

man has induced them to do so, but because of the spirit which they themselves received. This is one of the most extraordinary movements that has ever been witnessed. In some respects it is more phenomenal than the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. They were one people, of one family, and the tradition of their family was that they would leave Egypt and go back to Canaan. But there had been no such tradition connected with us. We had no ideas from our fathers that this was necessary on our part; but it has been, so to speak, a spontaneous action. It has been the power of God that has caused this. Today there are people struggling with hardship in our barren wastes, remote from the conveniences, not to say luxuries, of life, seeking to eke out a scanty livelihood for themselves and their children, when all around them, to the west and the east, are lands that are inviting because of their richness, on which they could make themselves comfortable, if not wealthy; yet they remain true to their convictions. They have come here because they believed it to be God's will that they should come. They become wedded to the soil, and are willing to endure all these hardships, because they believe that God has called them to this mission.

The object that the Lord has set forth in the revelations that He has given for his people to gather, is to escape the judgments and calamities which He has told us and all who believe in the Bible are nigh at hand. Afflictions of various kinds and troubles of a most terrible character are about to come upon the inhabitants of the earth; and we already see some of these in the works of anarchism and in these combinations to which I have referred, which seek the overthrow and destruction of government. In our own republic they are making their appearance. We have disturbances of various kinds today, and they are multiplying. I would not class every secret combination as having for its object the destruction of this government; but there are many of them that do have in view the overthrow of existing institutions.

We have been warned against these things as a people. We have been told that we are gathered out from the nations of the earth purposely to escape these. The Lord has given us an organization magnificent in every branch. There is nothing to be compared to it. It has created fear in the minds of some, because they have seen the strength and magnificence of it, and have feared that if it were put to a bad use it would result in terrible evils. But our organization is from God. Its strength consists in its purity. If it were to be devoted to bad purposes, its strength would depart from it. It would cease to be a power in the earth if it were used for anything but righteous ends. Therefore, so far as our nation is concerned, it has nothing to fear from us. But it is a strong organization—strong for good, strong to accomplish grand results, as it already has done. It has borne fruits that ought to commend it to every man, whether he believes that it is divine or not. The fruits that have attended it in these mountains are of such a character as ought to extort the praise of men. Previous to the organization of this Church the Lord revealed that our form of government was of divine origin; that is, He inspired the fathers of our Republic to do the work

that they did. He inspired the leaders of the armies of the colonies in their war with the mother country, and He crowned their armies with victory. He had a purpose in this. It was to establish a form of government upon this blest land under which religious freedom could be enjoyed to the fullest possible extent consistent with the rights of humanity. We have been taught this. This sentiment has been imbedded in our very natures. There is no Latter-day Saint who does not believe with all his heart that this Republic has been raised up by the Lord; that on this continent He laid the foundations of liberty, not only for the continent itself, but as an example to other nations. Who could conceive of a more glorious form of government than that which we live under, if carried out in the spirit in which it was founded? Liberty for all! Freedom for all! The utmost room for the exercise of man's highest qualities without check or restraint! Every opportunity for human beings to develop themselves or to be developed, and to attain the greatest possible altitude, it might be said, of grandeur. We cannot conceive a better form of earthly government than ours. This is the feeling that we have. We want this government preserved. We want its liberties maintained. We know that if they are we will have everything that we can ask for. Therefore, as a people we are utterly opposed to all forms of organization that contemplate, even in secret places, anything that will effect unfavorably the government of the United States. We are opposed to all factions that look to disorganization or to the impairing in any manner of the form of government and the liberties that we enjoy under it as citizens of the Republic. Our constant effort is to keep our people from joining these organizations. We are opposed to organizations of capital against labor. We are opposed to organizations of labor against capital. Everything of this character that will interfere with the rights of humanity, that will array class against class, and that will embitter the feelings of one towards another, we are opposed to. We know that such leads to evil, and may result in very serious evil, especially to the Latter-day Saints. As members of the church we can have every right, under this form of government, that any of these societies can give. I have heard it said that there were benevolent societies that did so much good for their members. This whole Church is a benevolent society. Our mission is to perform works of benevolence for our people; and not only for those who are members of our Church, but for the whole world, as fast as we can extend these works of benevolence. Our labor is to save the children of men from every evil with which they are threatened; not only spiritual evils, but evils of a temporal character. It is true, we have not reached all that we desire to do. We are poor human beings, even though we bear the holy name of Saint, and are very fallible and weak. We have all the weaknesses of human nature to contend with. They have come down to us as a legacy, it may be said, from our ancestors. We have been born in the world. The traditions, the influences and the literature of the world have all affected us more or less. Though we belong to the Church of Christ, it is hard to separate ourselves entirely from these influences.

But we are struggling to conform to the standard which God has revealed. We have a long road to travel, apparently, however, before we reach the goal of our desire; but the people generally are pressing forward with what zeal and earnestness they can to accomplish this.

The Lord has revealed to this Church a plan that will comprehend everything that human beings can desire. We read many things about what these different organizations contemplate. All of them in their public announcements seem to have some great end to achieve in connection with the human family. Upwards of sixty years ago the Lord revealed through Joseph Smith a plan by which union could be effected of such a character as would remedy the evils that exist now in society. That plan was revealed with great plainness, and various attempts have been made to carry it out. We had here among us a few years what is called the United Order. The object of that was to correct the evils that exist in society; to stop the necessity for capital being arrayed against labor, or labor against capital. We shall continue at work at this as long as we live. We shall endeavor to get the Latter-day Saints to such a condition of perfection that we shall institute a better order of things on the earth than now exists. God has assigned this mission to us. We are the people that can do it, and no other people; for it requires true religion and the Spirit of God to enable men to do it. One of the great laws that Jesus taught was that we should love our neighbor as we do ourselves. Is that attainable under existing conditions among us? I believe that thousands of the Latter-day Saints strive to do it. They want to love their neighbor as themselves; but affairs are in such a condition that they cannot do it very well. The existing order of things is averse to it. But we believe the day will come when we shall show by practical works that we love our neighbor as we do ourselves. We believe the time will come when Satan will be bound. We are laboring to bind him as fast as we can. It is slow work apparently, and it seems as though it would never be accomplished, because it has been the dream of every good and righteous man from the beginning, but they have died without beholding it. But we are taught that the day is coming—and that we are living in the dawn—when Satan will be bound. He will be bound because of the righteousness of the people, and we are doing our best, in our humble and feeble way, to bring this about. But one of the great troubles with us, as with all people, is that we are each man for himself. Each man among us has to contend for himself. If he does not, he is in danger of going down. There is not so much danger as there is in the world, where they are not bound together by the feelings of love that we have; but it is a danger nevertheless among us. In the world at the present time, if a man goes down, he is trampled upon and forgotten. I have often thought that if I were living in the world, as society is organized, with the prospects before it which to my view are so dark and dreary, my heart, if I were a father, would be sick and faint in thinking of the future of my children. Among the Latter-day Saints, however, this is different, although it is not yet what we would like it to be, nor what the Lord designs it shall be.