spirit of revelation and prophecy, the
to heal the sick, and every other
gift and blessing possessed and enjoyed
by the ancient Church. "Go not after
them," was the command given to this
young man; and he was told that if he
would be faithful in serving the true and
living God, it should be made manifest to
him, in a time to come, the true church
that God intended to establish.

Now we can see the wisdom of God
in not revealing everything to him on
that occasion. He revealed as much as
Joseph was capacitated to receive. The
Lord dealt with this young man as you,
parents, do when you wish to instruct
your children on any subject. You do not
pour out volumes of instruction on them
all at once, but impart to them accord-
ing to their capacity. Just so the Lord
acted towards this youth. He imparted
enough to let him know that the whole
Christian world was without authority,
as we heard this forenoon.

About, or not quite four years from
that time, when Mr. Smith was be-
tween 17 and 18 years of age—and
not yet old enough to be called "Old
Joe Smith"—he retired to his chamber,
reflecting upon his former vision, and
earnestly desiring the fulfillment of the
promise made to him, that he should
be made acquainted with the fullness of
the Gospel, and have more of the things
of God revealed to him. While reflect-
ing and praying, a light began to burst
into his room, which continued to grow
brighter and brighter, until the whole
room seemed to be lighted up with a
splendor which far exceeded the bright-
ness of the sun at noonday. In the
midst of this glorious light a personage
appeared. He was dressed in a white
robe, and his countenance was lighted
up with the glory of God. He was not
standing upon the floor of the room, but
his feet appeared to be a distance from
it. While looking at this personage the
Spirit of God rested upon Joseph to that
degree that all fear was removed from
his mind; and instead of feeling alarm
and terror, as would have been the case
with a wicked person, he felt as though
he was in the presence of a friend. This
personage, on that occasion, gave him a
great deal of instruction.

I shall not pretend to give you the
full detail of the instructions then given,
but shall merely lay before you a few
of the principal items. This personage
announced himself as a holy angel sent
from God to communicate to him glad
tidings of great joy. He was told that the
day had arrived in which the Lord God
was about to commence a great and mar-
vellous work on the face of our globe, to
bring about the fulfillment of the ancient
prophecies in regard to the restoration
to their own land of the scattered rem-
nants of the House of Israel. He was also
told that before this great work, of gath-
ering the House of Israel, should take
place, the Church of God must be built
up among the Gentile nations; that the
Gospel must be preached to the Gentiles
first, that the sound thereof must go to
all people, nations and tongues, first to
the Gentiles, that their times might be
fulfilled; and then that the Gospel should
go to the nations of the House of Israel,
and they should be gathered in.

This was something, of course, that
a boy of this early age knew nothing
about; he knew only what God commu-
nicated to him. He was, furthermore,
told that the Indians, who were wan-
dering over the face of North and South
America, were a branch of the house of
Joseph, that same Joseph who was sold
into Egypt. He was informed that their