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DISCOURSE

By ELDER GEO. Q. CANNON, de-Evered in the Tabernacle, S. L. City. December Sth. 1889.

REPORTED BY JOHN GRIMSHAW.]

I desire to read, this afternoon, a portion G of two revolations, which were given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, in February, 1831. The first is paragraph 4 of section XIII:

authority, and it is known to the church ber of elders, among whom were some of priesthood held the keys of baptism and so that he has authority, and has been reguthat he has authority, and has been regu-larly ordained by the heads of the church."

Also paragraphs 1 and 2 of section fourteen:

"O, hearken ye elders of my church, and give an ear to the words which I shall speak unto you; for behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye have received a commandment for a law unto my church, through him whom I have appointed unta you, to receive commandments and revelations from my hand. And this ye shall know assuredly that there is none other appointed unto you to receive commandments and revelations until he be taken, If he abide in me.

from him, he shall not have power except to appoint another in his stead; and this shall be a law unto you, that ye receive not the teachings of any that shall come before you as revelations or commandments; and this I give unto you that you may not be all the evil remarks, all the calumny, all deceived, that you may know they are not of me. For verily I say unto you, that he denunciations applied to the prophet Josfore, to teach those revelations which you have received and hell and hell have received, and shall receive through him whom I have appointed."

It is a good thing for us, as a people to let our minds dwell upon the principles ish, in fact their conduct only tended to ish, in fact their conduct only tended to increase it and to make his life, and his unto us by revelation in this, as well as every deed more odious in their estimain preceding ages. The Lord, in His whom they published his deeds. This was goodness and merey unto His children, also a peculiarity which attended all who has not left them in ignorance concerning aimed to lead the church without having had ministered unto him, though he had the plan of salvation, nor the manner in the authority so to do: the plan of salvation, nor the manner in the authority so to do: which He intends His church to be built up. He has revealed unto us many prin-Rigdon, who contended that he had the ciples for our guidance, and they are essenti- right to lead the people. The Church was ally necessary to enable us to grow and increase in the things of His kingdom; for in these days, as woll as in preceding days, as the apostle has said, there are many spirits gone forth into the world and there are many influences brought to bear upon the minds of the children of men. There are many creeds, doctrines and views propagated industriously by those who entertain them, and unless we cling to the truth and pursue the path which our Heavenly Father desires His children to walk in. with all our claims, and the promises which have been made unto us, we are as liable to go astray as any other people. If we treat these things as matters of no importance, and are careleas and negligent in relation in that which we believe, and to those whom we follow, we are sure to err. There are some principles which have become firmly rooted in the minds of the Latter-day Saints. It is a difficult thing to cause them to doubt in relation to faith in the Lord Jesus Obrist, repentance of sin, baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. These principles seem to be clearly them, they were hailed with seeming plea-understood, and in them the people are sure and satisfaction. Men bade them apparently fully indoctrinated; and though men may deny the faith, in one sense, and turn away from the path of rightousness, and dissolve their connection with the church, yet they will eling, in most instances, to what we term the first principles of the Gospel of Christ; and it is a very rare thing to see those who have been members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints turning away and join'ng what we call sectarian churches. If they leave this church, it is an exceedingly difficult thing for them to connect themselves with other denominations, because the scriptums are so familiar to them, the principles contained therein are so plain to their understanding that, unless there is some speculation, some mercenary or other end to be gained by their alliance with people of other creeds, they are very apt to stand aloof; that is, where they have a thorough understanding of the principles of the and when they get into the dark, there is probably no point upon which they differ the authority that is exercised in presiding. This is a point that the adversary always aims at. I suppose it was so in ancient days. We read of false prophets then, and also of men turning away; and there is no doubt but what the rock upon which they split was the question of the right and authority of those presiding over them. It seems as though the adversary, in the day in which we live, seeks, by every means in his power, to undermine the influence and the authority of the man whom

everything pertaining to him was canvassed and held up, in many instances, to public scorn and ridicule. Such has continued to

feited the right to lead."

