

dom, what do you say? Has not the Apostleship, restored by the ministrations of holy angels to the earth, brought you from the ends of the earth to the unity of the faith in this land? Where will you find a people more united? Nowhere. That is one of its fruits. Another is, it is for the perfecting of the Saints. I leave it to the Latter-day Saints to say whether the teachings and the labors of the Apostles in your midst have not led to greater perfection among you. You are our witnesses and God's witnesses to this; for you know for yourselves whether these have been the results that have followed or not. If you have followed the teachings of the Apostles, you have not been carried about by every wind of doctrine; nor have you been deceived by the cunning craftiness of men. None of you have been misled in this way. But you have been guarded against this. God has placed Apostles in the Church for this express purpose. They are not self-chosen. God knows, and you know, that those who bear the Apostleship have not sought this authority. Do you think that we are presided over by a man who has sought this office of himself? We all know the man too well to suppose that Wilford Woodruff would ever, if he had lived to the age of Methuselah, have put forward his hand to guide this work of our God. God has preserved his life and spared him to this people, clothed with the Apostleship of the Son of God, to lead the people, just as He did John Taylor, just as He did Brigham Young, and the others who have been associated with them. I appeal to you, ye Latter-day Saints, in conference assembled, to know whether these are not truths that I am speaking; whether you have not had in your midst the evidences of the divine origin of this work and of the authority which presides over this Church. God has borne testimony to this by the fruits that have followed our ministrations. I include myself, although I consider myself unworthy to be in the ranks of these men. God has blessed the people in listening to the counsels of His servants. He has brought us to these mountains and built up a mighty people here. We have erected temples, and have gone into them and performed ordinances which God has revealed. Where else can you find these things upon the face of the earth? By whom are such doctrines taught? What would you do for your dead, if it were not for the light that God has revealed through the Apostleship concerning the plan of salvation for the dead? The whole world is groping in darkness regarding these matters. They cannot tell what shall be done with the heathen, or with those who have died in ignorance of the Gospel of Christ. Yet they teach that there is no other name given under heaven whereby man can be saved, excepting the name of Jesus. Already some ministers of Christendom are rejecting the doctrine that salvation is confined to those alive, thus following in the wake of the teachings of the servants of God. But how shall we know these things if the heavens are as brass over our heads, and if there is to be no communication from God to man? "Oh," says one, "we might receive it, if it came from some other source than it does." Now, it is a peculiar feature of the work of God in all ages that He chose men for this purpose. He did not send angels to minister unto all men;

but He chose men to minister unto their fellow men. The prophets are men, and full of failings and frailties. Even the Son of God, perfect as He was, was not recognized among men as divine. Now, God has chosen men in this day. Although they may feel unworthy of such high honor, and that He could have chosen probably better instruments, nevertheless God has chosen them, and He will honor them in the eyes of the people, if they will be humble. He will make them His mouthpieces to declare unto the children of men His word and will. He will fill them with the Holy Ghost, and the people who listen to them will be led in the path of salvation, and be delivered from the many evils that are coming upon the inhabitants of the earth.

My brethren and sisters, these are solemn truths, I would like to arouse faith in your hearts. I say to you that the sick can be healed, and are healed, in this Church, and the prayer of faith is heard. The proper way for people to receive an answer to their prayers and to have the blessings attend that are desired, is to obey the ordinances of the Gospel. Do not go straying after false gods. Do not be looking after those who have no authority, but are false guides; for I tell you that they will lead those who follow them down to destruction. I do not care how holy they may profess to be; I do not care how many miracles they may profess to perform; I do not care though they may be the sons of the holiest men that ever trod upon the earth, if they do not keep within the lines which God has prescribed, I tell you that they will lead those who follow them to destruction. I bear testimony to this, and am responsible for it. It is not miracles that are the sole evidence of the truth of anything. We have been taught that from the beginning. But it is the spirit and power of God when it is poured out upon the people, uniting their hearts, filling them with love, prompting them to confess their sins one to another and to the Lord. These are the fruits that we see in these valleys among the people who keep the commandments of God. When you hear men begin to doubt, and say, "Well, I don't know about this, or that," it is an evidence that they are in the dark; for if they would live in the light God would bear testimony to them by the power of the Holy Ghost concerning these things. I therefore say to all who are here, if any of you have felt in your hearts that you would follow what I call false gods—false lights, false teachers; if any of you have felt to weaken in your attachment to the work of God and to entertain doubts concerning its validity—I ask you this afternoon to repent truly and sincerely of that, and turn to God with full purpose of heart and with a determination to serve Him all the rest of your days. If you ever had the love of God in your hearts, and that inexpressible joy that God gives unto those who keep His commandments, you know it is sweeter than the sweetest honeycomb. There is nothing on earth sweeter than the spirit of God when it is enjoyed by a humble Latter-day Saint. And God has placed this within our reach. He has opened a fountain to us at which we may drink until our souls are filled to overflowing. I say to you that Satan would tell you nineteen truths and would perform nineteen miracles to get you to accept one untruth and to take a wrong step. That is

the kind of power he exercises. Do not be deceived, my brethren and sisters. Try the spirits, and see whether they are of God or not. Cling to the authority of the Priesthood, which God sent. His messengers to bestow upon man. If you do so, I will assure you, as a servant of God, you will be led back into the presence of God and the Lamb, there to dwell eternally and to receive that glorious reward which He has promised unto the faithful. God grant unto us that we may receive this, that we may never step a single inch from the path which He has marked out, nor do a thing that will grieve the Spirit of God, from this time henceforth and forever. Amen.

Written for this Paper:

### THE GREAT AMERICAN BRAIN.

WASHINGTON, March 14, 1894.—I dropped into the National Library last week and asked Mr. Spofford, the librarian, to sell me something as to the condition of the great American brain. He informed me that it was boiling as it has never boiled before. We are turning out books by the hundreds and newspaper and magazine articles by the thousands every year, and the copyrights asked for continually increase. Said Mr. Spofford: "There are more than twice as many copyrights asked for every year now as there were ten years ago, and the United States has never been more intellectually alive than it is today. In 1892 there were more than 54,000 copyrights issued, and the publications of 1893 exceeded those of 1892. Nearly every thing of importance is copyrighted now, and we have copyrighted lectures and newspaper articles as well as books. The number of magazines is increasing, and there are now more than a thousand literary reviews, magazines and periodicals in the United States. The increase in other classes of literature has been almost as great, and there are now more than 600 scientific periodicals and a large number of professional magazines. We are making many new books and the National Library increases in size every day."

"Speaking of new books, Mr. Spofford, are there many great works produced by new writers today?"

"There are few great books produced in any age," replied Mr. Spofford. "Great geniuses are born, not made, and the generation is happy which sees more than one or two of them. I think this is an age of compilation rather than of creation. The great American prose or poetic genius is yet to be born. We have had some creative writers of the past, but the greatest of them are now dead. Longfellow, Emerson and James Russell Lowell have passed away, and the only one who can really be called great among those left is Oliver Wendell Holmes."

"How about Washington as a literary center? Is there much literary work done here?"

"Yes, there is a great deal," was the reply. "This is one of the intellectual centers of the United States, and there are a number of authors who live here. Thomas Nelson Page has lately purchased a residence on Massachusetts avenue. Frances Hodgson Burnett lives a little further down the way, and this is the home of Henry Adams, the historian, Col. John Hay, Mr. Nicolay and a score of other well-known literary