

uttered; public speakers confined their remarks to denouncing traitorous officials who were prostituting the powers of their positions to accomplish nefarious ends. Criticism of the acts of United States officials was not considered then, neither is it now, as treason against the nation nor as hostility to the Government. In this connection we may say that the members of our Church have never offered or intended to offer, any insult to the flag of our country; but have always honored it as the ensign of laws and liberty.

We also declare that this Church does not claim to be an independent, temporal kingdom of God, or to be an *imperium in imperio* aiming to overthrow the United States or any other civil government. It has been organized by divine revelation preparatory to the second advent of the Redeemer. It proclaims that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Its members are commanded of God to be subject unto the powers that be until Christ comes, whose right it is to reign.

Church government and civil government are distinct and separate in our theory and practice, and we regard it as part of our destiny to aid in the maintenance and perpetuity of the institutions of our country.

We claim no religious liberty that we are unwilling to accord to others.

We ask for no civil or political rights which are not granted and guaranteed to citizens in general.

We desire to be in harmony with the Government and people of the United States as an integral part of the nation.

We regard all attempts to exclude aliens from naturalization, and citizens from the exercise of the elective franchise, solely because they are members of the "Mormon" Church, as impolitic, unrepugnant, and dangerous encroachments upon civil and religious liberty.

Notwithstanding the wrongs we consider we have suffered through the improper execution of national

laws, we regard those wrongs as the acts of men and not of the Government; and we intend, by the help of Omnipotence, to remain firm in our fealty and steadfast in the maintenance of constitutional principles and the integrity of this Republic.

We earnestly appeal to the American press and people not to condemn the Latter-day Saints unheard. Must we always be judged by the misrepresentations of our enemies, and never be accorded a fair opportunity of representing ourselves?

In the name of justice, reason and humanity, we ask for a suspension of national and popular judgment until a full investigation can be had and all the facts connected with what is called the "Mormon" question can be known. And we appeal to the Eternal Judge of all men and nations to aid us in the vindication of our righteous cause.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LORENZO SNOW,

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M. W. MERRILL,

A. H. LUND,

ABRAHAM H. CANNON,

Members of the Council of the Apostles.

JOHN W. YOUNG,

DANIEL H. WELLS,

Counselors.

#### A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER.

THESE are times that try men's souls. The elements of the spiritual world seem to be in commotion, in correspondence with the tumult of the material elements and the upheavals in society. We are approaching nearer and nearer to the grand consummation. The tribulations of the latter days, predicted by the Savior, are upon us as har-

bingers of "the end." Patience, endurance, firmness and faith are essentials to our victory over the powers of evil, which are raging with great wrath because they know they have but a short time.

The opposition waged against the Latter-day Saints, which in some respects is continuous, bursts out anew at different periods and requires extra exertion on their part to meet and overcome it. Such a time is the present. It seems as though the floodgates of the nether regions had been thrown wide open to let loose the foul tide of calumny and the fierce forces of the Evil One.

At the same time inducements, seductive in their nature and alluring in their tendency, come by way of temptations into paths of apparent ease and plenty, to win the Saints to the side of the world, with the flesh and the devil drawing in the same direction.

Clouds, trials, difficulties, struggles, contumely, disfranchisement and the world's hostility threaten on the one hand, while the siren's song of sunshine, pleasure and sensuous drifting down the smooth stream of life is heard on the other.

A clear head, a strong heart, a firm spirit and undoubting faith are needful to every Latter-day Saint in such seasons as the present, lest failure befall, and those who have manfully withstood previous trials be overcome by those of the present, and so lose the great reward.

We all need the sustaining Hand of Omnipotence, no matter how strong we may be, or how well equipped for the battle with "principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places." If God be with us we are sure to prevail. But of ourselves we cannot hope for victory. It is therefore necessary that we humble ourselves before the Lord and seek, in faith, that aid without which we will be weak indeed.

We are pleased to announce that the First Presidency of the Church have set apart the next anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith—December 23rd, as a day of fasting and of solemn prayer. All the Latter-day Saints throughout these mountains are requested to join in supplicating the Lord, on that day, for His Holy Spirit to be poured out in great power upon His servants and all the Saints, as a witness that He is still with them. Also that the enemies of Zion may be confounded in their wicked works and designs, and that