the hatred, slander, bloodthirstiness and consorted with them, became very brother-

ly, very fraternal, and looked upon them as very good, clever fellows. But the hatred towards Joseph did not dimin-

day of his death. All those who were mem-bers of the church during his lifetime, can bear testimony to this. Other Elders were comparatively lost sight of they were mere-lylloaked upon as satellites. He was the great object of suspicion. His name was the watch-word of the foes of the Kingdom of God; and mobs banded themselves to-gether in unhory compacts, in order that they might bring to pass his overthrow and shed his blood, imagining that, if they could only kill him, this work, which men could only kill him, this work, which men call "Mormonism," would crumble to pieces, because there would not be cohe-siveness enough in the system to hold it to-gether after the master-mind had disap-peared. But no sooner did he pass away than all this hatred, all the derision, ani-mosity, calumny and slander, which had been directed to Joseph, was transferred to Brigham Young, and he was made the ob-ject of vituperation and the targetfat which every wicked man should shoot. His deeds and character were paraded abroad, and everything pertaining to him was canvassed gift, to some extent, is distinct from the priesthood. Joseph had received the prophetic gift and he exercised it and he acted be the case from the days of the prophet as such prior to his ordination. But when CIII: Again I say unto you, that it shall not
Joseph up to the present time. There were others during Joseph's day, who professed to have the authority which
the time came for him to be baptised, then a man who held the keys of that priesthood came to him and laid his hands upon Jobe given to any one to go forth to preach my gospel, or to build up my church, ex-had once possessed. At one time, in the cept he be ordained by some one who has early days of the church, there was a num-to officiate in the Asronic Priesthood, which

the First Presidency who banded them- John had the right to baptise when he selves together and declared that Jo-- was upon the earth; he held the keys of seph was a fallen Prophet, that he had that priesthood. He baptised Jesus by virtaught correct doctrines, that he had been tue of the priesthood which he held; and the instrument in the hands of God, of re- those keys had not been taken from him. the instrument in the hands of God, of re-vealing the truth and of bringing forth the Book of Mormon, restoring the holy priesthood and of organizing the church; but that he had failen. The doctrines which he had first taught were correct, they said, and the position which he first assumed was acceptable in the sight of God; but through some cause, he had strayed from the path and had become a failen pro-phet. Said they, "we now have the right and the authority which he once had. We have the right to organize the Saints, to But verily, verily, I say unto you, that have the right to organize the Saints, to none else shall be appointed unto this gift work of which Joseph was the founder, but the wide expanse of the earth from continent except it be through him, for if it be taken which, through transgression, he has for- to continent and visited all the nations of the earth and enquired of them if there

blood of the Saints. There was one peculiarity, however, con- | was a man in their midst who had the nected with these pretenders, which dis tinguished their course from that pursued claimed the authority which was exer-by Joseph: Instead of being the subject of cised in olden times by Peter, James and cised in olden times by Peter, James and John, and the rest of the servants of God; ingly a slight relaxation of bitterness but you would of heard no response in the and it was found that the same power which of me. For verily I say unto you, that he denunciations applied to the prophet Jos-that is ordained of me shall come in at the eph, singular to state, when you take into and said: "I have this authority." Through-fore, to teach those ravelations when you bethe part of mobs recommenced with rehomedan and Pagan world, you could not newed vigor and bitterness, and they swore have found a man who protessed to have this authority. No; it had been driven from the midst of mankind by the violence of wicked men, who, shed the blood of those who held those keys and that authority; and it had gone back to God who gave and dwelt there; for the men who held t dwelt in the presence of the Almighty. Hence, when Joseph Smith desired baptism, though angels had visited him and

plates of the Book of Mormon, until the ormen who hold them and authorize others brethren," he used to say,-"elet us finish tinually, preaching unto them the import-ance of completing that building, so that therein the ordinances of life and salvation might be administered to the whole peotherein the ordinances of life and salvation might be administered to the whole peo-ple, but especially to the quorums of the holy priesthood; "then," said he, "the Kingdom will be established, and I do not Kingdom will be catablished, and I do not

