

build a Temple in Jackson county. We were prevented by violence from doing it. He required us to build a Temple in Far West, which we have not been able to do. A great many things have been required of us, and we have not been able to do them because of those that surrounded us in the world. This people are in the hands of God. This work is in the hands of God, and He will take care of it.

I often think of what Lorenzo Dow said with regard to the doctrine of election. Said he: "It is like this: You can, and you can't; you will, and you won't; you shall, and you shan't; you'll be damned if you do, and you'll be damned if you don't." That is about the condition we as Latter-day Saints are in. If we were to undertake to please the world, and that was our object, we might as well give up the ship; we might have given it up in the beginning. But the Lord has called us to labor in the vineyard; and when our nation passes laws, as they have done in regard to this principle which we have presented to the Conference, it is not wisdom for us to make war upon sixty-five millions of people. It is not wisdom for us to go forth and carry out this principle against the laws of the nation and receive the consequences. That is in the hands of God, and He will govern and control it. The Church of Christ is here; the Zion of God is here, in fulfillment of these revelations of God that are contained in these holy records in which the whole Christian world profess to believe. The Bible could never have been fulfilled had it not been for the raising up of a prophet in the last days. The revelations of St. John could never have been fulfilled if the angel of God had not flown through the midst of heaven, 'having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice: Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come.' Was that angel going to visit New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and the world, and call the people together and preach to them? Not at all. But the Lord raised up a prophet. The angel of God delivered that gospel to that prophet. That prophet organized a church, and all that He has promised in this code of revelations (the Book of Doctrine and Covenants), has been fulfilled as fast as time would admit. That which is not yet fulfilled will be."

Such is the authoritative position of the Mormon Church. Briefly summarized it may be read in this way:

The revelations of God given to Joseph Smith, including that on plural marriage, are binding upon the people, unless "their enemies come upon them and hinder them from performing that work."

They performed their "work" in establishing polygamy until "their enemies came upon them and hindered them," and disobeyed the law of the land until through persecutions and punishments they were compelled to conclude that "it is not wisdom to make war upon sixty-five millions of people," nor "to carry out this principle against the laws of the nation and receive the consequences." But it is yet to be re-established, for "all that He has promised in this code of revelations has been fulfilled as fast as time would admit. That which has not yet been fulfilled will be."

The manifesto itself is remarkable in many respects. The reasons for its promulgation contained in its text are not the reasons given by its author and his First Counselor to the Conference.

President Wilford Woodruff said to the Conference.

"I want to say to all Israel that the step which I have taken in issuing this manifesto has not been done without earnest prayer before the Lord."

His First Counselor, George Q. Cannon said:

"We have waited for the Lord to move in the matter; and on the 24th of September President Woodruff made up his mind that he would write something, and he had the spirit of it. He had prayed about it, and had besought God repeatedly to show him what to do. At that time the Spirit came upon him, and the document that has been read in your hearing was the result."

The document itself attributes the occasion of "the Spirit" coming upon him to "Press dispatches having been sent for political purposes from Salt Lake City," in regard to the statement of the Utah Commission in its last report, upon the subject of the solemnization of plural marriages; in substance that forty or more such marriages had been reported to it by its officers during the preceding year.

A great part of the manifesto is devoted to a vigorous assertion that the report of the Commission is false, a general and specific denial of the facts stated therein, and but a small space is devoted to President Woodruff's declaration of his personal intention "to submit to the laws," and "to use his influence with the members of his Church to have them do likewise." The most important part of the manifesto is contained in the following words:

"And I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land."

How much weight should be given to the declarations of a man who dares to assert that the Spirit of God came upon and moved him to charge that the Utah Commission was the retailer and peddler of falsehoods, and by reason of that fact he was to declare to the world that the church he commands will now change front completely, and abandoned the ordinance of God which has heretofore been so delightful a work for them to perform, can be judged to a degree from the declaration itself. Some further light may be thrown upon his character and the weight to be given his utterances by a perusal of the following, which fell from his lips at the same Conference, as officially reported for the Church organ:

"PRESIDENT WOODRUFF

said: I do not think anyone can tell the hour of the coming of the Son of Man. I think those things have been sufficiently revealed to us, so that we need not look for the time of that event to be made known. I will say here that in my dreams I have had a great many visits from the Prophet Joseph since his death. The last time I met him was in the spirit world. I met him at the Temple. He spoke to me. Calling me by name he said, 'I cannot stop to talk to you for I am in a hurry.' I met Father Smith. He, too, said to me, 'I am in a hurry.' I met a great many of the Apostles and others who are in the spirit world, and they all seemed to be in a hurry. I marveled at this, and wondered very greatly in my

mind why anybody should be in a hurry in the paradise of God.

"I had an interview with the Prophet Joseph afterwards, and asked him the question, 'Why are you all in such a hurry here?' I said, 'I have always been in a hurry in the world since I was born, but I thought there would be no occasion for it when I died and entered the spirit world.' He replied, 'Well, I will tell you: The prophets and apostles in this dispensation have had no time nor opportunity to prepare themselves to go to the earth, with the great Bridegroom when He goes to meet the bride, the Lamb's wife. We in this dispensation have not had time. We have just as much work to perform, to prepare ourselves, as in other dispensations. He said the time was at hand for the coming of the Son of Man, for Christ to go forth in fulfillment of revelation and prophecy, to meet the bride, the Lamb's wife, the Church and Kingdom of God upon the earth. Says He, That is not revealed to us, nor never will be until the hour comes; but we have much work to do to prepare ourselves for the event.

"I have always believed from the revelations that we never would know the exact time of the coming of the Son of Man; and I am more convinced of this from what the Prophet said to me in my dreams.

"I have had many interviews with President Young since he died, a great many teachings from him, and from others who held important positions here in the flesh, but who have gone into the Spirit world, and seem in a measure to have an interest and watch-care over the Church and Kingdom of God though they have passed to the other side of the veil."

And those curious enough to delve further into the vagaries of such a mind, will find light and food for reflection in some marvelous tales of miracles performed by him, and for him, such as casting out devils, healing those sick unto death, raising them from death to life, his opponents dropping dead at his feet, etc., as related by himself in a little volume entitled, "Leaves from My Journal, Third Book of the Faith-Promoting Series. By President Woodruff. Designed for the Instruction and Encouragement of Young Latter-day Saints. Juvenile Instructor Office, Salt Lake City, 1881."

The Commission deems it proper to notice this production thus far, because no matter what the motives which led to its promulgation, it is an advance. It marks an era in the great contest between civilization of America and the forces which have so long tried to engraft upon it a relic of Oriental lust and barbarism, and is a step which never can be retraced. It is that much wrested from an unwilling, crafty antagonist, and it should be no reproach to the Commission that it bears upon its face the acknowledgment that the work of the Commission has caused its promulgation.

The defending clause in the report for 1890, the one which is seized upon as a reason for declaring a new dispensation, is as follows: "The Commission is in receipt of reports from its registration officers, which enumerate forty-one male persons, who it is believed, have entered into the polygamic relations, in their several precincts since the June revision of 1889."

This, the inspired manifesto of