

prophets said: "When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants thereof will learn righteousness." And I do not expect to see the world cured of its evils until they do learn righteousness, and learn to honor and respect the laws of God. There is but one foundation upon which men or nations may build permanent prosperity, and that foundation is nothing less than the foundation of righteousness and judgment and truth. The world cannot get along without observing these things any more than we can, and they have that lesson to learn. And while financiers and statesmen may patch up these difficulties that now exist, heal these little sores, quiet these little fears, I venture the suggestion that it will only be temporary relief, and that the evil will make itself apparent somewhere else. For the evils that are abroad in the world are constitutional in their character. They have become chronic. It is a world that has gone wrong, and it will require a God to set it right. The wisdom of congresses and of parliaments will not be sufficient. The wisdom of man cannot cope with these evils, and men will yet learn that they must turn unto the Lord God of Israel for deliverance. So that instead of expecting to see the troubles of the world grow less, I believe they will increase. We have got in that condition where we will get much worse before we become permanently well. We may expect to see calamities in the world multiply. The judgments of God are following the testimony of the Elders of Israel. The Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ have been going to and fro in the world for the last sixty years, warning the inhabitants of the earth of those things that were coming upon them, and have in season and out of season cried repentance to this generation. Last week we read of a fearful cyclone that passed up the Sioux river valley in the state of Iowa. I was especially interested in that matter because that was my old field of labor, in fact, my first field of labor as a missionary. I read how that terrible tornado whipped out of the ground an iron pipe. There was only six feet of it above ground; yet so terrible was the storm that it took that pipe and twisted it out of the ground and carried it away. The same storm wrenched out of a threshing machine its steel cylinder and carried that off; and it swept out of existence an entire village. When I read of these terrible calamities that overtook the people of that locality, I could not help but remember the labors of myself and other Elders who traveled and warned them of these terrible storms and cyclones that were coming. In correcting some misstatements that were printed in one of the Sioux City papers, we took occasion to warn these people of the threatened judgments of God, and called upon them to repent. The editor published our communication, and in an editorial note said that he did not publish the letter because he had taken alarm at the Mormons' warning, but he had published it that the people might know that there was a good deal of folly and ignorance in this world, and that a great amount of it was connected with Mormonism. My letter afforded a theme of merriment to them. Well, I wondered when read-

ing of that cyclone if they had forgotten the warning we had given. I suppose, they had; but the disaster came nevertheless.

We are told that after the testimonies of the servants of God cometh the testimony of wrath and indignation, of tempests and earthquakes, and these shall testify of God's power, until men are brought to repentance. I believe the Lord meant what He said in this. I believe that He is not to be mocked by this generation. I believe the things decreed will have their fulfillment, however painful they may be. Latter-day Saints, are you aware of what a splendid testimony we have been bearing to the nations of late years? The hand of the Lord is visible in it. It seems to me He has taken it in hand Himself to make the entire people bear witness to the great things that He has predicted through His servants. Mormonism has been having a pretty good hearing among men of late; and the last few years have been more fruitful of testimony bearing than any other period of time in the history of the Church. Some people have looked upon the last few years of our experience as unfruitful in accomplishing the purposes of God. Some have gone so far as to think that we have been actually in retreat, and that we have been losing ground. I think we are shortsighted indeed if we take such a view as that.

To illustrate what I mean, let me call your attention to the experience of Paul. You know his history; you know how at one time he was a persecutor of the Saints and sought to destroy the Church of Christ. You know that on his way to Damascus he was overtaken by a vision of the Lord, and the Lord put this very pointed question to him: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" And he said, "Who art thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." When he learned that he very humbly enquired of the Lord what He would have him do, and he was told to go into Damascus and it should there he told him what he should do. You know how he was visited by one of the servants of the Lord and the ordinance of baptism administered unto him; and how afterwards it was rumored about that this great persecutor, who had been casting the Saints into prison, was now an advocate of those things he once sought to destroy. You know how he labored at Antioch; how he went up to Jerusalem to confer with the brethren there; how he traveled throughout Macedonia and Greece, establishing churches at Athens, in Corinth, in Thessalonica, and in other great cities; and by and by you know how the horizon about him became suddenly dark, and he was persecuted on every hand until he himself exclaimed that bonds and imprisonment seemed to threaten him in every city. Finally, in order to escape from the wrath of the rabble, he surrendered himself a prisoner to the Roman officials, and he had to languish for years in prison. While suffering these imprisonments, once in awhile there would be a Roman governor or king come along, and the governor holding him in ward would tell him of this man Paul who had been left in bonds

by his predecessor, and would ask the visiting nobleman if he did not wish to hear him. So Paul on these occasions was brought out in his chains, and he had the privilege of standing in the presence of judges, of governors and of kings, and proclaiming the word of truth. By this means the word of the Lord was brought home to the great and high ones. They were not to be left without a testimony of the Gospel any more than the poor and the lowly; and this seems to be the method that the Lord had to bring His Gospel to these great ones of the earth. They would not listen to the poor fishermen of Galilee; but to Paul, in chains and a Roman prisoner, they would listen; and he preached the word very effectually. Before Governor Felix he reasoned so masterly on righteousness, temperance and judgment to come that the haughty Roman turned pale and troubled. On the occasion when King Agrippa came into Judea, surrounded about by the members of his court, and Paul at the invitation of Festus related to them the vision he had received of the Lord Jesus Christ, and reasoned upon faith and the resurrection, Festus cried out, "Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad." To which Paul answered, "I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness." Turning to the king, he said, "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest." Then Agrippa said unto Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Paul said, "I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear us this day, were both almost and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." Thus was the power of God with him, and thus was the Gospel preached to governors and kings. Since Paul's persecutors continued to seek his life even while a prisoner, and seeing no prospect of obtaining his freedom from these petty kings and governors, he appealed to Cæsar's judgment-seat.

Not only these petty governors and kings, but the purple-robed emperor of Rome must hear the testimony of the great apostle of the Gentiles. The Lord brought Paul through all these scenes of trial, but in thus leading him through affliction he made him a witness to the great and mighty ones of the earth; and I know not how the Gospel would ever have been preached in the palace of the Cæsars but by adopting some such method as this. Paul had a pretty hard time of it; but in walking along the path of fiery trial he was contributing much to the accomplishment of the purposes of God; and it was a consciousness of this fact which made him exclaim, "I glory in tribulation." So it has been with us. Traveling without purse and scrip in the earth, footsore and weary, without influence, how long would the Elders of Israel have been compelled to work by these methods before they could get the Congress of the United States to have listened to an explanation of Mormonism? A long, long time. How long before the Senate would have devoted days and days to hearing explanations of the Mormon faith? A good long time. How long before the Supreme Judges of the United States,