These were his expressions oft rep in the congregations of the Saints, telling the brethren and sisters of the Church, and the world that he relled the Kingdom on to the Twelve, and they would have to round up their shoulders and bear it off, as he was going to rest for awhile, and many other expressions of a like nature, the full meaning of which the Saints did not real-

Prior to the completion of the Temple, he took the Twelve and certain other men, who were chosen, and bestowed upon them a holy anointing, similar to that which was received on the day of Pentecost by the Twelve, who had been told to tarry at Jerusalem. This endowment was bestowed upon the chosen few whom Joseph annointed and ordained, giving unto them the keys of the holy Priesthood, the power and authority which he himself held, to build up the Kingdom of God in all the earth and accomplish the great purposes of the says: "My sons and daughters, I have build up the Kingdom of God in all the bart of a father he says: "My sons and daughters, I have the says in the says: "My sons and daughters, I have the says in our Heavenly Father; and it was by virtue chosen this son, your elder brother, to act His coming.

quorum of the Twelve, presided over the you would your father and to submit your- our hearts and households. Church.

towards the Saints, on the part of the ene-

thority.

The enemies of the work of God had done their worst in murdering the Prophet in cold cold blood, and they supposed that in killing him and taking him away their actions would prove a death knell to what they called "Mormonism;" but they little knew or understood that God had left the watch over unduring your absence." It might be argued that those children,

same power on the earth which Joseph wielded with such potent effect The rains had been transferred to others, who were prepared to wield that power, and to step each one taking his or her own course, and and it has been a constant lesson to me, forward and take the responsibility upon them of carrying forward the work of God. Hence, there was no diminuition of hatred, slander and persecution on the part of you as parents and as children, brethren the faith. I have never seen it otherwise. mobs and those who wished to shed the and sisters, do you not think you could You may trace the history of this people

cisely my position to-day.

Brigham Young, our President, has been out several charges against the brethren of care: but there must be rule, there must be authority.

heard the voice of God and Jesus Christ, though he had been called to be a prophet, he had not the right and the authority to go forth and administer the ordinances of bap-tism, neither had any living soul, to do it legitimately. It was necessary that he

ped. There is a difference between obedience | ence. The word of the Lord Almighty Las and idolatry, or worship. There is a difference between submission to the will of God – at least, I can perceive a difference—and obeying God's counsels through a man, and idolizing the man himself, and we have perceived this difference. the work of God. The Lord will expose

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suppose a case. Suppose a man who has a kingdom of God to take away the life of His servant Joseph, as He did of His servant Joseph he has a he did of His servant Joseph he has a h be called on a mission to go abread to preach the gospel of Christ, and had to be absent for years; the members of the fam-is in full force. Joseph had lifted up his ily, during his absence would be left to voice in solemn warning to the inhabitan's themselves. But suppose he had a choice of the earth, and declared that God had son whom he loved, and who had been im- spoken in these latter days. But his blood plicitly obedient to him all the days of his and that of other holy men and saints was life, and whose course had taught him to respect his judgment, his honesty, his truthfulness and the integrity and justice past ages, cries unto the Lord for vengeauce. of his character, and that in the most try- The very earth itself groans under the ing circumstances he had never failed to weight of wickedness and corruption that honor himself, God, his family and to hon-or his father. Now, as he is going away to a far distant land, he takes this son aside and says to him: "I will place you in charge the free of the great day of vengeauces all come, when wickedness shall be utterly swept from the of my family, and leave you to watch ever-their interests in my absence, that while Elders should proclaim the gospel to every

of this authority, on the death of Jeseph, in my place while I am absent. I wish you for this preparation we should give out that President Young, as President of the to obey him and respect and honor him as whole time and labor to the purifying of We should selves to his dictation in all things." The labor to purify our cities and settlement family consent. They say "We will do as labor to promulgate the principles of right you desire, father. We will honor your cousness and to establish truth on the fudgment and choice by honoring and obey- | earth and seek to bring to pass the Zion of ing our brother whom you have chosen to God in its fulness and perfection.

