DIVINE AUTHORITY.

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government, civil and ecclesiastical; and the
the nations of the earth have honored
these governments, more or less.

Perhaps it may be said that the Lord
is the Author of all these governments.
That we may admit in one sense, and
in one sense only, because he controls
those governments to a certain extent, as
we have been told from this stand. But
is the Lord the Author of a government
that admits of no authority from heaven?
He may permit those governments to ex-
ist, and he may control the result of their
actions for the glory of his name and for
his own benefit; but to suppose that the
Lord has directly established the monar-
chical governments that have existed for
ages that are past, and the Republican
governments that have existed through
or in different generations, and the var-
ious other governments, some of which
have stood the test of centuries—to sup-
pose that the Almighty organized all of
them, I say, would be inconsistent.

But some might say, Is it not better
to have these forms of government than
to have none at all? Admit that it is
better than to let every man go which
way he pleases; and therefore, when the
Lord saw that the people were so far de-
parted from heaven and from him, and
from the form given from heaven, he may
have suffered those forms of government
to be established, and that, too, for the
benefit of the inhabitants of the earth;
and he may have had, and may still hold,
his hand indirectly over the wise men of
the earth, and move upon their hearts
to establish many good and wise prin-
ciples for the benefit of the people. All this
he has done for his name’s glory; there-
fore we acknowledge the hand of the
Lord in controlling all the governments
and kingdoms of the earth. But where
is that heavenly, divine authority that
comes down from above? Where is it
to be found in the present generation,
among all the nations and kingdoms in
the four quarters of our globe, except
it be in these mountains? Where has
it been in ages that are past, since the
Apostles fell asleep? You may traverse
our earth from one side to the other to
find a government established by the
Almighty, and you cannot do it. Or, if
you do not want to find a people who will
say that God was at the foundation of
the establishment of their governments,
find a people who will say that God di-
rects in their movements, in their coun-
cils, in their senates, in their houses of
parliament—find a nation that will ac-
knowledge that God governs them by the
spirit of revelation. You cannot find such
a one: there are none such in existence
among the nations abroad, for they all
say they do not acknowledge the prin-
ciple. If you go over to the Old World,
and travel from one end to the other and
ask the question, Do you acknowledge
God in your movements—in making war
one with another? Does God give you
revelation to guide you? Have you any
Prophets that are appointed by divine
authority, who can say, "Thus saith the
Lord God concerning this people?" You
will find the united testimony of kings
and senators to be that God does not
speak in this our day—there is no such
thing as revelation in this generation.

Then go to the ecclesiastical governors
and ask the same question. Go to the
Pope that pretends to occupy the chair of
St. Peter, and he will say, "Oh, I occupy
the same position as Peter—the same
apostleship and calling." Do you act in
the same duties? He will answer, "Oh,
yes, I guide and direct my people as Pe-
ter did; but there is no revelation now;
for, since the days of John the Revelator,
the canon of Scripture has been closed
up, and we are to be guided by their