

deaths; there has not been great physical suffering. But there has been great mental torture, and I do not know but that is as difficult to bear as physical torture would be. It is not so visible to mortal eyes, but it is none the less real, and I believe that the mental torture which has been endured has been an acceptable sacrifice to the Lord. It has fallen upon those least able to endure it—upon women and children. But in this we may rejoice, for the purposes of the Lord are being worked out. I believe it is right that we should give such strong testimonies of our fidelity to God. The accusations against the Saints have been most bitter, and I believe the Lord has required of the Saints a testimony that cannot be misunderstood—and that testimony has been faithfully borne. Rather than cast aside those dearer than life, men have unhesitatingly gone to prison, and for their religion's sake women and children have been exiled. I do not envy those who have the disposition to gloat over the sufferings of a people like the Latter-day Saints; I would not reduce the glory such men anticipate reaping from their work of oppression and persecution. They are welcome to all the honor and glory they can get. But before they get through I think they will learn they have undertaken no light task.

Jesus said it was better for a man to have had a millstone tied around his neck, and be sunk into the sea, than offend one of those little ones who believe in Him. We believe that in the providence of God the truth will prevail, and those who have served Him will receive a glorious vindication over those who have sought to do them injury. The Saints can afford to patiently continue in the path that leads to eternal life.

The Church of Christ, no less than the individual members, has had a glorious experience during the last few years, and has again demonstrated the fact of its divine origin—that it is indeed the tree of God's planting. The object of our enemies has been neither more nor less than the destruction of the Church of Christ—enemies who, by misrepresentation, have secured the enactment of adverse legislation. They have succeeded in disincorporating the Church and confiscating its property. "Confiscate" may be too strong, for this is a day of soft words, and they call it "escheat." Be that as it may, they have taken the property from its rightful owner, to divert to other purposes. But the Church is still here; not a Stake has been removed, not a quorum destroyed. The various organizations of the Priesthood still remain unaffected by the enemy. I can but rejoice at the triumph of the work of God. Not a single leaf has been plucked from the tree of God's planting. The Church has stood unmoved in the midst of hate, and when the fury of man has subsided it will still remain unshaken upon its divine foundation.

Our Father holds in His hands the destiny of all nations, and will overrule the actions of men for the

accomplishment of His purposes. The work of our God is nearing the goal of success. It is going rapidly forward. I refer not alone to the work the Saints are accomplishing; we have not the only forces which God has at His command. There are other characters to work out the great drama of life. The great plan of redeeming the earth and its inhabitants requires development by means beyond our immediate contact or control. For illustration, some of the dogmas that were believed in by professed Christianity are today discarded before the light of advancing intelligence. The truth is destroying the errors of the past, and light is being shed abroad among the children of men. I can hail those who are spreading truth, no matter how few grains they may possess. I rejoice to think the time will come when men must acknowledge the source of these gems of truth that are pervading the world, for they all emanate from our Divine Master.

The Latter-day Saints believe that the Constitution of our country was the result of the labors of wise men, inspired to formulate that instrument. One feature in it was entirely new to the world—the nice adjustment of the powers of government between the national government and the States which composed it. Since then this feature has been introduced into the constitutions of various nations, and the principle is being applied in different degrees. Thus the way is being prepared for the formation of the grand empire of the Kingdom of God. The great developments of science are also tending towards this result. The circumstances of the world are changing. The peace of Europe has been maintained by the agreement of three great nations; and I believe that the time will come when the nations will see the necessity of a ruling power that will forbid war, that its consequent horrors may be avoided. I think the day will come when the nations of the earth will give allegiance to a central power, just as the various States give allegiance to our grand Union.

All things are combining for the accomplishment of God's purposes. The policy of nations, the discoveries of science, the growth of inventions, all are leading up to the great development that has been foretold by the Prophets of God. I should be happy to be able to say that the great Millennium will be ushered in without violence. But there are also predictions that the nations will beat their plows into swords and their pruning hooks into spears before the reign of peace. For this the world are preparing. Continental Europe today is but an armed host, ready for this condition; and desolation and misery have been foretold for this age.

It is for us to pursue the Gospel path, if we would avoid the judgments that are coming upon the earth. It was the part of Abraham to complete the sacrifice, and it was God's part to provide the ram in the thicket. It is for the Latter-day

Saints to adhere firmly to the divine principles entrusted to their care, and it is for God to bring them deliverance, and protect them in the path of duty.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON said:

The condition of affairs surrounding the Latter-day Saints, as described by Elder Roberts, the speaker said, was remarkable. The Church, as had been said, was certainly a witness for God in the earth; and it was a noteworthy fact that principles taught by the Latter-day Saints, which had met with ridicule, were now winning their way rapidly among men; the doctrine enunciated by the Prophet Joseph Smith, which had been looked upon as heresy, was now being accepted as orthodoxy. This was notably the case with regard to the doctrine of repentance after death. The speaker said he was prepared to believe now that baptism for the dead—vicarious labors on the part of the living on behalf of the dead—will yet be accepted by the religious world. In many ways the truths revealed to the Prophet Joseph and taught and practiced by this Church were leavening the world, and bringing forth good results. Occupying the position we do, we laid ourselves open to the charge of fanaticism; but then, the fanatics of one age became the beacon lights of the succeeding generation. It has been so in the past; it will be so in the future.

The speaker then related a conversation he had had a few weeks ago with a prominent gentleman from the east, the remarks of Elder Roberts having reminded him of the circumstance. The gentleman had come down through Cache Valley, and had noted the improvements, growth and general appearance of the valley; and, being a gentleman kindly disposed toward us, he said he wished for our sake we were beyond the jurisdiction of the United States. His reason for this was, that he thought a conflict was in course of development which would end in the destruction of our religious institution, and may be our expulsion as a community. President Cannon said he reminded the gentleman of a conversation he had had with him twenty years ago, and, singular to relate, he expressed at that time precisely the same fear and the same wish. The speaker said the reply he made to the gentleman twenty years ago was that no matter where we might settle, the qualities possessed by the Latter-day Saints were such as to make it an attractive spot to which the world would be drawn. So that if we would escape persecution by avoiding contact with persons opposed to our faith, we would have to go outside the habitable globe. On being reminded of this the gentleman thought it a singular coincidence that he should have repeated himself in this respect after the lapse of two decades.

The speaker mentioned this by way of corroborating what had been advanced by Elder Roberts, that notwithstanding the opposition arrayed against us from the begin-