These are the labors which devolve upon us. Tuink not, my brethren and sisters. by complying with the wish of their father that because God has chosen earthly vessels in this matter, would sacrifice their agency. to hold this power and authouty, that there-Do they not exercise that volition just as fore you can treat lightly the holy Priestmuch by obeying that son as they would by hood. I have noticed from my boyhood, saying "I will judge for myself, as to the correctness of whatyou say and will differ from you whenever I please." Let me ask Priesthood of this Church invariably deny blood of the Saints. After the death of Joseph, while the Twelve were in the East, there was seen-ingly a slight relaxation of bitterness exercise my agency just as much by obey- had fallen. Since his death they excuse ing him as by disobeying him. . This is pre- their conduct by saying that Brigham has gone astray.

Brigham Young, our President, has been But when the Lord spoke to Joseph about chosen by God as His representative here falling, he said he would have authority to on the earth, among His sons and daught- appoint another in his stead, and that no ers. He has been selected for this especial one would have the right to act except he calling, The Father is not present in per- was ordained by authority, or came a the Twelve. So warm did this persecution become, that the houses of President Young and his brethren had to be guarded, and each one had to take care of himself, as his blood, and particularly President Young's, was sought with just as great eagerness and blood-thirstiness as Joseph's had previously been. This ought to have ters. We are all alike before God; He loves keys, and His blessing will f now the ad-

fourteen years of age, he said, and it had legitimately. It was necessary that he the right to choose a guardian, to lead the people and conduct its affairs as its President, and he would be that the same object. He had angels, he said, to visit him; I do not know but he told the names of the angels; but, if my memory serves me right, he affirmed that Joseph appeared to him, blessed him and pestowed upon him the keys and the authority. He also showed a letter bearing the postmark of Nauvoo, which he pretended had been written by Joseph, giving him (Strang) the authority to preside over the Church, in the event of anything happening to him. Others stood up in a similar manner: John E. Page, Lyman Wight, William Smith, and afterwards,

Charles Thompson. All these men arose, claiming that it was their right and privilege, by ordination or by special appointment, to take charge of the Church. But the Church then, as on many occasions previously and since that time, was able, through the light which its members possessed, to discriminate beween the voice of the true and false shepherd.Still this peculiarity,-being hailed as brethren by the wicked, characterized them, in Nauvoo, as their predecessors in New York, Kirtland and Missouri. Instead of being hated and calumnisted, and men seeking their lives and persecuting "God speed" and urged them forward to claim the rights they called their own. But against Brigham Young, our President, the old feeling of animosity, that had been entertained against Joseph, existed with as great bitterness and intensity in the minds of the enemies of the Kingdom of God as had it existed during the lifetime of

Joseph against him. President Young, according to the statements of the wicked, re-enacted all the evil deeds, as they were termed, that had been attributed to Joseph, and for which they killed him. Brigham became the inheritor of all that animosity and hatred that had been manifested towards Joseph during his lifetime; and when Joseph slept in a bloody grave, the enemies of the Church turned their attention to Brigham Young, his legal

If the Saints had wanted evidence in relation to who was the right man and who had the authority, the very fact that the world hated, reviled and persecuted Brigham should have been sufficient evidence that he was taking the path which Joseph had trod, and that his course was pleasing in the sight of Heaven, and conseuently hateful in the eight of Hell.

