and gathering out the honest and meek
of the earth from among all nations,
kindreds, tongues and people, sects and
parties under the whole heaven, and
preparing them to stand as the bride,
the Lamb's wife, as the Church of Je-
sus Christ, as the kingdom of God,
adorned with goodly apparel, adorned
with the light of Zion, with the prin-
ciples of eternal life, with the Gospel of
Jesus Christ, preserving within them-
theselves the virtues and attributes which
have made God what he is, established
him on his throne, and given him the
power which he now possesses. I can say
this—the Lord will never come to visit
an earth like this; he will never come to
visit a generation of the inhabitants of
the earth until they are prepared for his
coming and are willing to receive him.

This is the foundation of Mormonism;
this is the foundation of the Church and
kingdom of God, which was laid in 1830.
The Church was established on the 6th
of April in that year. Its history and
the history of this people are before the
world. We ourselves have learned it
by shoe leather. Many of the Elders
of Israel have traveled a hundred thou-
sand miles to preach the Gospel dur-
ing the last forty years without purse or
scrip; we have labored day and night,
and traveled as no other generation of
men since the world was made have trav-
eled. Our garments are clear of the
blood of this generation, at least many
of us, and I hope many more will be. We
have been true and faithful in our tes-
timony to the inhabitants of the earth;
and as the world generally has rejected
our testimony the Lord has withdrawn
his spirit from the people in a great mea-
sure, and the religion they once enjoyed
is as nothing to many of them. Infidelity
prevails throughout the world; very
few, either priests or people, believe in
a literal fulfillment of the Bible. They
have a theory, but as to believing in a
real fulfillment of prophecy, or that the
Lord meant what he said and said what
he meant, that is out of the question—
very few believe it.

I want to ask a question—Will the un-
belief of this generation make the truth
of God without effect in our day any more
than it has in any other age of the world?
I tell you nay, and think not, as Paul
says, that I am your enemy because I
tell you the truth. These things are true
before God; this is the Zion of God, and
these are the people of God; and we, as
Latter-day Saints, should live our reli-
gion better than we do; and as we are
now entering on another year I hope we
shall try to live our religion through this
year, and do our duty and keep the com-
mandments of God and walk uprightly
before him, that we may become united
as the heart of one man.

There are great events, as I have
already said, before us. The fact is,
the Lord has laid down a great many
promises concerning the latter days, and
they are going to be fulfilled; for though
the heavens and the earth pass away not
one jot or tittle of the word of the Lord
will fall unfulfilled; and when our nation
and the nations of the earth have filled
their cup and are ripened in iniquity the
Lord will cut them off. The greater the
battle the sooner it will end; the greater
the warfare the greater the victory, if
the Saints do their duty. These things
are before my mind, in the vision of it,
and the Lord will not fail in anything
he has promised concerning the work
of the latter days. Whatever opposition
this Church and kingdom may have, it is
the work of God. The Lord has planted
and sustained it. Jesus compares the
kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed,