

Can any of these Apostles? Taken as we have been from the plow, the plane, the hammer, and the various occupations of life, can we boast we have power to do this? We cannot; we are not made of that material. The only marvel I have had all my life has been that the Lord ever chose me for anything, especially as an Apostle and as President. But that is His own business; it was not mine.

My name has been referred to two or three times by the Apostles with regard to my labors. I want to say something in relation to that. To begin with, I will say that the Lord has never set His hand in any age of the world, especially in ours, to establish a Zion like this, without preparing an element for it. In fact, the Lord never undertook to do anything with regard to this world, appertaining to His kingdom and work, until He had prepared a people for it. Now, the set time had come for the fulfillment of the revelations of St. John, when another angel should fly through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to them that dwell upon the earth, "saying with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." The time, I say, had come for the manifestation of the Gospel of Christ to the world. The Apostles of Christ and every man that bore the Priesthood in their day and generation were put to death for the word of God and testimony of Jesus, and the Holy Priesthood was caught up to God, and remained there until the day and generation in which Joseph Smith was raised up. He was ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood by John the Baptist, who held the keys of that Priesthood while dwelling in the flesh. He was ordained to the Apostleship by Peter, James and John, who held the keys of that Priesthood when they were taken from the earth. That was the beginning of this work. The Lord could not undertake a work of this kind without there was a way and a people prepared for it. In the first place, the Lord prepared the minds of men of the generation in which Joseph Smith was born, that they might be ready to receive His work when it was established. There were men that were kept in the spirit world thousands of years to stand in the flesh in this generation to bear this Holy Priesthood and to bear record of that to the inhabitants of the earth. Those men have been born in this day, and they have been moved upon to prepare for this work.

Now, I desire to say something about myself. It is generally considered egotism for a man to speak of himself; but I speak of my history, and experience because it is applicable to thousands of others. Eighty years ago, when I was about eight years old, I attended Sabbath school under Dr. Porter, a great reverend divine in Farmington, Connecticut. There I read some strange things in the New Testament. What were they? Why, I read of Apostles; I read of men who laid hands on the sick, and they recovered; who cast out devils, raised the dead, caused the dumb to speak, the blind to see, the lame to leap, who held converse with God and with holy angels, and had visions and revelations. Brethren and sisters, I read of these things when I was eight years of age. They made an impression upon my mind as soon as I read them. "Why is it, Dr. Porter,—why is it, Dr. Haws,—why is it, gentlemen, that you do not

advocate in your day and generation that faith once delivered to the Saints? Why don't you receive these things, if they were the servants of God and had the Gospel?" "Oh!" said they, "these things are all done away with. They were given in the dark ages of the world to convince the world that Jesus was the Christ. We live in the blaze of the glorious gospel light of Christ; we do not need them today." "Then," said I, "give me the dark ages of the world, if they will give a man power to unlock the door of eternity and hold converse with God, and receive these blessings and gifts manifest in that day." From that time my inspiration began. As soon as I grew a little older I began to read the revelations. My soul was drawn out upon these things. In my early manhood I prayed day and night that I might live to see a prophet. I would have gone a thousand miles to have seen a prophet, or a man that could teach me the things that I read of in the Bible. I could not join any church, because I could not find any church at that time that advocated these principles. I spent many a midnight hour, by the river side, in the mountains, and in my mill (being a miller,) calling upon God that I might live to see a prophet or some man that would teach me of the things of the kingdom of God as I read them. I remained in that condition until the year 1833. I was living with my brother on the shores of Lake Ontario. A man by the name of Zera Pulsipher, sixty miles from where I lived, was moved upon in the month of December, with the snow three or four feet deep, to arise and go to the north, the Lord had some work for him there. He called upon another man to go with him. They traveled two days on the road to the north, not knowing where they were going. Our house was the first place that they stopped at. I was lumbering at the time on the shore of the lake. Zera Pulsipher told my brother's wife who they were and what they were, and what their principles were. He said the Lord had sent him into the north country to do some work there. My sister-in-law told him that her husband and myself both believed in the principles that he taught. Well they held a meeting. I went to it, and for the first time in my life I heard a Gospel sermon. I invited the men home. I borrowed a Book of Mormon, and sat up all night and read it, and I had a testimony it was true. In the morning I asked to be baptized. Myself and brother were baptized—the first in that region of country. From that hour till this I never have had one moment's doubt with regard to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I know the work is true. I have been called into the vineyard and ministry with the rest of my brethren, and I have traveled a great many miles and quite a number of years. I have held the Apostleship fifty-eight years. Brother Joseph only held it some fourteen before he was slain. Brother Brigham held it about forty, and Brother Taylor about the same length of time as myself. I have labored all these years and I know it is the work of God. I know the Lord is with this people. I have a desire that we may magnify our callings and fulfill our position upon the earth. God has organized this Church; He has organized it with prophets, apostles, pastors, teachers, helps, etc., in fulfillment of the promises of God in the last days. I traveled with Joseph Smith

quite a length of time. I traveled with Brigham Young forty years, at home and abroad. I traveled with him to this country. We came with the pioneers. Brigham Young, though he never wrote many revelations, had the revelations of God with him from the day that he embraced this work till the day of his death. I have often thought of the time when he was asked if he would not go on to California instead of stopping in this barren land. What was his answer? I was with him when he gave that answer. He said, "No, I am going to stay right here. I am going to build a temple here; I am going to build a city here; I am going to build a country here." Has it not been so? Yes, it has. Was it not by revelation? Certainly it was. We have all been called from this low position in life to the Priesthood. Thousands of this people have been called to go abroad to preach the Gospel. In speaking of myself and the manner I was led, so we find it everywhere throughout the world. Where did you come from? You came from every state in the Union; from England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Ireland and other parts of Europe, as well as from the different nations of the earth and the islands of the sea. One of these simple Elders came to you and you heard him preach the Gospel, and he promised you if you would repent of your sins and be baptized for the remission of them, you should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Did you not receive it? You did, or you would not be here today. Nobody could then keep you at home. We have been gathered together by the commandments of God, and so far we are trying to do the will of God. But we have only just begun. I was at the concert here last night, and I could not help but think that if President Young had been there and looked upon that vast assembly of ten thousand people, gathered not only from this territory but from neighboring states and territories, he would have felt satisfied. When he built this Tabernacle we did not have people to fill it; but he told us that in the building up of Zion we would never have a house big enough to accommodate us however large we might build it; and so it proved last night. I enjoyed the concert. Governor Thomas invited me to address the assembly; but I felt that people had gathered there, not to hear preaching, but music.

Let me speak a little further with regard to the Lord preparing a people for this work. The history of this whole people is in that line. I will refer you to the year 1840. The Lord gave a commandment for the Twelve Apostles to go to England. There had a few gone to England before; Brother Kimball and several others went in 1837 and established the Church there. But in 1840 the Apostles were called as a body to go there; and the devil did not like it. He tried to kill us all. There was hardly one of the Twelve Apostles who went that was well. When I left home President Young paddled me across the Mississippi in a canoe, and I was suffering with the chills and fever. I had spent two years in Tennessee and Kentucky, in the midst of sickness; but I never had an attack of chills and fever in my life till I was called to go to England. It was so with most all of us. The devil did not like it; but we went. It was the harvest time then in that land. We accomplished a great work. We