same, they having received it by the mini-
stering of angels, to be carried through
to all the people of the earth; and at that
time all the people of this Church upon
the face of the earth, could have been as-
sembled in the vestry of this Tabernacle
without being much crowded.

The joy which filled my bosom in
reading that sacred record, waking up
our minds and giving us the knowledge
of the past dealings of God with the
inhabitants of this vast western hemi-
sphere, and of a nation of people as an-
cient as that of Abraham or of the Jared-
ites, and giving us a knowledge also of a
branch of scattered Israel led away from
the land of their fathers 600 years be-
fore Christ, and the glorious fact, the
most important of all others in the book,
that the risen Jesus in his glorified im-
mortal flesh and bones set his feet upon
this western hemisphere and ministered
publicly to thousands and thousands of
the Nephites, blessed them, revealed to
them his Gospel in its fulness, and was
glorified in their presence, and thou-
sands of them had the privilege of bow-
ing at his feet, of bathing his feet with
their tears and of kissing them, and of
handling him and seeing and beholding
the wounds that were pierced in
his side and his hands and feet, and
of hearing the words of salvation and
the commandments of God from his own
mouth, and then from day to day they
had the privilege of assembling in gen-
eral conference and hearing his proph-
esyings, and his remarks on the prophe-
cies of the Prophets referring to him-
self and to others, prophecies also con-
cerning this our day, and the coming
forth of this work to us, and the vi-
sions that should appear and be given
at the opening up of this dispensation;
all these things received in faith in my
heart, and by the spirit of knowledge
and of light and of understanding, and
of hope and joy, and charity filled my
heart in a way that I never can express
to any being; to have the same joy under-
stood, it must be experienced.

Nor have I been disappointed in my
hopes since I embraced this Gospel.
After twenty-six years of progress—
progressive fulfillment of the things spo-
ken by that Redeemer to the Nephites,
and the things written by his command-
ment and brought forth unto us, I not
only believe but I realize and know by
the Spirit of the Lord as well as a man
knows anything that he sees and hears,
and better too, for a man might be de-
ceived in seeing or in hearing, but I know
these things by that light that reflects on
the understanding, and in which there
is no mistake, nor deception; by that I
knew that the work was true and that
Joseph Smith, the finder, translator, and
the restorer of the Priesthood upon the
earth, was a Prophet and an Apostle
of Jesus Christ—a restorer, raised up
according to that which is written, to
bring back and commit unto the person
appointed, those covenants, those keys,
those ordinances, that Gospel and plan
of salvation which were had in old times,
but which had been suspended and lost
from the enjoyment of the people; I say,
that he was such, I had a knowledge and
an understanding.

He was only about twenty-four or
twenty-five years old when I first met
him, and I became intimately acquainted
with him and his brothers, and with his
father's house, and I remained so, as far
as I was not separated by foreign mis-
ions, until his death; and did I not know,
and do I not know and bear testimony
that he lived and that he died an Apos-
tle and Prophet of Jesus Christ? And
from the day of his death, or long before
that until the present, I have been inti-
mately acquainted and associated with
the Apostles of this Church and king-
dom under all circumstances, whether in