

able, rational and consistent of them all. The Greek Church professes to be governed by the same authority. When we apply a test to them, we find that they do not stand upon a very good foundation. When, and wherein, and how have they departed from the true authority of God? I will quote a certain scripture by one of the old apostles, "He that transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." Do they abide in the doctrine of Christ? I think not.

Who taught them to sprinkle little children? Did the gospel of Jesus Christ teach them this? No. But they rely on an unbroken descent for their authority. In answer to this the Protestants tell them that the chain of their Popedom has been broken at different times. I do not care whether it has or not. If the Pope transgressed, it is not to say that the bishops and priests and the whole community did; this would not be a sufficient argument to satisfy me that the Roman Catholics had departed from the faith of Christ; but when they gathered together the authorities of the church from all the world in a solemn convocation, as they did at the councils of Nice and Trent, and passed resolutions which admitted of doctrines and principles in direct violation of the laws of God, and of the Church of God; then as a church, with the voice of all their representatives, they forsook God, and introduced the doctrines of men. "He that transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God;" and if they do not abide in the doctrine of Christ, they do not retain their priesthood and authority to administer in the ordinances of God. Then we are left without authority on the earth.

Shall we go to the Greek Church for the true authority? It is based pretty much upon the same principle as the Roman Catholic Church is, and all the sectarian bodies of Christendom are as destitute of the true authority of God as the mother church is.

Where shall we look for the true order or authority of God? It cannot be found in any nation of Christendom. There is no people that have held communion with God, no true church, priesthood or authority, no medium of communication between God and man for church government, to dictate, regulate, manage, and control the affairs of his kingdom upon the earth.

How did this state of things called Mormonism originate? We read that an angel came down and revealed himself to Joseph Smith, and manifested unto him in vision the true position of the world in a religious point of view. He was surrounded with light and glory while the heavenly messenger communicated these things unto him, after a series of visitations and communications from the Apostle Peter and others who held the authority of the holy priesthood, not only on the earth formerly but in the heavens afterwards. That they hold it in the heavens we know from the scriptures. In them there are certain principles revealed in relation to that matter that nobody could reveal unless they were acquainted with the principle of revelation. Moses and Elias were seen with Jesus on the mount, when Peter and his brethren saw them, who said, "Master, it is good for us to be here, let us build three tabernacles, one for thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias." Who was this Moses? He was a man who had officiated before on the earth, had held the holy priesthood, had been a teacher of righteousness, and who with the Elders of Israel had talked with God, and had received revelations from him, holding the priesthood that administered in time and in eternity. When he got through with this world his official duties were not ended, for he appeared to Jesus, Peter, James and John upon the mount to confer on them certain principles, authorities and priesthood, that they might also be enabled to administer in the ordinances of salvation, and officiate as the representatives of God upon the earth. And hence when Joseph Smith came, those who had held the keys before came to him, so he told me and others, and revealed unto him certain things pertaining to the kingdom of God upon the earth, and ordained him and set him apart to the ministry and apostleship unto which he was called. He presented himself before the world and informed the people that God had spoken, and that he had spoken to him: He told them that the heavens had been opened and that angels clothed in light and glory had appeared to him and revealed unto him certain things. Then we have Oliver Cowdery, who tells us something about these things, and gives his testimony as a living witness. Again, there were eleven witnesses in relation to the Book of Mormon, who testify that the Book of Mormon was a divine revelation from God. And some of these witnesses tell us that an angel of God came and laid before them the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated, and they knew that their testimony was true and faithful. Others tell us that they saw and handled the plates from which the record was taken. I have conversed with several of those men who say they have seen the plates that Joseph Smith took out of the hill Cumorah; I have also conversed with Joseph Smith, who has told me of these things and many more that it would be unnecessary on the present occasion to relate. Here, then is an abundance of testimony that assumes a supernatural agency—an interposition of the Almighty—an opening, and an unfolding of something to the human family with which they have been unacquainted. These things are left for the human family to reason upon; they are presented unto us in that capacity, just as things were presented formerly to others. We were told formerly that "faith comes by

