

My brethren and sisters, time would fail to enumerate all that God has done through this mighty man whom He raised up. The first time I saw him I was but a boy. He was in the midst of hundreds, but I knew him to be the Prophet Joseph. The Lord gave me a knowledge that he was His servant. I have rejoiced in that knowledge ever since. I have been glad continually that I have lived in such a day and among such a people as the Latter-day Saints; that I have lived to see the Prophet, to hear his voice, to listen to his teachings, and to have the testimony that he was indeed the chosen servant of God. His origin and surroundings were humble. He did not have the advantages of education. Neither did the Son of God. God in His providence chooses the noblest of His instruments in His own way. Who would have selected such a birth as the Savior's? Who would have selected a stable as the birthplace of that divine being? Yet this was where He was born. Nowadays to hear of a man being born in a stable conveys such an idea of extreme poverty and worthlessness that every man born in such a place would shrink from communicating it to his fellow man for fear he would be despised on that account. Yet these were the surroundings which our Father in heaven selected for His Son. It is no evidence, therefore, that because men are born in lowly circumstances they are less noble than those who are born in what are called better circumstances. I have thought that the Lord in His wisdom, knowing as he does the end from the beginning, has sent the noblest of His children purposely unto humble families in these last days, that they might receive the truth and become the instruments in His hands of accomplishing the great work that He had in contemplation. Certainly those who have received this Gospel, who have endured the calumny and the opprobrium that have been heaped upon them, who have been persecuted so freely and so continuously, must have been noble spirits in the sight of God in order to be able to endure these things. It has required, generally speaking, a nobility of character that is rarely met with among the children of men. To embrace this Gospel, to come out and announce themselves believers in Joseph Smith as a Prophet of God, has required a wonderful amount of stamina and strength of character on the part of the people. This people, speaking of them as a whole, have had to contemplate the possibility of losing their lives. I suppose there are few men, and perhaps few women, who have been connected with the Church for any length of time that have not seen times when they did not know but that they would have to lay down their lives for the truth. Yet, notwithstanding these prospects that were before them, the people have been faithful, and they have manifested a fidelity and a heroism that gives evidence of the nobility of their character in the sight of God. It stamps them as a superior people whom God has endowed with strength and power such as but few of the children of men possess. I have often said, in speaking about this, that we had the foundation here for the greatest people on earth, for this reason—that a people so noble as the Latter-day Saints, and possessing such qualities, will undoubtedly be the progenitors of

a great and noble race. God laid the foundation of this work that the salt of the earth, so to speak, might be gathered out; that there might be a remnant of mankind saved, and that remnant be of so noble a character as to lay the foundation of a work that should fill the whole earth and stand for one thousand years. It will require a noble race of men and women to be the progenitors of a people who shall accomplish these grand results, and I testify that here are the people whom God has chosen for this grand destiny. As I said in the beginning, no matter what may be done against this work, it will stand forever. The Priesthood of God has been restored by the Apostles of Jesus Christ, and that Priesthood will never be taken from the earth again. The Lord will preserve it, and will preserve His people that bear it, and they will increase and multiply until this kingdom of our God shall fill the whole earth, and Jesus will reign, and His sceptre will be swayed over the earth, and the inhabitants thereof that are redeemed and sanctified.

And all this through the raising up of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the sending of him forth, and the filling of him with light as no man on the earth, I think, has ever been filled, save the Son of God! It is marvellous, the knowledge that God communicated to him. There is no limit to it apparently. The heavens were opened unto him. Angels ministered to him. Even the church, not to speak of the world, cannot comprehend the greatness or the extent of the truths that God communicated to him. It is now fifty years since his martyrdom, and these fifty years only begin to reveal to us the extent of the knowledge that God gave to him. We are like little children, just commencing to grasp the principles revealed through him. It is most wonderful that in fourteen years after the Church was organized so many grand and ennobling principles should be communicated, affecting so much the salvation and redemption of the human family.

My brethren and sisters, I would not have you indulge in man worship. God forbid. To Him be the glory always. We cannot glorify Joseph without glorifying our Father in heaven. We must glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot indulge in any worship that will detract from or lessen our worship of our Great and Eternal Father and His Son Jesus Christ. But we can reverence the man of God; we can love him; we can emulate his example; we can cherish his memory; we can perpetuate this in our children; and we can seek to comprehend the truths that he taught, so that by comprehending and by practicing them we may be prepared to dwell with him, and dwell with our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ in eternity. This we can do. And we can exercise our faith, too, for his erring offspring, that God in His wonderful providences will bring some representative of this mighty man into the Church to bear and magnify the Priesthood which their father or their ancestor received from the heavens. God has made promises to the Prophet concerning his posterity, and those promises will be fulfilled, just as sure as these other promises to which I have alluded will be fulfilled. I want to say that God will not forget any of his faithful sons and daughters. I look around and think of the men and women whom

I have known and who seem to have no representatives coming forward to magnify the Priesthood. I ask myself, is it possible that they are going to be forgotten? Are their names to go down in oblivion? And my heart responds, and the Spirit of God responds to me—No, God will not forget any faithful man; He will not forget any faithful woman in this Church. Their children may stray; but God will feel after some of them and bring them into the fold. They will have representatives that will stand in the earth when Satan is bound and when righteousness shall prevail. God could not forget them according to His promises, and we know that He never forgets His promises. He cannot forget that which He has promised to the Prophet Joseph; and I say to you that these erring ones that are now misleading the people into by and forbidden paths, apparently seeking to destroy the work of their father, God will feel after them; if not after them, He will after their descendants, and some of them will be numbered among the Saints of God. Joseph will not be without representatives in the Priesthood of the Son of God and in the Church of the Living God. It is our duty, therefore, to pray for the righteous, and pray that their names may be preserved in the earth, and that they may be represented in the Church of Christ; pray for the Prophet's descendants, that they may come forth in the due time of the Lord—for they most assuredly will.

I pray God to bless you all, and that He will help us all to be faithful even until death—that if, in His providence, death should be our fate, we may never flinch, any more than our beloved brother Joseph Smith, but be true and faithful even until death, that in the end we may be saved and exalted in the celestial Kingdom of our God, which I humbly ask in the name of Jesus for all of you. Amen.

*Written for this Paper*

### THE SABBATH QUESTION.

In the issue of your paper bearing date of February 16th I notice an editorial on the Adventists and the Sabbath question. Inasmuch as the people and teachings I represent are thus publicly mentioned by you, and believing that your desire is to be fair in the matter, I submit the following for publication: As a people the Seventh-day Adventists regard the Bible as the inspired Word of God; it is our rule of faith and doctrine and "Whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation." So you will understand by this that we are thoroughly Protestant, orthodox and evangelical. We differ somewhat in a few of our practices, from other denominations; but in this we are all conscientious, and, we think, Scriptural. We entertain none but the kindest feeling toward all our fellow-men. As a people we are decidedly in favor of religious liberty and believe that the "church and state should be kept forever separate." Religious laws enacted by the legislative bodies of this government, are in violation of the Constitution of the United States which declares in the first amendment