

ORATION,

BY

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The day we celebrate. This is the third anniversary of the entrance of Israel's pioneers into the land of our possession; the third anniversary of the day on which the plough first turned the sods of this valley, since the Records of Nephi; a day fraught with greater interest to the family of man, than any other, since the death of Jesus, and that excepted, since the birth of Adam.

Had Adam not been born, his great family had not existed; had Jesus not died, there had been no Savior; were there no kingdom of truth, liberty and freedom, the principles of life and salvation could not be applied to man; and Adam's birth and Jesu's death would alike have produced anniversaries of wailing and wo; but, as it is, these events are alike glorious, with this, the day we celebrate, the birth of the Latter Day, never dying Freedom.

For six thousand years, or since the days of chaos, the sons and daughters of Michael have been multiplying and walking to and fro on the earth, seeking a resting place; a country of liberty, freedom and equal rights; and occasionally, for a short period of time, with long intervening intervals, a portion of them have enjoyed the object of their search; but as yet, Enoch and his little band, are the only ones left on record, who have succeeded in overcoming their internal and external foes, and of enjoying their freedom until they had become so perfected in the intelligence and privileges granted unto them by an Allwise Creator, that they were fit, as a people, to be transplanted to a more heavenly soil; but they could not diffuse the principles of righteousness they enjoyed among surrounding nations, and earth was no place for them longer to rest.

Adam, Moses and Elijah, Abraham and Solomon, Nephi, Jesus and Peter, and a host of others, in

their day, sought to establish the principles of freedom, so that they might remain perpetually to future generations, but sought in vain. So great has been the wickedness, so intense the darkness that has spread itself over mind, that the Apostles and Prophets, Revelators and Saviors, that have arisen, sent of God in successive ages, have been banished, or martyred; and the celestial light that shone through them, was only permitted by the wicked, to shine on earth, long enough, to make darkness doubly visible, such as might be felt.

All the ancient prophets and righteous men saw, by faith, that a day of righteousness, a day of freedom, would come on the earth; and they sought to establish it, but wickedness prevailed and forbid. The day of Righteousness referred to, is one in which men can worship the God of Abraham, the father of the faithful, in spirit and in truth, with no one to molest or make afraid; and while this day exists, all men will have the privilege of worshiping their diversified gods, in any way they choose; provided they will not disturb their neighbors.

Righteousness and freedom consists of a disposition to do right, and the privilege of living according to that disposition; but to men who do wrong, there can be no freedom; they are bound by the power of the devil, and the more perfect the law under which they live, the greater their bondage; while the man, who lives under the administration of righteous laws, and does right, lives above the law, and is free; he does just as he pleases, all the time, for he is never pleased to do wrong; consequently the law has no claim on him, and this is all the freedom there is worth living for, in heaven, on earth, or in hell.

The Prophet Daniel foresaw, many ages since, that, in the Latter Days, the God of Heaven would set up a kingdom that

should never be destroyed, and the same God, having his eye on the same kingdom continually, knowing there was no government on earth that would suffer His infant kingdom, which he was about to set up, to exist in their midst, inspired wise men to write a constitution, as the foundation for as free, independent and glorious a government as man was then capable of enjoying; and which was adopted as the constitution of the United States of America, more than sixty years since.

While the principles of that constitution prevailed, while men were governed by them, justice was executed in equity, man was free, and truth looked abroad and rejoiced in the freedom of the people; and, in process of time, God sent his Prophet, in the midst of that people and commenced his work; a work long before predicted, even the establishment of a kingdom that would insure righteousness, liberty and peace, to all the inhabitants of the earth; The constitution, principles and government of which, should control the rulers as well as the ruled;—and make every man amenable to a higher power; securing universal liberty to right; and ensuring universal destruction to wrong.

But under the administration of the American constitution, the inhabitants of the Union had so corrupted their ways before the Lord, and imagined up unto themselves so many strange gods, that there was little space in their midst for the reception of truth; so that when the Prophet Joseph began to proclaim the fulness of the everlasting Gospel, as revealed to him by the angel flying through the midst of heaven, very few could receive it. The hearts of men were so generally turned towards idols, that it cost him years of hard labor, to establish the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, with only six members, on the 6th of April, 1830; and so great has been the ignorance, idolatry, su-