

ceded the right to any sovereign to dispose of either without consent; that by immigration from England they neither forfeited nor surrendered any of these rights; that the foundation of English liberty and of all free government is a right in the people to participate in their legislative councils, and as they were not represented in Parliament, they are entitled to a free and exclusive power of legislation in their several provincial legislatures. "Had our Creator been pleased," they wrote, "to give us existence in a land of slavery, the sense of our condition might have been mitigated by ignorance and habit. But thanks to His adorable goodness we were born the heirs of freedom." The relevancy of these, the sentiments of our patriot fathers, to the condition of the Territories, is obvious; their force is irresistible.

The injunction of Washington has, in this instance, certainly been neglected, and constitutional principles have been insidiously trenchanted upon. It has been the unhappy lot of the Latter-day Saints to witness and to have been made victims of some of the most egregious violations of the Constitution. Driven, despoiled, imprisoned and murdered, without a show of legal right, in a country where law is supreme, or should be, they have not lost one iota of their high regard for the Constitution of our country. Assaulted under the guise of law, denied many of the substantial rights of freemen under the pretense of authority, they yet remain as patriotic as any class of citizens in the Republic. Men they have criticised; measures, plainly opposed to constitutional right, have met with their severe condemnation, but they have never wavered in their reverence for the magnificent men who founded the government, and in their respect and love for the principles they sought to establish by a solemn compact.

Not only do the Latter-day Saints view the Constitution with an affection born of the sense of justice and right; not only do they view that sublime instrument as the excellent work of men filled with a love of freedom; but they regard it as the work of the Almighty himself, and its author as the instrument in the hands of God in establishing it. We are told by the Book of Mormon, in the first book of Nephi, that the people who were to come to the land of America should be delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations. Again, we are told in section 101 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, that it is not right that men should be in bondage one to another. "And for this purpose," says the revelation, "have I established the Constitution of this land by the hands of wise men, whom I raised up unto this very purpose."

Such is the character of the devotion of the Latter-day Saints to the government. That God freed this nation, and raised up and inspired Washington, and Jefferson, and Franklin, and Madison, and Samuel and John Adams, and others of that

group of full statured and freedom-loving men, whose existence in one place, at one time, and whose fellowship in one cause be accounted for on the Mormon theory that they were called of God. Affection for the principles of our government in other people comes of a love of freedom, but devotion to the constitution among the Latter-day Saints is born both of the love of freedom and of the love of God, whose work we esteem it.

We are said to be in an attitude of opposition to the principles we profess to be divine, but we brand the imputation as false and scandalous. Time will develop the true character of this people; the exigencies of the future may be depended upon to separate the true patriotism from the false. Prophets, whom the world now reveres, have been without honor in their own day. Philosophers, statesmen, soldiers, among others the immortal Washington, have been compelled to suffer the ignominy of unjust criticism through the stress of unfortunate circumstances. The race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong; the plausible is not always fact; sophistry may succeed temporarily, but must eventually fail. The Latter-day Saints, confident of their patriotism, patient and long-suffering in their dispositions, hard-working, thrifty, honest and virtuous, can well await the vindication of time. The Latter-day Saints have ever been the oppressed, never the oppressors. Retaliation for indignities and oppression heaped upon this devoted people, both through unjust legislation and otherwise, has neither been attempted nor desired. It is to the credit of this people that despite their treatment at the hands of others, the statute books of this Territory discriminate in no manner between the Mormon and non-Mormon.

The Lord has said it is not right that men should be in bondage one to another. The principles underlying the Constitution reflect, in a measure, the philosophy of Christ. The spirit of the Constitution is that all men shall enjoy freedom as long as they do not trench upon the rights of other men. But the Gospel teaches us not only to refrain from robbing others of their rights, but abjures us to treat our neighbors as ourselves.

Let us then from the contemplation of the noble character of the man who this day one century ago solemnly swore to uphold the principles of liberty and truth go forth with a determination never to stoop to oppression, never to forget either in our private lives or our public acts, as far as power may be intrusted to our hands, the eternal brotherhood of man. [Applause.]

Prof. Jos. J. Daynes rendered, in magnificent style, an organ solo.

Messrs. R. C. Easton, H. G. Whitney, J. D. Spencer and H. S. Goddard sang a quartette. The excellence of the singing brought forth a storm of applause, and the audience were not satisfied till the gentlemen reappeared.

President Angus M. Cannon then announced

HON. F. S. RICHARDS,

who spoke as follows:

Fellow-citizens: The inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States, one hundred years ago, was the inauguration of the grandest civil government that the world has ever known. Then it was an experiment. The ship of State was launched amid the hopes and fears of our patriot sires, and upon its success depended their lives, their fortunes and their honor. Today it is an accomplished fact; success has crowned their efforts, and history has made them glorious. We point with joy and pride to the institutions of our country, which are conceded by the world to constitute the grandest system of government that the mind of man has ever conceived. In theory it is not only sublime and beautiful, but it is as near perfection as human wisdom, skill and ingenuity can make it. But perfection is not of this world, and so, in the administration of the affairs of State, some things have been done that were not in harmony with the spirit of freedom and liberty which pervades the constitution of this great Republic.

It is most fitting that we should assemble on this occasion to commemorate the great event of which this is the centennial day, and to me the occasion is one of rejoicing and solemnity. I fancy, this morning, that my feelings partake somewhat of the spirit that animated Washington on that memorable morning, when, after taking the oath of office, his first utterance was one of supplication to the "Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aid can supply every human defect"—that his blessing might "consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a government instituted by themselves." I feel a deep sense of gratitude to God that this benediction has been realized in the first century of our nation's existence, and that the prospects are now so bright for a continuation of that growth and onward march in the path of progress, which has so conspicuously marked her way in the years that are past.

I feel thankful that the noble patriots of 1776 had the courage to say that they were no longer bound to the mother country. I rejoice in the glorious declaration which they sent thundering down the centuries "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." That declaration had been made nearly thirteen years before the inauguration of Washington as President. Still, the nation had not been born. An effort was made to carry on the government as a confederation of States; but it was not a success. It became evident that if each State retained all the sovereignty and power it claimed, the general government would be so weak that it could not possibly