous revelation is always necessary, for God's people must be progressive. They outgrow old forms. Principles remain, but forms and regulations change, and the people must keep pace with the march of progress. God intended that. For instance, first we read only of Deacons, Teachers and Elders in the Church. High Priests and Bishops were unknown up to a year after the organization at Fayette, and the Seventies and the Twelve Apostles were called four years later. Some of the Saints were very much tried because, after the organization of the lesser quorums, the higher quorums were added, such as the Seventies, High Priests, Apostles and finally, the First Presidency, with Presidents of Stakes and High Councils. The faith of some of the early Elders was hardly equal to these changes.

One man—the speaker thought it was David Whitmer—had said he accepted all the revelations given through Joseph Smith up to the year 1829, because these were received through the medium of a certain seer-stone, but he rejected the following revelations because they were not so communicated, and he declared that these did not harmonize with the previous ones. Others had taken similar ground, only fixing the limit somewhat later. Two gentlemen from Jackson county had recently visited Salt Lake City. They belonged to the Hedrickites or the Church of Christ. Their origin was this: Some of the Nauvoo Saints had not faith enough to follow Brigham Young and the main body into the wilderness, but remained behind. One of these was an Elder named Hedrick. He and some of his friends in 1862, while fasting and praying, received, they say, a command to return in the year 1867 to Jackson county. They did so and purchased a portion of the dedicated land. The Temple ground is now in their hands and they have built a meeting house thereon.

Other factions, many years after the Prophet's death, rallied round young Joseph Smith, claiming to be the reorganized church of Jesus Christ.