

their tradition clearly points to their origin, that their fathers came from this land and peopled the islands of the Pacific Ocean. Their traditions, their customs, everything, in fact, connected with them indicates and leaves no room to doubt that the Polynesian nations are descendants of the house of Israel. Many of the laws of Moses were observed among them when they were found by the whites—laws which have come down through numberless generations from the days of that prophet. And no one who is not completely prejudiced and darkened through unbelief can doubt the common origin of the Polynesian nations with the inhabitants of this land, the Indians of North America. And there is this peculiarity about them—every one of them is a natural Latter-day Saint. I never yet knew a native with whom I could converse for any length of time but what would admit that the doctrines we believed in and taught were of God; and in every instance nearly where access could be obtained to them they were ready for baptism. However, there are other influences at work among them as there are among the Gentile races. But they are a people ready to believe the Gospel, and render obedience to it, and there is this peculiarity about them that is not about our race, when they become convinced of the truth if they commit sin and have to be excommunicated from the Church, I never knew them to become an enemy to the work, and to be bitter in their feelings against it. With our race it is different. When Gentiles turn away from the truth, when they commit sin after receiving the truth and the light, it seems as though the adversary has great power over them, and they become bitter enemies to the work of God and to the servants of God. I have no doubt this is the case with the Maoris of New Zealand as well as the Hawaiians of the Sandwich Islands, although I have not inquired as to it. But I believe this of those people, and it certainly is the case with the people of our own land. Go where you will among the Indian tribes, as Elders of this Church, and have access to them and converse with them in their own tongue, speaking their language perfectly—as every Elder ought to do who carries the gospel to any foreign nation; for he should seek by the power of God to obtain the gift of tongues to enable him to speak clearly and to the understanding of the people he is sent to labor amongst—and if he does this among the Indian tribes the same results will follow his labors among that people as among the Polynesian races and the Sandwich Islanders. And it is a remarkable peculiarity that wherever the Elders of this Church go carrying the gospel among the descendants of the house of Israel they find friends; they find those who are ready to do every thing for them they can—to receive them, just as the seed of Israel scattered among the nations has done. When the Elders first went to Great Britain

there was a certain class of the English people who were ready to open their doors to entertain them, and do all they could for them to prosecute their ministerial labors. All such were natural Latter-day Saints. It seemed to them when they heard the Gospel first as though it was something they had almost known but which had faded from their memory. It was as natural for them to believe the gospel as it was for them to believe anything they knew absolutely. This was the case throughout Great Britain and Ireland, and it has been the case throughout the Scandinavian nations; it has been the case among the Germanic races that have heard the preaching of the Gospel by our Elders. It has been the case in every land and among every people wherever the Elders of this Church have gone carrying this message of life and salvation, this Gospel of the Son of God; they have been recognized as Gentiles, but their readiness to receive the Gospel when it saluted their ears, bears witness of the fact that they are of Israel.

This, as I have said, has been peculiarly among the Polynesian races. It has been the case, and is the case today throughout all the Indian tribes—a natural affinity existing between them and us; and hence the great jealousy that has arisen in the minds of many people concerning our designs among the Indians. We have been accused of entering into secret compacts with them, and of having base designs against the government and people of the United States because of the friendliness of the Indians to us, while the fact is, we have been all the day long laboring with the Indians to live at peace one with another, and bury the hatchet; and not only do it with regard to their own nation, to have peace between the tribes, but to dwell at peace with the white man, and not to shed blood; teaching them that this is a great sin, and that they should cease that practice and live friendly with all men. But as I have said, the very fact that we have been able to succeed in doing such things with the Indian tribes has been seized upon by our enemies and construed into evidence that there was some secret understanding between them and us, some improper compact, and that we are only using them to accomplish certain ends antagonistic to the people of the United States, or the people outside of our own community.

All this can be accounted for by reading the record which God has given unto us. In this record in many places, besides what I have read to you, it is clearly set forth that these results would follow the translation of this record into our language. And it undoubtedly is the case, wherever the Elders of this Church go bearing this message, and they find those of the house of Israel, they find a people prepared to receive the Gospel; their hearts are open to receive the testimony of the servants of God. They open their houses and bid them welcome to their abodes; they feed and clothe those Elders, who travel without

purse or scrip, and by this the Lord said in the early revelations, you can know my disciples. They are His disciples who did this, His chosen people, His elect who are to be gathered from the four quarters of the earth, as we are told in the Scriptures; and such people our Elders have found wherever they have gone. But it seems at the present time as though the work among the Gentiles was rapidly drawing to a close. Reports from Elders tell us of States that have to be withdrawn from. The Elders cannot find any who are willing to listen to their message. They give us an account of the number of nights they sleep out of doors—a thing that Elders who traveled in former days did not have to endure; but now it is a common occurrence for Elders to sleep without any covering, in fields or under fences, or wherever they can find shelter while carrying the Gospel of salvation and laboring purely for the salvation of their fellow man. I heard of one Elder who reported that he had a large and respectable congregation; the congregation consisted of one large black man—which was the large part of the congregation; and the respectable part was the Elder himself. They have traveled and are traveling and laboring diligently to carry the Gospel to the people; but doors are closed against them, and people's hearts are hardened. Formerly it was not an unheard-of thing to baptize scores and hundreds where now not one is baptized. It is a common thing for Elders returning from the States and from Great Britain, where the Gospel has been long preached, to report having baptized not more than half a dozen adult persons; and if they baptize twenty it is regarded as a great work. In the same length of time in former years hundreds were baptized. Groups of people in one locality have been known to receive the Gospel, and the Elders would baptize on the right and on the left, until they would number hundreds, and they would be gathered out. I can recall many such localities in the United States, and no doubt you can. When the Gospel was heralded there, there seemed to be whole neighborhoods of people all ready to receive it; and after they withdrew themselves and gathered out to cast their lot with the people of God, it seemed there was no room in the minds of those who remained to receive any more of the testimonies of the servants of God, as though they had gathered out everything that could be gathered, and that there was no disposition on the part of those who remained to pay any regard whatever to the testimonies of the servants of God. This is true to a great extent also as to Great Britain. The Elders write of the hard-heartedness of the people and of the indifference about testimonies borne to them; their disinclination to investigate or in any manner show a willingness to receive the word of God—not only indifference about receiving it, but indifference concerning its investigation, their hearts seemingly becoming impenetrable.