hearing, and hearing by the word of God, and how can they hear without a preacher, and how can he preach unless he be sent?" Here, then was a medium introduced by the Almighty to excite the faith or unbelief of the people. Here are certain records unfolded, and here is a man presented himself before the people, declaring that God was about to usher in the dispensation of the fullness of times; and to this purpose he had introduced an ancient record that had belonged to the aboriginal inhabitants of this continent, together with that, he tells them that the so-called christian churches had gone astray, and all mankind were laboring under gross darkness and that darkness had covered the whole earth. He furthermore tells them that God had it in his mind to reveal unto them his will, and draw back the dark veil that overspreads the minds of the people—to introduce the principles of eternal truth, and that he came as a messenger from God, having been set apart by holy angels sent by the Almighty for that purpose, that in the first place he might be acquainted with correct principles, and then be able to teach them to others. This is the phase which this thing assumed at that time; and the people felt about it as the old Jews did when Jesus told them that they were deceivers, whited walls and painted sepulchres; they said away with such a fellow from the earth. When Joseph Smith told the priests, the good Methodists, the righteous Presbyterians and our holy Roman Catholics, that they were all wrong; how could they endure it. But you must endure it, for God has spoken and the word has gone forth. The Lord, in the first place commanded all men everywhere to repent, and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, giving them a promise that they should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is different to anything that has been before in the world. That which was before assumed no shape and came with no authority from God. The various sects of the day had the Holy Ghost, but they forget that it was to lead men into all truth; that spirit which they have mistaken for the Holy Ghost has led them into confusion, contention and strife, and consequently it is not the Holy Ghost spoken of in the scripture. Joseph Smith having found and made manifest these things, and having turned the key that unlocks the destinies of the human family, having had committed unto him the key of this dispensation, he began to unfold and make manifest the things of God to the world; to all who were desirous to listen and yield obedience thereunto. A good many felt as the people felt when Jesus came, that "this man speaks with authority and not as the Scribe;" there were other principles and another spirit introduced developing other precepts, laws, ordinances, manifestations and doctrines, and a greater power was associated with it than had been with any previous manifestations. What then? Why the Lord was reasonable, he always has been; he is a good and gracious God, a benefactor and friend, suiting his doctrines and principles to the capacities of the human family. What was the consequence when men heard those principles? Many of them had a portion of the Spirit of the Lord among them, and as light cleaves to light, truth to truth, and intelligence to intelligence; wherever there was the light of the Spirit of God in the mind of man, it discovered, comprehended and embraced the truth. What is it? God has spoken; a record has been revealed making manifest the events that have transpired on this continent, and prophecy, and revelations, and visions; and the purposes of God, etc. This agrees with the old record; there is no need to bring argument here on that question, for it has been argued and investigated throughout the world. What then? Did I know because Joseph Smith knew? Not exactly. Joseph Smith had certain things revealed to him and he was commanded to communicate those things unto others. What then? He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and shall know for himself of the things which he has believed in. This was the principle upon which my faith was based at the commencement. For instance, an Elder came to me and preached the gospel, and told me all these things. I was struck at once with them. I was well acquainted with the bible, yet I had never heard such teachings before; had never seen such principles developed; had never listened to such words as came from his mouth, illustrating, making manifest and explaining the Scriptures, the Book of Mormon, and the revelations of God, and opening the heavens as it were to my view. It was to me one of the greatest things I had ever heard. He said to me, "If you will be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, inasmuch as you go in faith and humility and obedience to the law of God, and forsake your sins," etc. This was precisely the same thing that Peter told the people in his day. Said he, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." What will it do for us, Peter? "It will cause your old men to dream dreams, and your young men to see visions, and your servants and handmaids shall prophesy, it will bring things past to your remembrance, lead you into all truth, and show you things to come." Here was quite a chance for a man to detect whether Peter was an impostor or not; and there was a favorable opportunity to detect whether the Mormon Elder was an impostor or not, for he pro-

