

and thus was restored to the earth once more that great authority and glorious power which the Son of God had bestowed when in the flesh. I doubt not that the angelic hosts rejoiced and every heart that surrounded the throne of God was gladdened at the thought that once more on earth were men to be found clothed with the eternal authority of the everlasting Priesthood, by means of which men should be led from the lowest depths of ignorance and sin back into the presence of the Great Eternal! No doubt peans of joy resounded throughout the vaulted heavens when that event took place; for it was an event pregnant with more importance to the children of men than any which had taken place since the days of the Savior. When that authority was restored in its fulness, then the Church was organized. Men and women were baptized and received the Holy Ghost, and officers were ordained in the Church. The organization was not completed all at once; but the authority to complete the organization was there, and as the Saints increased in numbers, so the organization of the Church increased in perfection, each officer being appointed and ordained as the necessity arose for that office to be filled.

Now, it was a new thing in the earth. It startled Christendom. Up to that time no one had pretended to say—at least very few—that there was not all necessary authority on the earth. The religious world looked to the Bible. They asserted that it contained the entire word of God. Nothing more was necessary. God had completed the canon of scripture. There would be no more revelation from Him. Everything had been given that was necessary for man's salvation. And the inference was that God, having done this, had retired from any active participation in the affairs of the earth, and had left the whole business to men. Therefore, it was a startling declaration to have anyone say that God himself, accompanied by His Son Jesus Christ, had revealed himself to man once more; and equally startling was the statement that angels had come, and that the authority of the Priesthood had been restored again to the earth. These were astounding declarations to the great bulk of the people. Of course, there were honest souls who rejoiced at this proclamation. They had been searching for the truth. Dissatisfied with the existing order of things, they were yearning for the restoration of that power, and were anxious to find men who held and exercised it. Therefore, their hearts were gladdened by the intelligence that God had spoken. It was almost too good to believe. But they investigated it. They prayed unto the Father about it. The result was, they received testimonies concerning it, and embraced the Gospel. But at that day—sixty-four years ago—there were very few men in Christendom who dared to say that God would speak from the heavens, or who believed that such a thing was possible. Revelation from God was a thing of the past. It belonged to ages anterior to this. The ministers of religion contented themselves by making these statements.

How was this new declaration received? Let me call your attention to this. During the first persecution against the Saints of God in Jackson County, one of the main charges made by the mob was that Joseph Smith was ac-

cepted by the "Mormons" as a prophet, and that they believed in revelation from God. It was about as strong an appeal as could be made to the prejudices of the age, to arouse intense hostility against the people. This shows how the people felt at that time. But I heard Joseph Smith predict that the day would come when there would be false spirits go forth among the children of men, and that they would deceive them. I remember on one occasion his speaking about the false prophet that should call down fire from heaven, and he warned the people in the most impressive and solemn manner against being deceived by these works that should be wrought to deceive the children of men. It was only two years after his death that spirit-rapping commenced in Rochester, New York. We had been driven out here in the wilderness, and we did not know much that was transpiring in the eastern world. But I happened, while on the Sandwich Islands in 1851, to get hold of a book that had been issued by spiritualists, and I was surprised at the manner in which they presented their claims to the public. Arguments that our Elders used they had taken and revamped, so to speak, and adapted them to their ideas. A more deceptive book in the interests of falsehood and false doctrine could not, in my opinion, have been published. And from that day until the present, belief in spiritual agencies and manifestations has spread and increased, until at the present time there is scarcely a person to be found who does not believe that there is something connected with man that he can use to bring him into close and intimate relation with the spirit world. Since that day there has been a wonderful stride taken in this direction. The world has been progressing—if that can be called progress—in a most remarkable manner. Theories that prevailed when the Gospel was revealed and the Priesthood of the Son of God was restored have been discarded, and today the popular magazines are filled with communications concerning these occult powers that are being brought to light. Talk to men about dreams and visions and spiritual manifestations, and they admit that such things are possible; but they cannot explain them.

This is one of the results that followed the revelation of the Gospel and the bestowal of the authority of the Holy Priesthood. The doctrines taught by the Elders have had their effect. They have been received, to a greater or less extent, in the world, without the source from which they came being acknowledged. I hear that there are advocates of what is called Christian Science in our midst. I hear that they creep into our houses and lead silly women astray by telling them of wonderful things that can be done by means of Christian Science. A few days ago a father came to me and told me about two of his daughters, one of whom had been afflicted and had been told by some of these persons how she might be cured. Now, that is a comparatively new doctrine in the world. It was not heard of until the Church, of Christ was organized. We taught this, and were persecuted for teaching it. Every kind of obloquy was thrust upon us, because we believed that there was a power, which God would give to those who obeyed His commandments, that would result in the healing of the sick, the casting out of devils, and other miraculous things.

But a great change has come over men. Satan has been busy. Men say, as the Book of Mormon says they would in the last days, that there is no hell, and no devil. Satan is whispering this into the ears of the children of men; and today there are thousands of people who do not believe that there is any hell, or any personal devil. Nevertheless, there is a personal devil, just as sure as there is a personal God. He has not a tabernacle; but he is a living entity, and he is endeavoring to destroy the work of God by producing imitations of it and showing unto the inhabitants of the earth that they can obtain power without obeying the laws of God. Wherever spiritualism has a foothold faith in God decreases. Whenever you see a Latter-day Saint begin to dabble in spiritualism, you will find that he begins to doubt the atonement of the Savior and the redemption wrought out by the shedding of His blood, and the doctrine of the resurrection of the body. These are signs that accompany spiritualism. Satan is laboring with all his might to lead men and women to these conclusions, binding them in chains of darkness and leading them down to everlasting destruction. It is the same with Christian Science, whose doctrines are being insidiously spread throughout the country. They are publishing books and circulating them gratuitously and endeavoring to undermine the faith of the people in the ordinances of the Gospel and in the words of Jesus contained in the New Testament. They tell the sick not to believe they are sick, to exercise their will power, and to consider sickness as imaginary; and we are told they are doing mighty works in healing the people. I would not be surprised at that, because I know that Satan is almost capable of deceiving the very elect. I believe that Satan can make himself appear to those who cannot discern, as an angel of light; and if he has that power, he has power also to deceive men and women in the flesh by performing mighty works. Was not this done in the days of Moses? Was not Pharaoh's heart hardened by the works of the magicians? He did not believe that Moses and Aaron were servants of God, but that they had a little more skill perhaps than his magicians had. So it is now. Satan is capable of deceiving the people.

I want in this conference, before we separate, to lift my voice in warning to the people of God against these insidious advances—against spiritualism, against Christian Science and against all such isms, however much they may profess to be of God. I hear that men who claim to be the Reorganized Church say that they have power to work miracles. Perhaps they have; but that is not evidence of the divinity of their cause, or that they are the authorized servants of God. This evidence is to be found, my brethren and sisters, in the blessings that God bestows upon His people. Read the words that I have read in your hearing. Remember them. The Apostleship has been placed in this Church to lead men to the unity of the faith. That is what Paul said in ancient days concerning the Apostleship. What have been its fruits today? What have been the fruits that have attended the restoration of the Apostleship in this Church? Has it not led all who have been guided by it to the unity of the faith? Latter-day Saints here assembled from almost every nation of Christen-