

all faithful Saints in all periods of the earth of which we have any account. It was so with father Abraham. The Bible tells us but very little about him. Other histories inform us that so severe was his persecution, while yet an infant, that his mother had to take him and hide away in a cave of the earth; and his parents were so anxious concerning him that they carried food and sustained him and his mother for a long time. The sorcerers and the astrologers were stirred up to anxiety and curiosity, because there had another star appeared in the heavens at the birth of that boy Abraham. They thought it meant something, that it was significant, and it was whispered to the king, who tried to get the boy out of the way. Abraham's father, Terah, brought forth a child, by the king's command, from one of his other women, that was born just about the same time, and the king caused it to be destroyed. After awhile the mother of Abraham, thinking the anger of the king was appeased, ventured out with the boy.

Another history tells us that he was placed to dwell awhile with Shem, the good old patriarch, and lived several years with him, hid up and secluded, studying the things of God. He loved righteousness, and, hungering for more righteousness, got away from the idolatry of his relations, and even of his father's house, and was for some time studying the things of God in the houses of those early patriarchs that had just come through the flood. When he ventured to come out again, and it was found out that he was that same Abraham, the wrath of the king was aroused with double fury, and this time he was seized upon and put into a fiery furnace. The Bible does not tell us of this, but other histories do. The Mohammedan's bible tells him of it. It is in the Koran. Abraham was so dealt with by this persecution that he wondered where he could find a place on the earth, wherein he could dwell in safety. The Lord told him to get him up out of that country, and He would show him a place, a little way off, that he should have for his own some time.

This is just the feeling and spirit that took hold of many of us Latter-day Saints in the various nations where we heard this Gospel. We became all at once strangers. Our relations and best friends became our enemies, many of us were turned out and found a gathering place with the Saints, as it is written, "Gather my Saints together who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." This faith in the Gospel comes as a matter of sacrifice to the worldly. When we began to gather together and became a few in number, behold the wrath of the ungodly was such that it pervaded the township, or the settlement, or the Church abroad where we were, and scattered it, like the terrible wind, that blew the mustard stalk, scattered the seed abroad. Thus numerous converts were gathered into the Church, and the sacrifice brought in a harvest of souls, as the farmer sacrifices his seed to sow it upon the land, that it may bring forth the bread in the season thereof. Thus the work of the Lord has been the gathering of His Saints who covenanted with Him by sacrifice.

It was so when we were driven out

from Missouri and from Illinois. It will not do for me to stop to detail it to you. You know when we were driven from Missouri the kind sympathies of the people in Illinois received us among them, and we went through the counties there. Brethren took up farms, went to work, and labored in every way, and the truth was spread everywhere. A good many strong men in the Church embraced the Gospel in that period, and have grown up with us and established their seed in righteousness upon the earth.

This has been the way of the Lord with us. When we were scattered from Illinois, we came out here, and our enemies thought they had got rid of the plague of Mormonism. The Lord led us. See how kind He was about it! Behind a frowning providence He hid that blessed smiling face. When He saw the horrors of war were coming, and that the revelation given to the Prophet Joseph at Christmas, 1832, must be fulfilled, He in His mercy would not have us stay there and be mixed up in that fratricidal war. In His great love for us, He allowed a mob to come upon us and demand of us that we should leave the country, just in time to save us from going into the ranks of bloody strife, laying down our lives, and perhaps many placing ourselves in the position that we could not make an acceptable offering unto the Lord in His holy temple. David, the man of God, because he was a man of much blood, was not allowed to build the temple; but God in His mercy spared us this terrible stain by bringing us out here.

Here for many years what a great peace we have had! When the Lord made President Young to be our Governor, then were we happy. We only wanted to know the will of the Lord, we did it, and were prospered. The earth under our feet was blessed to us continually. Our hearts and our homes were sanctified. The earth, having rested for ages, brought forth its strength to us, as we in the states knew nothing about.

After awhile we had to put up with a good deal of unpleasantness from our red brethren, the Lamanites. When emigrants traveled across the continent they considered they were doing God service in killing the red men. Then in turn the red man's revenge was spent upon our brethren. By and by a Governor was appointed to come among us who determined that we should no longer have the public arms, even to celebrate the 4th of July with. The boys must not have swords with which to study sword exercise, and some that had wooden swords were placed under arrest for this childish employment. What was the result of it? Let me call your attention carefully to a consideration of this particular feature, that while in their wrath and in their determination to break down every means that we had for defense and leave the Indians to prey upon us, the heavens understood this, and turned the wrath of the Indians away till we have never had occasion to get up an Indian campaign since.

Is not the goodness of God manifest in this providence, when it was determined that we should have nothing to defend ourselves with? Certainly it is, and the Latter-day Saints who con-

template it must consider it as a manifestation of God's great kindness to us. He had not forsaken us; but with the taking away of these arms has been taken away apparently every vestige of ill-feeling on the part of the savages around us, and instead of their showing hostility to us, they come to the Presidency, who counsel them to keep peace among themselves and with the whites, and stop the shedding of blood. This excellent advice has preserved the lives of many people, as well as maintained a better and stronger relation between them and ourselves.

Behold, brethren and sisters, the goodness of God in these things! The Lord is continually with us; and although it was not in His providence that we should be scattered from here, and driven forth on the face of the earth again, still the trials and sacrifices which pertain to our holy religion can be applied to us here. He allowed our enemies to thicken the very atmosphere with lies and falsehoods concerning us, and we had not the power to prevail against them, and in their turn to oppress us in the exercise of our religious views to a considerable extent, until the prison walls enclosed many of our brethren.

Now concerning the time that we have here at present. The Lord has said that He would soften the hearts of our enemies from time to time, that His work might go on and prosper. From the time of hard frost and kind of winter that we have had in these matters, the Lord has caused a pleasing change, like spring time, to come over us. I want to call your attention to a particular feature in this matter, which it appears to me is desirable for us to consider with care. There is a feeling with us, to a great extent, and it exists today more particularly in the outer settlements, that they would rather be entirely by themselves and exclud themselves from the society and institutions of those that are not of our faith. This is very natural, after all the experience that the Saints have had. But I wish to tell you, it does not do for us to do like the snail—to coil ourselves up in a shell and have it to ourselves, and let those around us and in our midst take care of themselves. The Lord has brought us out here, put us among these hills and mountains, and placed these temples here, in order that we may make our light to shine to the nations of the earth. It appears to me, now that we associate in political matters with many men who are not of us in religious faith, and our sisters associate with many of the ladies of the nation of honorable and high standing, that we should consider that this is a peculiar condition which God wishes us to be exercised in, that we are here as a light set upon a hill that cannot be hid—not to be put under a bed, nor under a bushel, but that it is placed upon an eminence, where it can be seen.

This Temple that is now nearly ready, we resolved at the last Conference should be finished for dedication by next spring's Conference, and I am certain that it will. Our resolution, united and strong as it was when we sat under the walls of that building, cannot be broken and we expect to see the house dedicated in a short time. Then we shall have four temples in the one Territory of Utah, shedding forth their light, blessing, illumination,