mised the same things that Peter promised to believers, and all the Elders do the same. Can you find a Methodist, a Presbyterian, a Baptist, an Episcopalian, a Roman Catholic that dare tell you what Paul said anciently, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ?" Why? Have you not been persecuted and afflicted, and been let down in a basket over a wall, been driven from place to place and considered a deceiver? Yes. "But I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith." I have obeyed the same gospel. What then? Did the signs follow? Yes; I believed before I obeyed, and after I had been baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and received the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands; that Holy Ghost took of the things of God and showed them unto me, so that I then knew for myself. But did I believe particularly because I heard tongues and prophecies, and saw healings? No, but these made me glad, for in them I saw the ancient order of things brought back again. It made me rejoice to see the sick healed, the lame to leap for joy and the blind receive their sight, the deaf to hear and the dumb speak. This was a certain amount of testimony for the doctrines that had been advanced. But besides this there was an inward evidence—an invisible manifestation of the Spirit of the living God, bearing witness with mine that this was the work of God that he had established in the last days, and I knew it for myself, and not because anybody said so. At first I believed it on the testimony of others, and then obtained a knowledge for myself. If there is no other man under the heavens that knows that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God I do, and I bear testimony of it to God, angels and men. How did it operate upon others? In the same way, inasmuch as they were sincere and faithful, and diligent in observing the laws of God, and hence, as the Scriptures say: "You are all baptized into one baptism, and have all partaken of the same Spirit," and that is the Spirit that first commenced to be revealed through Joseph Smith, and the administration of holy angels, and the development and restoration of the holy priesthood. If you do not know in the same way that I know this is the work of God, I would not give a straw for your religion.

Having received this knowledge it operates the same upon all, and hence the union that exists among us. It is the same in Canada, the same in the Northern States, the same in the Eastern States, the same in the Western States, and the same in the Southern States, the same in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, France, Denmark, Germany, the islands of the sea, and the different parts of the earth wherever this seed has been sown, and the Elders have gone forth in the name of Jesus Christ bearing the precious seeds of eternal life. Wherever that has rested in good hearts, it has produced the same results, giving the same signs, if not the same degree of evidence, and this has cemented and united us together; it is the little leaven that begins to leaven the whole lump. It is a part of the Spirit of God—a living spark that is struck from the fire of his eternal blaze, that has made itself manifest on the earth; it is the still small voice that whispers peace to the soul; the thing that Jesus spoke of when he said,—

"My peace I give unto you; my peace I leave with you; not as the world giveth give I unto you. You believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also."

They feel the peace that passeth all human understanding. They possess the Spirit of God, though they cannot always tell the whys and wherefores. It is not because a man is learned and polished after the learning of this world that he knows, but because he comprehends, and listens to the whisperings of the Spirit of God, speaking peace to his bosom, and giving him understanding that he is accepted of his Heavenly Father—"I in thee and thou in me," etc. It is this which has drawn us together—this that has cemented and united us—that has led us from our homes to the position we now occupy in these mountains.

An Elder whose mind was darkened once came to me to tell me that something was seriously wrong in the church. How am I to believe you? said I. I was told by you one year ago, that if I were to obey the gospel, I should know of the doctrines whether they were of God. I have obeyed and I know for myself, and am no longer dependent upon your testimony, and you cannot make me now unknow it. No matter what your ideas and notions are, now I know for myself. God is our teacher; he has organized his priesthood and government upon the earth, which is the cementing influence that unites this people together, and as the Lord said formerly, "If you are not one you are not of me." I remember on a certain occasion in Liverpool we were told not to say anything about the gathering. A lady came to me and said she had had a singular dream. "I dreamed, she said, that the whole church was going off to America, and that you was there; we were going on board of a ship, and leaving for America." What was the reason of this singular dreaming? She had embraced the gospel, and it revealed certain things to her that she could not know in any other way. "Your old men shall dream dreams," etc. Can you keep people in the dark in relation to these things? No. And when a people live

their religion, and all the quorums of the church are walking up to their privileges, then a certain ancient aphorism would be correct, "The voice of the people is the voice of God," and the voice of God is the voice of the people; it would suit either way. It is upon this principle that we are united; and hence no matter where this people come from, nor what their former views or prejudices, they may have been different in regard to many things, and opposed each other previously in policies, governments, rights, morals, religion and theories, yet they will all agree now that they know this to be the work of God.

