

among his fellow-servants—to give unto them the Word of God and the counsel that he has from time to time to impart. And so it will be no matter who passes away, or whatever may befall the work of God. He will preserve it, He will overrule sin and disasters, and difficulties and defeats; He will overrule them all for the good of His people and for the glory of His name.

This is a great consolation. By night and by day, in the midst of the severest trials and troubles, it is a great consolation to us to know that this is the case. "I bear testimony to you in the most solemn manner today that God is with His people, that God is with this work, that God will bring forth great glory and triumph to Zion; but we shall have to pass through trials, sorrows and afflictions of various kinds. We shall have to be tested and tried and proved; the dross of our nature must necessarily be cleansed and purified by affliction. If Jesus had to be made perfect through suffering, what shall we expect? Shall we expect that our pathway will be free from difficulties when He, the King of kings, the God of heaven and of earth, had to endure affliction and sorrow, and had to be made perfect through suffering? Why, it would be a most extraordinary expectation for any follower of His to indulge in to suppose that he or she should escape trials and difficulties in view of all that the Savior of mankind had to endure.

My brethren and sisters, God will cause everything there is connected with this work to be so shaped as to bring His purposes to pass. Now, I have been asked, I suppose, hundreds of times by brethren, some of whom are in the penitentiary today, "Brother George Q., when do you think this will cease? How long will this continue? Are we going to be ground out by this persecution? Are we going to be destroyed?" My reply has been "No." When we emerge from this trial, as we will; when these clouds that now darken our horizon, and that make things occasionally look so gloomy, are removed, we shall enjoy a peace, we shall enjoy a prosperity, we shall enjoy an influence such as has never been felt by us before. Just as sure as we live this will be the case.

The Latter-day Saints are exhibiting qualities now in the midst of these persecutions which will yet win the admiration of thinking men all the world over. Do not imagine for one moment that these sufferings and trials of yours are in vain. No great cause ever prospered or gained influence in the earth without sacrifice on the part of those who were its advocates.

This has ever been the case; it ever will be. We are exhibiting qualities in these trying circumstances which will extort admiration yet from the world. The injustice and oppression and violence that we are enduring to-day are heard but little of outside our own borders. We are conscious of it, all of this is familiar to us, and many a tender woman, many a deli-

cate child has been made to feel these things in a manner and with an anguish that are indescribable. No pen can describe what the Latter-day Saints have undergone during the last four years; no tongue can reveal it. But it is recorded on high, and the time will come when a knowledge of it will be made manifest to mankind. At the present time it is confined to ourselves, and very little of it leaks out. But it will come to light. It will be proclaimed upon the housetops; it will tend to remove the prejudice against the Latter-day Saints and to excite sympathy for a people who can so patiently and so uncomplainingly submit to outrages of this character in the spirit in which they have been received and endured by us as a people.

I have not pitted our brethren under these circumstances so much as I have their families. Going to prison is a pleasure comparatively speaking. Why, when a man goes into prison he eats and drinks and lives. There is nothing particularly painful about it if he only reconciles himself to it. I speak now from experience. I went there, I think, the happiest man who ever went to prison; I was glad to get into prison. Strange thing to say; but this is due to circumstances in which I have been placed. I had been arrested. I had been told that I must not surrender; my brethren pleaded with me not to do it. But though I complied, I felt it was due to the people, to God, to my brethren and sisters, and due also to the work as a whole that I should sooner or later face the charges which had been brought against me; and therefore when I had the opportunity of doing so, and going to prison, I can say to you now that I was glad to have that privilege. I felt that it would be easier for the brethren afterwards—I felt that it would be easier in the penitentiary for those who should go there or were there already; and I can testify to you this day that this has been the case. I am glad of it; but so far as imprisonment is concerned the only feeling that made it irksome to me at all was the desire for the day to come when I should have such a privilege as I now have, of ministering in my calling among the Latter-day Saints.

I had not a moment's unhappiness in prison. I think it is an easy life for men who make up their minds to endure it. But not so the women and children; not so with them. They are the ones who are suffering in this persecution—not the men. The women and children are the ones for whom my sympathies have gone out. I have overflowed with sympathy and with feelings, I might say, of admiration, for my sisters in these trials. They have borne themselves heroically; they have gone through this ordeal and have vindicated the character of their sex in such a way as it has never been exhibited in this generation before. Men have trembled, men have done this and the other thing in their moments of weakness;

but to the praise of the women of the Latter-day Saints be it said there is not an instance that I know of, that I can recall to memory, of their failing to meet the issue boldly, confidently, with entire trust in God and with unflinching faith in the principles which they have professed. There may be some who have not done this, but I have not learned of their names. I have heard of hundreds of cases, however, where it has been otherwise, where they have borne their difficulties, where they have stood up and maintained their integrity in the hours of trial and affliction in a manner calculated to almost put the stronger sex, as we are called, to shame. I am thankful for this, very thankful; and they, as I have remarked, are the ones who have suffered chiefly in these persecutions.

But the effect has been marked so far as my observation has gone. Men never loved their families with the intensity of devotion before these persecutions commenced that they have since; women never loved each other so much before; women never loved their husbands, and children never loved their fathers and their mothers, according to my experience and observation, as they have done since this persecution commenced. It has had the effect of cementing us more closely together; it has had the effect of making us feel more one in ourselves—more united than anything that I have ever witnessed among us as a people.

I have spoken about the afflictions, trials, and persecutions that we have had to contend with; but in the midst of all these scenes there is one truth that should be stated concerning the Latter-day Saints, and that is, that they are the happiest people, with all these difficulties, that ever lived upon the face of the earth. I do not believe that such a people can be found anywhere. I do not believe that there is so much happiness enjoyed by any community, however favorably constituted, however many the advantages which it may possess, as by these Latter-day Saints. The reason of this is that when they go to the Lord, if they are in trouble, if they are perplexed, if they do not know what to do, He hears and answers their prayers, and gives unto them glad hearts. They ought always to have cheerful countenances; they ought to be an exceedingly happy people; and I believe they are. We have every reason to be thankful. Where can you travel on the face of the earth and see such union and such love exhibited and enjoyed as you find amongst this people?

Have we faults? Yes, very many, but even those who are opposed to us bear testimony to our union. Why; it is only a few days ago that I read of a testimony borne down the street, that this was the greatest and best organization, and that we were the best organized people on the face of the earth. Well, now, I have had that testimony borne to me many times, and by men who were not of us. I remember a very distinguished member of