pertainning to his own welfare, and com
manded not to unite himself to any of
those churches. He was also informed
that at some future time the fulness of
the Gospel should be made manifest to
him, and he should be an instrument in
the hands of God of laying the foundation
of the kingdom of God.

Some few years after this, having
proved himself faithful before the Lord,
he was commanded by an holy angel to
go to a hill about three miles from his
father’s house, and to take from the an-
cient place of their deposit certain plates,
on which was recorded the ancient his-
tory of this great Western continent from
the earliest ages until the records were
hid up by an ancient Prophet some four
centuries after Christ.

In the year 1827 he was permitted
to take those plates from their long
deposit, and with them the Urim and
Thummim—a sacred instrument such
as was used by ancient Prophets among
Israel to inquire of the Lord. He was
commanded of the Lord, notwith-
standing his youth and inexperience, to trans-
late the engravings upon those plates
into the English language. He did so,
and others wrote from his mouth. Here,
then, was the way that the Lord com-
enced a preparatory work for the rais-
ing up of the kingdom of God. What
use would it have been to have raised
up the kingdom of God without giving
new revelation on doctrine? If a church
were raised up without the Spirit of rev-
elation, it could not stand forever: it
would be broken up and scattered, the
same as the other systems of the day,
into numerous fragments, one contend-
ing that he was right, and another that
he was right; and thus it would be any-
thing else but the kingdom of God: it
would be a perfect bedlam. But, to pre-
pare the way, the Lord gave a lengthy
revelation, contained in the Book
of Mormon, including prophecies and the
fulness of the Gospel, as taught by the
mouth of the Savior himself on this vast
continent 1,800 years ago.

With such a revelation, the king-
dom of God could be set up, having an
unerring guide in doctrinal subjects—a
something to show the true points of the
Gospel of Jesus and the first principles
of the laws of the kingdom, and thus re-
move all cause for any division of senti-
ment and opinion.

This inspired book was revealed to
Joseph Smith in fulfillment of those
prophecies which I have often repeated
before you, and which clearly predict
that such a work should come to estab-
lish the kingdom of God on the earth.
The book was printed in the early part of
the year 1830, after which the Lord gave
express commands to this young man to
assemble together a few who believed
in the work, and lay the foundation of
the Church. Accordingly, on the 6th of
April, 1830, the Latter-day Kingdom of
God commenced in its organization, con-
sisting of only six members, in the town
of Fayette, Seneca County, State of New
York. Was this in reality the kingdom of
God? Yes; it was its beginning, or merely
a nucleus around which proper materi-
als were to gather and be organized. In
the beginning of January, 1831, the Lord
gave a revelation for the few members of
his kingdom to gather together from the
State of New York and Pennsylvania to
the State of Ohio. They gathered to the
place called Kirtland, Geauga County.
They stayed there a few years, during
which the Gospel of the kingdom was ex-
tensively preached in the United States
and the Canadas. The Saints contin-
ued gathering to Kirtland and to Jackson
County, Missouri.

The enemy was on the alert, and
knew the difference between the es-