The gospel of Jesus Christ produces the same results among all people, and in all generations, and if they cannot fully understand the whys and wherefores about it, they feel a good deal as the man did about Jesus and the child that had been healed. When Jesus had healed the child, some of the righteous people said, "Come, now, give God the glory, for we know this man is a sinner." The man replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not I cannot say, but I do know that this child was blind, and now he sees." So with the people of this church, they know that whereas, they were once blind, now they see. Having partaken of this, what can separate us? "Shall life, or death, or principalities, or powers, or things present, or things to come, or anything on earth, in heaven or hell, separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Hence the secret of the union of this people.

One of the most irrefragable proofs of the divinity of this work is found in one thing—that everything that has been spoken by Joseph Smith in relation to these things have thus far been literally fulfilled, and you are his witnesses, as also is the Holy Ghost that bears witness of him. What next? Why it is as it was in former times, "All are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's," we are one with him, and one with the Father. "I in thee, and thou in me, that they all might be one, as I and the Father are one." This is the reason we are found together in a religious capacity, and why we are not disunited like the rest of the world. This is the reason why we are united politically, because this is bound to follow. You get some thousands of people together and they are obliged to be governed by law, and form themselves into a body politic. We have been kicked and cuffed and abused almost all the day long, yet we are not much hurt, so far. We are here and all is right, all is well, and we are bound to grow and increase.

Do you think the Lord and the holy prophets that have existed on this and on the other continent, and the Gods in the eternal worlds have started this thing to end here? No. It is simply a nucleus of light, of intelligence, of truth, of virtue, of correct principles, of the holy priesthood, of the revelations of God, and of something that has got to spread, and to grow, increase, and expand until it becomes a great nation and fills the whole earth: until all that has been spoken of by the holy prophets shall be fulfilled in relation to these matters; until error shall give place to truth, wrong to right, until corruption and tyranny shall give place to justice and equity; instead of man bearing rule and having his own way "God shall be king over the whole earth, and His name one;" and unto him every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ to the glory of God the Father." We are only just commencing in this work, which will grow, and spread, and increase, and no power on this side of hell shall stop its onward progress; it is onward, onward, onward, until the purposes of God and all he has designed shall be fulfilled and accomplished.

This is truly a great work, a work with which God and angels and Saints that have lived before us, and the souls that are beneath the altar praying unto God for the accomplishment of these things are engaged in; the heavens and the earth at the present time are in communication, and God is our judge, our ruler, our law-giver, our guide and director to lead us on in the ways of life, and no matter about events that may transpire; no matter whether our path is very rough and rugged, or smooth, it makes little difference; it is for us to do right, maintain our integrity, honor our calling and magnify it and honor our God and one another, obeying faithfully those who are placed over us. Do I know that Brigham Young is called of God to lead this people? I do; upon the same principle that I knew Joseph Smith was. What can any of us do without God, without His law, and without the principles of eternal truth?

I pray that we may be enabled to work righteousness, and be exalted into heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that we may fear God in our hearts, do the thing that is acceptable to the Most High, prepare ourselves for a celestial inheritance and an exaltation in his kingdom, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PACK TRAIN FOR THE MINES.—A few days since Mr. J. Gammell left this city for the Grasshopper Mines, with a pack train of some fifteen or twenty animals, all of which seemed to be heavily laden with provisions and merchandize. There were only about half a dozen men in the company, but it is reported that there was a material addition to the number before they pass beyond the frontier settlements.

—The grocer who is dishonest in the use of his scales, lies in wait to deceive.