Heaven for the salvation of mankind; and that he should claim the authority, through Why, the same gospel Jesus had and to die" of Mr. Thorne was a very creditable except it be through him, for if it be taken which he referred; the same gospel that performance. Mr. Hardie's "Rodolfo" and which he referred; the same gospet that His apostles had: a gospel of power, a gos-pel of blessings, whose priesthood had power and authority from God. It is the same gospel that is now being taught, and which has to be preached as a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come. God intervention of the state of the same gospel that the end come. God intervention of the same gospel that the end come. God intervention of the same gospel that the end come. God intervention of the same gospel that the end come. God intervention of the same gospel that the end come. God the administration,-first of John the Bapfrom him, he shall not have power except to appoint unother in his stead; and this tist,-and then of Peter, James and John, shall be a law unto you, that ye receive not the teachings of any that shall come before you as revelations or command-ments; and this I give unto you that you the apostles. The keys of this priesthood were stowed never more to be taken from the earth; hence, in the revelation I have read, provision] were made by the Lord that Joseph, in case he should fall, should or-dain another in his stead, and he should have authority only, to lay hands on and set apart some one to act in his place, in case he should prove unworthy. Thus, stowed never more to be taken from the may not be deceived, that you may know they are not of me. For verily I say unto God has called to preside over His people. you, that he that is ordained of me shall from will observe, you may perceive in If you will observe, you may perceive in have told you before, to teach those reve-what direction the shafts of the adversary lations which you have received, and shall che taings which God is doing and is about to a do in the midst of the inhabitants of the earth. For this purpose they go to Europe, to the West, to the Islands of the Pacific, to Asia and Africa, and they will yet traverse every country on the face of the whole earth. The millions of Asia will yet hear the glad tidings of salvation from the El-ders of Israel. The yoke of bondage is being broken and the nations are being freed from the grasp of despotism and ty-ramy. Japan now opens her ports; China begins to extend her invitation to western divilization, and the time is near at hand by the Elders of Israel, will re-echo from one end of the earth to the other, for it must be preached as a witness unto all nations. We may engage in this work with all our thearts in view of the glorious reward that is promised unto the faithful; or we may fight against it and use our every power to con-stant as its overthryw; it makes so differ-tion the piece. are almed. In the days of Joseph, he was the man against whom all the enemies of truth hurled their malicious shots; his life The Lord here made express providence the man against whom all the enemies of truth hurled their malicious shots; his life truth huried their malicious shots, his is life influence was desried. He was the targe at which every arrow of caumay and he manner in which the kays of the kays of the bring ind the manner in which the athority hat he manner in which the athority ind the manner in which the athority their hard and decision, to be scoffed at any same was talked about, but not as at present, but Joseph's name occupied every man he was a store the bard of the real to call them, and the store are accumated and trilled. The Lord here made express provision at every the decision, to be scoffed at any same was talked about, but not as at present, but Joseph's name occupied every man he was a store the store are about to be scoffed at a system through Joseph's and every the source they must have a unitority the oracles had been given through Joseph's and is every the first of the reserved to contention every of the follow the store and the first of the source of the store and the manner in which the source of the sour bility of his falling away. He was a young man, and like every man, he was apt to get lifted up in the pride of his heart; there-fore, God reminded him that he only held the keys as long as he should be faithful to

should be ordained; it was necessary that Territory of Iowa into the far distant West, those keys should be restored; and hence how proper it was for John, who held the guardian. James J. Strang also aimed at keys and had had been beheaded by a wicked king, should come and restore them? Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery testified that John came and laid his hands upon their heads and bestowed upon them the power and authority to administer in the holy ordinances of the gospel.

When they were baptized, and had received the authority to administer in that ordinance they did not attempt to lay on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost; that was a separate and distinct power from the Aaronic priesthood. John says, in the third chapter of Matthew, eleventh verse: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

John did not profess to have the authority to lay on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We read in no part of the scriptures of his exercising any such authority. He had the authority to baptize, the power which pertained unto his priesthood, being a descendent of Aaron, and baptism was one of the ordinances which pertained to the Aaronic priesthood; but he had not the right to lay on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. It was necessary that that authority should be conferred; but who held that power in ancient days? Why, Peter, James and John, who had been ordained by Jesus to the Melchisedec priesthood, or the priesthood after the order of Melchisedec, and having exercised that authority while on the earth in the flesh, they came bearing the keys of that Melchisedec priesthood, and laid their hands upon Joseph Smith and ordained him to the power which he subsequently

