

Congress saying to me—a man who was very much opposed to us, but who had paid some attention to our organization—“Mr. Cannon, you have the most magnificent organization there is to be found on the earth. Where did you get it?” He wanted to know who its originator and its author was. He would not believe, of course, what I said about it—what I thought and what I knew. I asked him why if this were not of God, and God had nothing to do with it, some of the astute, smart and educated men in the world did not go to work and get up an organization that would equal it in strength and in magnificent results. Now this organization, as we know, came from the Lord, and He will maintain it; He will perpetuate it.

It is a remarkable fact—and I wish you all to pay attention to it if you have not already done so; but I expect you all know about it—that no man prospers who fights against this work. You let your minds reflect upon the days of the past in this Territory, and if you have read the history of this people, and are familiar with it—let your minds go back to the early days of the Church—and ask yourselves, Where are the men who were distinguished at one time among their fellow-men, who have succeeded and prospered in life, who have left a name and a fame behind them, who have fought against this work? I mean a name and a fame that are not beclouded. If their sun was bright it has gone down in gloom, including presidents of the United States, including judges, senators, congressmen, and others whom we have had by the score in our own Territory. Where are they? Where is the man to whom we can point and say “Look at that man and his success; follow his example, and get the results that he achieved by taking the course which he pursued in fighting the Latter-day Saints and the work which you call the work of God?” Is there such a man amongst us? Take it from the beginning—from Brochus, Day and Braudenburg, who came to this land, the first men here who assumed the role of opponents to this work. I have watched them closely. I have been familiar with them. Men in Congress, men out of Congress, men in position in the Territory, men out of position in the Territory, and there is not one that I know of whose example I would like to follow, or whose fate I would like to have. If it were held up as an inducement to me and I were told, “Here, you follow in this man’s footsteps and get the reward which he has obtained for the course he has taken,” there would be nothing inviting about it.

So will it be to the end. “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.” This is the word of the Lord uttered thousands of years ago concerning His work in the last days; it has been fulfilled and it will be fulfilled.

These are advantages which we have; these are blessings that God has given to us—to be prospered, to be delivered, to be strengthened, to be united, to have the love of one another. I will tell you that in looking on your faces this afternoon I can scarcely control my feelings. What is imprisonment, what are trials and difficulties and troubles? What are they? How are they to be treated when you have the love and confidence of a people like this? What man is there who would shrink from trials or even death itself, if he knew that he had the love of his fellow-men, if he had their affection and their confidence? And this is what we have. We are banded together by indissoluble ties. They cannot be severed; they are stronger than steel. Yes, they are stronger than death. These people are solidified by the power of God, by the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, by the blessing of heaven, and if they do not live so as to have love for each other in their hearts, it is their fault. God has poured out this great love from heaven upon us. Go where we will in every land where the Elders go and baptize the children of men there is a spirit of love descends from God upon those who are baptized. The Elders have friends who would die for them. An Elder going to a strange land, a land he has never seen before and knows nothing about, and speaking a strange language—when he baptizes those people into the Church and the Spirit of God rests upon them, they gather around him and uphold him, and feel as though they would lay down their lives for him, so great and so overpowering is their love for the man who brings them the Gospel.

Who of the Elders that have traveled that do not know this to be true? Who of the Saints that have been baptized abroad that cannot bear testimony to this throughout these mountains? From north to south, from Canada to Mexico, are found a people of this kind who have been gathered from the nations of the earth by the power of Almighty God. The outpouring of His Holy Spirit upon the people has filled their hearts with love for the men who have carried the Gospel to them; and though they may have lived at the antipodes—the remotest portion of the earth—when they have received the Gospel they have been impelled by an overpowering desire to leave their native land, to leave the associations of life and their ancestral ties to go to the place which God has appointed as a place of gathering—to go to their fellow-believers to be numbered with the Latter-day Saints in the midst of their persecutions.

Where is there anything on the earth like it? What shall we say? Is this delusion? If so, what a great delusion; what a wonderful delusion—a delusion that produces such results, such fruits as these! You would imagine that when men and women are baptized into the Church the mere thought of going to the mountains to be persecuted,

to be afflicted, to be tormented, as the Latter-day Saints have been, would be enough to deter the most courageous. But is this the effect? No. Wherever the Elders go today in distant lands there is this burning desire, this unquenchable desire to go to Zion, to gather with the Saints of God and to rejoice with them. This is the case the wide world over. It is not confined to the Southern States, nor to the Northern States; it is not confined to Canada, to Great Britain, nor to any one land, but this spirit is universal as the light of heaven everywhere throughout earth’s wide domain. This spirit goes with the Elders who carry the Gospel of salvation to the inhabitants of the earth, and they bring in the sons of Adam rejoicing in the Gospel of the Son of God, and praising God in their hearts that they have lived in a day when He is doing such a work as this—when God has spoken from the heavens, when He has raised up Prophets, when He has ordained Apostles, when He has poured out His Holy Spirit and His gifts upon those who will obey His commandments. This is the spirit wherever the Gospel is found; and if you do not have it, brethren and sisters, in this city, if you do not have it in this valley, it is because you have failed to live up to the privileges which God has given you. You have lost the Spirit of God, you have lost the love of the Gospel that He gave you in the beginning. You have not cherished it.

I am reminded in talking thus of what the ancient Prophet said concerning these days. Says he, in describing all that we should have to pass through, “The righteous need not fear.” Nephi repeated this several times—“The righteous need not fear.” We need not fear; I tell you there is no cause or room for fear. God is with us; the angelic hosts are with us, the glorious army of martyrs who have died for the truth in the past ages of the world are looking down upon us, interested in this great work and in its success. They sympathize with us in our afflictions; they know the trials that as human beings we have to bear; and they are round about us. The angels are with us and laboring with us for the progress and eventual triumph of this work of our God. Those who are with us are far more numerous than those who are against us, and, as I have already said unto you, no power on earth can arrest the progress of this work. This is my own testimony to you in the name of Jesus.

I see I am trespassing on time. Brother Woodruff is here and I know that you want to hear his voice; but his lungs not being very strong, he desired me to occupy the time this afternoon. I pray that the peace of God may rest upon you, my brethren and sisters, that the power and presence of the Holy Ghost may be in your hearts, that if you have committed sin you will turn now and repent of it with all your mind and strength, and serve God with perfect heart, that we may attain unto that great glory which God has promised to His faithful