

He has waited, in loving kindness, for someone to appear through whom He could lead the race back to its proper allegiance to him. There is neither illegality nor usurpation in the thought of the Mormon Church as to the man-made governments of the world. They are simply the best that "fallen man," delinquent taxes, so to speak, could produce under the circumstances and were to be superseded by better just as soon as God could find a man and followers who were worthy to do the work of resurrection, as it were.

Personally, I believe that the Mormons, in their earlier years, went a long way towards doing that very thing. I believe, and assert without fear of contradiction, save through such an unreliable organ as the *Salt Lake Tribune*, and, of course, it is understood that I speak and write as a sceptic in supernatural things, that never since the early ages has there been such a manifestation of the power of *faith* on earth as was shown among the early followers of Joseph Smith. We have the record. There is neither room nor reason to doubt it. Manifestations were given, works were done that are, simply, beyond the comprehension of so matter-of-fact a mortal as myself. Following those manifestations came an astounding influx of converts. Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards, Brigham Young and others went out and made converts to Mormonism in a way that is incomprehensible to such poor sticks as myself. Yet, as I look at it, Buddha, Mahomet and others had done equally wonderful works for God and humanity ages before.

In all ages "God" has produced MEN who have been a GOD'S WORD to the world of man. They have had a hard time because they have been far ahead of the average of their age. Joseph Smith was one of those men. Because he was far, far ahead of his race, it killed him, as, 1800 years before, it killed Jesus; as, 2400 years before, it killed Socrates; as it has ever condemned the Messiahs of the race in all times. But I want to add, and I do it only because I am interested in the progress of our race more than anything else on earth, the Mormons are, in my opinion, going the way of all others who have attempted a reform of the world. That is, having started out as inspired of God to set forth a new light to the world, they are being overcome by the world, and are allowing avarice, love of wealth, to overcome their faith in the principles of liberty, justice, truth and fair play and to blind them to the cause of humanity, which was the motive power of their wonderful success in the early years. I believe that if God ever gave His word and will to mankind and established a priesthood for its guidance and subsequently withdrew His gifts on account of the apostacy and wickedness of the people, as the Mormons say He did, He can and will withdraw His power and gifts from them just as far and as fast as they prove recreant to the trust imposed upon them.

Love of wealth is a blessing only so far as wealth is used for the good of the race. Love of wealth for place and power and the sham aristocracy of clothes is degradation and a curse to the world. Peter Cooper, heretic though

he was, was far nearer to God, was far more a power of God in the world, was far more a Messiah to mankind than any religionist can ever be who lives only to amass wealth for the aggrandizement of himself alone.

The Kingdom of God on earth means the perfection of the human race. Just as fast as human beings arrive at that state of mental and moral development that will make them recognize the brotherhood of man and scorn to treat any man other than as a brother, we will have men who are a God's government unto themselves. Just as fast and as far as humanity becomes perfect will human, or man-made governments, become unnecessary; and with a perfect race all the vast and terrible machinery of government that is now needed to control the world, because of its imperfections, will disappear and the Kingdom of God will have come.

The coming of such a kingdom has been a hope, a dream, a belief of the world almost as long as humanity has lived and suffered and struggled upwards towards the light. If the *Tribune* really wants light, let it open its eyes to this truth and go to work, not to drive back a small minority of men, women and children who are doing what they can to hasten the coming of this kingdom, but to encourage them to push ahead in all well-doing, fully assured that the Power that gave the world the lily is also in heart and brain, and is fulfilling a destiny of its own that cannot be destroyed, however much it may be retarded, by the obstinacy and greed and passion of man.

CHARLES ELLIS.

THE OLD FORT SQUARE.

There was a large meeting of citizens held in the Sixth Ward meetinghouse March 10th. The object was to enter a pronounced protest against the sale of Pioneer Square to Mr. Bacon.

Thomas Green was elected chairman of the meeting and A. G. Glaucque secretary. A committee on resolutions consisting of A. G. Glaucque, James Poulton and Hugh Watson were appointed by the chair. The members were instructed to proceed at once and get out a set of resolutions. They retired, and while at their work, Don Fuller asked the chairman whether the City Council had power to give a deed of the Fort Square. The chairman in reply said the general opinion as well as that of the city attorney was that the Fort Square could not be sold, either in the past or in the present.

"By public consent," said he, "the Old Fort had been recognized as a park. Mr. Lessing had had a contract for setting out a number of trees, and that is pretty good evidence that it was considered a public square. The late city council of Ogden wanted to sell a portion of the square there and an injunction was secured. The question of what the city council can do is hard to define, as the city council can do pretty much as they like. They are taxing us to death and now they want to take away the public property. The only cry is that they need the money. When the city bonds go begging it is pretty clear that they do need the money. Councilman Hall stated that Mr. Bacon wanted to get the square

for \$150,000 and then say to eastern capitalists that, he had a property worth \$300,000, and thus induce capital to come here. If the Deep Creek road will pay, capital will come along to build it. If they need land, there is plenty of it suitable for railroad purposes that can be had much cheaper. When the Denver & Rio Grande Western came here they did not ask for any public squares. I think all citizens with any patriotism would be in favor of preserving the Pioneer Square. Because the first citizens here happened to be Mormons, why should the Liberal Council insist on giving away their historical square, so dear to them? There should be no class distinction here.

James Anderson was next called for, and said: "I am interested in this matter, and want to throw my weight and influence against the sale of this property to any private citizen or corporation. We look upon the Old Fort as the place where the pioneers first set their feet on this spot. It was the only green spot of ground to be seen in this part of the valley, caused by a spring in the northeast part of the square. Here they set their stakes against the Indians. Here they first rested their weary limbs, and as a memorial of their early struggles, to establish this city, now so prosperous and grand, I would like to see it preserved as a public park. True, they had not the money to improve it but they wanted to keep it until they had. The population of this city will warrant railways to come here without any gifts. This reminds me of the demand of the Union Pacific which wanted so much land and so much money. Brigham Young, who was a good financier, said that if Salt Lake was not big enough for them to come here they need not come. I am adverse to making any sale of public grounds for private purposes and especially Pioneer Square. I would rather they would build upon it public or city buildings. Part of the City Council are there by fraud, as from three of the wards the members were not elected. It should be held as a park. I am hand-in-hand with you. I would like to see it contested to the end. I hope we will be able to preserve it and beautify it and improve it."

Newell Clayton said that the sale of the Fort Square would be contested in the courts, and that before Mr. Bacon could get it, the Supreme Court would have to decide.

James Watson said—I came here when but six years old. The first place I slept in was an old room that was occupied by horses and cattle in the Old Fort. My father gave a yoke of oxen for one room in that Old Fort and about all it had was some rough boards laid on the floor. I played there when a boy and walked through snow knee deep without boots or shoes. Every drop of blood in my veins goes out for that block. I haven't as much money as some, but I have \$100 that will go out to 'Hold the Fort.' I do not want to see this city give a banker \$250,000 for two years to speculate on. I have pledged to Mr. Pickard that we will stand together. I am in favor of every man having his rights here. I want Mr. Bacon to have his own, but no more. I am