held, as the President or head of this great and last dispensation of the fullness of times. By virtue of those keys he was empowered to lay hands on those who were baptized in the name of Jesus, by legal suthority, and to confirm upon their heads -upon the heads of the honest in heart, the blessings of the gospel and by virtue of these keys they had the right to build up the church of God in all its ancient purity and glory, and to preach the gospel in its fullness, with its gifts and blessings, and to send men abroad as ministers of life and salvation to the nations of the world, the same as Peter and those associated with him, Said Jesus: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Peter therefore held those keys. What wonderful consistency on the part of the Lord, that He should descend from heaven and confer those keys on men here on the earth! There are men who say that Joseph was an unlearned imposter; but how strange it

every Latter-day Saint in the land, who had the spirit of God, knew the voice of the East made preparations, some to go round by sea and some to go by land, and join the camp of Israel on its westward march. The land to which we were hastening was new and unknown to us. The masses of the people did not know whether it would be in the wilds of the desert, on the tops of the mountains or in some place that would be delightful for man's habitation. These were subjects that did not concern the people who were thus called to forsake their homes. The Saints sold what they could, which, however, was very little indeed, for their enemies took possession of their property, and they started westward, following the man whom God had chosen,

and whom they recognized as God's anointed. There were those who went back to Pittsburg with Sidney Rigdon, and to Voree, Wisconsin, with Strang; and also those who tarried in Nauvoo with Wm. Smith and John E. Page. There were others who followed Thompson and other pretenders; but the main body of the Saints were not te be deceived by these pretended shepherds. They knew the voice of him whom God had chosen and followed him, confident that they would be led aright and brought te a place of safety; and though they were in deep poverty, and it seemed as though the prince of the power of the air had exerted all his malignity to make their travel difficult, the land being deluged with water; yet they did not faint by the wayside, for God was with them, His angels were round about them, and His spirit was poured out upon them, and they had a tes-timony which gave them the conviction that they were in the right path; and when history records that wonderful deliverance and march, it will be a matter of the utmost surprise and wonder to posterity that it was ever accomplianed, and that the people of the world, in seeing it, were not smitten with a conviction of the truth of the work, and of the divine authority of the priest-hood which led the people in a pathway of safety, through the wilderness, at that time. The songs of Zion ascended from the camps of Israel and peace brooded over the people. Barefooted, and in many instances beople. Barelotted, and in many many houses hungry, they traveled on with their faces westward, their faith failing not; for, as I have said, the angels of God were round about them and His spirit was upon them;

to this then wild and forbidding region. Since we have been here, He has bleased us as a people. He has spread us abroad, and caused us to extend North and South, gospel. But there are other principles more ad-vanced with which the people are not so familiar, and of this the adver-ary seeks to take advantage; and when men deny the fai h, they are apt to deny the e principles; us and help us to sustain the priesthood. mere eating and drinking and the pleasures and to follow its requirements, that eventand His peace and blessing have attended the labors and the administration of the and enjoyments of life; although these ually we may be saved in His kingdom, is things are very good and necessary in my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen. the labors and the administration of the Elders in our midst. The keys of the priesthood have been fully honored; not by Man alone, but they have been honored by God; and the exercise of that authority which God bestowed on Joseph Smith by the ministration of holy angels, has been a blessing to many thousands in this land. We have had peace, we have had good gov-ernment, and the songs and prayers of the Saints have ascended up from their habita-tions unto the Most High God, and Heaven has been moved in our behalf, to bless and preserve us and give us victory and deliv-erance in every time of trouble; and when we have been threatened with any difficuland this gospel is being carried to all the take in relation to the keys that had been bestowed by Peter, James and John upon nations of the earth, and a kingdom is be-THEATRICAL .- The "Actress of Padua" was played in good style last evening. Kate ing established more frequently than that which relates to Joseph; and that we may not be deceived Jesus said that this gospel, should be Denin's "Thisbe" was a clever piece of is that, if an imposter, he should take the exact course, established in the economy of He gives this rule: preached as a witness to all nations, and acting and elicited applause. The "Homo-"But verily, verily, I say unto you, that none else shall be appointed unto this gift hen should the end come. What gospel?

earth.

