mark. These were so constructed that when
the waves were not running too high, air
could be admitted through unstopping the
holes which happened to be uppermost.

But the most wonderful thing concern-
ing the first colonization of this country
after the flood was the way that they navi-
gated the great Pacific ocean. Only think
for a few moments of the Lord our God
taking eight barges, launched on the eastern
coast of China, and bringing them a
voyage of three hundred and forty-four
days and landing them all in the same
neighborhood and vicinity and at the same
time. This was a miracle. This was not
done by the aid of steam, or by the navigator's art, but it was by the power of the
Almighty God. He it was who controlled
these vessels; He it was who governed the
winds of heaven: He it was who brought
them up out of the midst of the deep,
when they were swallowed up, and He it
was who guided them safely to this Ameri-
can shore.

They landed to the south of this, just
below the Gulf of California, on our western
cost. They inhabited North America, and
spread forth on this Continent, and in the
course of some sixteen hundred years' resi-
dence here, they became a mighty and pow-
erful nation. Although they became a great
and mighty people, they were oftentimes
very much chastened because of their sins.
Here let me observe that before they arrived
on this land the Lord said to them, “I design
to lead you forth to a land that is choice
above all other lands on the face of the
whole earth; and this is my decree concern-
ing the land which you are to occupy, that
whatever nation shall possess the land from
this time henceforth and forever shall serve
me, the only true and living God, or they
shall be swept off from the face thereof when
they are fully ripened in their iniquity.”
The Jaredites had this decree before them,
before they set foot on this Continent. It
was before them during the whole term of
their existence here, that inasmuch as they
would serve God they would be prospered,
and inasmuch as they would not serve Him
great judgments were upon them. Hence
they were afflicted oftentimes because of
their wickedness. On a certain occasion
there were a very few individuals, Omer
and his family and some few of his friends,
that were righteous enough to be spared
out of a whole nation. The Lord warned
them by a dream to depart from the land
of Moran, and led them forth in an easterly
direction beyond the hill Cumorah, down
into the eastern countries upon the
seashore. By this means a few families were
saved, while all the balance, consisting of
millions of people, were overthrown be-
cause of their wickedness. But after they
were destroyed the Omerites, who dwelt in
the New England States, returned again
and dwelt in the land of their fathers on
the western coast.

I merely mention these things to show
how the Lord operated among the first na-
tions of the old inhabitants of this country,
in order to fulfill His decrees. They could
not fall into wickedness, and still be suf-
f ered to prosper on the face of this land.
The decree had gone forth, it must be ful-
filled. Finally, some sixteen or seventeen
centuries after they landed here, they be-
came so violently wicked, and transgressed
the commandments of the Lord to that de-
gree that they were really swept off to a
man. The whole nation perished. Their
greatest and last struggles were in the State
of New York, near where the plates from
which the Book of Mormon was translated