

flourished and became a mighty people; but they turned from the right way of the Lord, and when they had ripened in iniquity they, like other nations of the earth, were finally destroyed by the judgments of God. The other nation was known as Nephites and Lamanites, being named after the sons of Lehi, the head of the family who, by command of God, left their native land, Jerusalem, some four hundred years before Christ, and traveled by land, and in ships of their own construction, crossed the great waters, and came to this land. They dwelt here for hundreds of years, and also became a great and mighty people, an outline of whose history is recorded in that book. The interesting mission of the Savior to the people of this continent is also recorded here; the establishing of the Church among the believing Nephites, and their labors in the work of perfection. And I may say the remains of some of the cities built by these peoples have been discovered and written about by such men as Stephens and Catherwood and others; and doubtless much remains yet to come to light in corroboration of the testimony of this divine record.

The Prophet Joseph not only performed this work, but organized the Church with prophets and apostles, elders, priests, teachers and deacons, as it was organized in the days of Jesus and His Apostles. And there is a feature connected with the Church as it exists today that is peculiar from all other dispensations that we have any account of; that is, nearly the whole body of its male members have received some portion of the Priesthood, until we have today in these mountains some twenty thousand men bearing either the Priesthood after the order of Aaron or Melchisedek. There is a reason for this. There never has been a time in all the dispensations of God to man, when there has been so much need for the labors of the servants of God as in this our day; and the Lord, therefore, has called a great number of men to bear the Priesthood, and directed them to go unto all nations, tongues and peoples, as He showed John the Revelator. He would do in the last days, as recorded in the 14th chapter of the book of Revelations. And in fulfillment thereof we have not only gone forth to the nations proclaiming this Gospel revealed to man by the angel of God, but in further obedience to the divine command, have come out from Babylon, until we number some two hundred thousand gathered here. And by what power have we come here? And why did you leave the States of this nation, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany and other nations? You heard the Elders. They told you they had been sent by God and that they had the fullness of the Gospel to offer to man, and they explained to you the principles thereof. They told you there was but one Gospel, and that God had never revealed but the one, the Gospel that Paul referred to when

he said, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." You believed and obeyed, and gathered with the Saints. And what was it these Elders taught you? It was that you must have faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God; that you must repent of your sins and be baptized by immersion for remission of the same, and then have hands laid upon your head for the reception of the Holy Ghost. And this Comforter, this Holy Spirit, you received, and it bore witness unto you that you had indeed been initiated into the Church of Christ. And if I were to call upon this congregation of Latter-day Saints today, and ask every man and woman who thus heard and obeyed, and who did receive this testimony for themselves, to rise to their feet, how many do you think would remain seated? Not many, if any. The fact that you are thus gathered here, and that you have these many years remained faithful to the cause you espoused, is evidence that you did receive and are still in possession of this testimony. And I would say, if there are present today any strangers who are not acquainted with the principles of our religion, let them gaze upon this congregation of over ten thousand faces; let them travel through the settlements of the Saints north and south, and contemplate the work that has been accomplished in redeeming the earth and making it habitable, and then let them ask themselves the question, are not these people in earnest? Are they not sincere? Are they deceivers, these missionary Elders who have been the means of inducing the people of all lands to thus settle and make homes in these valleys? Do you believe in their works and their mission? You say no. But let me tell you, there is not an honest man upon the face of the earth acquainted with the history of the Latter-day Saints that can say this at heart. And I testify to you, as I would to the whole world had I the power to do so, that God has set His hand to fulfil the word of the Lord as given in the Bible, the book of all books the Christian world profess to believe in; the revelations of St. John, the predictions of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah, and others contained within its sacred lids, who spoke of the great work of the last days; and I testify that the day has come which Daniel saw, the day referred to by him in his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, when the God of heaven should set up a kingdom which should never be destroyed.

This Kingdom was represented to him as a little stone cut out of the mountain without hands, which stone smote the image, representing the different nations that then existed and should exist, on the feet, breaking it to pieces; and it became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. Was Daniel a prophet? He was, and was highly favored of God because of his

mighty faith. Isaiah saw our day and time and was glad.

"Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." What is the matter? The Lord is going to comfort Zion; He is going to have mercy upon her afflicted ones. But Zion said, "The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her sucking child?" saith the Lord. "Yea, she may forget, but I will not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." This refers to the building up of Zion in the last days; the gathering together of the people, preparatory to the coming of the Son of Man.

As far as constitutional liberty is concerned, I will say, the God of heaven has raised up our nation, as foretold by His Prophets generations ago. He inspired Columbus, and moved upon him to cross the ocean in search of this continent. The world is acquainted with the history of his course; his pleadings with the courts of Europe, and his final triumph in finding sympathy in the King and Queen of Spain, who furnished the necessary means to make the exploration. It is also well known how our forefathers found a home and an asylum in this land from the hand of persecution, and how they planted here the tree of liberty and jealously guarded it from the attempt of the mother country to uproot and destroy it. The hand of God was in all this; and it is through the intervention of His providences that we enjoy today the freest and most independent government the world ever saw. And what was the object of this? It was to prepare the way for the building up of the Kingdom of God in this the last dispensation of the fullness of times; and as long as the principles of constitutional liberty shall be maintained upon this land, blessings will attend the nation. But woe unto those who fight against Zion, said the Lord. I have heard the Prophet Joseph Smith remark, that if he were Emperor of the world, and had the power to control the whole human family, he would sustain every man, woman and child in the enjoyment of their civil and religious rights, let their religion be what it may. In saying this he expressed my sentiments, and the feelings of this entire community. For God has given to every man individual agency, and He will hold him accountable for the use of this agency. And while we in our hearts and feelings accord to the whole world this blessing, we claim the same for ourselves. To obtain this and to secure it to our children, we have struggled; and we look forward with joyful anticipation when it shall be beyond the power of man to drive it any more from the earth. Our feelings with regard to religious liberty have been manifested towards the religious denominations that have come among us. Not a single one of them can accuse us