cumstances which caused Brigham Young the true shepherd, and those who were in to be President of the Twelve. Reflect on Smith, the Lord says: the remarkable combination of events which made him the leader of Israel, showing plainly, in my mind, that long before cree, by the will of the Father, that mine he was born, yes, probably before the earth apostles, the twelve, which were with me in was organized, Joseph Smith and Brigham my ministry at Jerusalem, shall stand at Young were chosen, the same as Jeremiah my right hand at the day of my coming in was. The Lord said to Jeremiah: "Before a pillar of fire, being clothed with robes of I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; righteousness, with crowns upon their and before thou camest forth out of the heads, in glory even as I am, to judge the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee | whole house of Israel." a prophet unto the nations." This is my opinion about the leaders of Israel in the they should wield. The same authority latter days. I believe they were chosen to has been renewed in these days. Says one act in this capacity; and God, knowing their |"I do not like this sort of thing; it is priest integrity, and afterwards proving them to ly rule and dominion, and I object to it. the uttermost in the flesh, has greatly blessed them. See the blessings that have fol- to submit to it." Yet a man can be a demlowed the administrations of these men in ocrat, and a lover of freedom and liberty

the joy, and the knowledge we have concerning the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for the meagre and vague ideas of God and His kingdom that prevailed before the has given unto us those precious blessings. He has gathered us together from the na- His yoke is easy and His burden light. tions of the earth; He has multiplied upon who idolize riches.

Let me assure you, brethren and sisters, if there is anything in our hearts that in- in remitting the sins of men and women terferes with our complete love of God and through baptism, the ordinance which God our reverence for Him and His work, we has set in His Church for the remission o shall have to banish it, or sooner or later sins, and conferring upon them the Helv we shall lose our standing in the Church of Ghost? If God sends such mighty power, God; for He wants a people who will ren-der implicit obedience to His laws and the requirements of His gospel, and who will Shall we murmur and contend against i? love him better than any earthly thing, and God forbid, and forbid that we should even place a higher value on the gifts of the spirthan on worldly possessions or even life

The Lord has proved to us, in the midst of the many trials and difficulties with which we have had to contend during our brief existence as a Church, when surround- when we honor His laws we honor the and at no peried of their history was the power of God more exhibited than during that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time when God led His servant ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were that trying time the persecutors of the Saints were threaten the persecutors of the Saints w ed, when the persecutors of the Saints were howling like a pack of ravening wolves for the blood of this people, that there is some-thing far more precious and estimable than

Man shall sit ou the throne of his glory, ve also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging Look at the singular combination of cir- | the twelve tribes of Israel."

In a revelation given through J. sould

"And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, and it hath gone forth in a firm de-

This is the authority which Jesus said I am too much of a democrat in my feelings our midst. Who would exchange the peace, and enjoy them to the fullest and honor the priesthood. There is a difference between priestcraft and priesthood. Priestcra. builds up itself, it is not authorized of God Priestcraft oppresses the people; but the people became acquainted with it? God priesthood of God emancipates men and women and makes them free. Jesus says

We talk of power, and object to the undue us abundantly joys more precious than gold exercise of authority. But think of the or silver, namely, the riches of eternity; He power given in ancient days, and which has has given unto us wisdom and knowledge been restored in these days, that man and peace; He has proved to us most effect- exercises when he goes forth into the ively that there are riches more precious water and baptises a person! Do you ever and far more estimable in the sight of God think of the greatness of the power thus exand good and virtuous men than the per-ishable things of this world. He has built for baptism emerges from the water and up a kingdom in which these things will has hands laid upon him for the reception be held at their true value, for He will of the Holy Ghost, do you think of the pow-cleanse from the midst of His people those or that God has entrusted unto men on earth when they exercise that holy ordinance? Do you think of the power exercised turn aside and fight against Him or His cause in any manner,

My brethren and sisters, my prayers are that God will bless us as a people and sanctify us to walk in all humility and meekness before Him, honoring His laws; for land in equity and truth. We will honor men in their place; we will honor the Gov-ernment and everything that is just and honorable and true. That God may sustain