trials, if we were all the time filled with
the Spirit and continually having revela-
tions.

This puts me in mind of the experi-
ence of our Prophet Joseph, and of David
Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery and others.
You are familiar with many things con-
tained in the history of Joseph, about his
hours of trial. He had some before the
Lord permitted him to take the plates
from the Hill Cumorah. God showed
him where those plates were, and he was
commanded by the angel to go and view
them. He did so, and when he first saw
them he put forth his hand to take them.
But was he suffered to do so? No. What
was the reason? He had not had the
trials necessary to prove his integrity,
and this must be proved before he could
be entrusted with so sacred a treasure.
Hence he was told to go and be obedi-
ent to the Lord, and to come there from
time to time, as he was commanded by
the angel of the Lord; and when the time
had fully come he was permitted to take
them.

Do you suppose, from the time he saw
the plates first, to the day when he was
permitted to take them, being some four
years, that he had no temptations, tri-
als, darkness or difficulties to grapple
with? We are told in his history that,
besides the glories of heaven that were
opened to his mind, the powers of dark-
ness were also portrayed before him. The
Lord showed him the two powers. What
for? To give him the experience neces-
sary to enable him to discern between
that which came from God and that
which came from the opposite source. He
saw, as Moses did, these evil beings per-
sonally. They were manifested before
him in their rage, malice and wicked-
ness. He had also many seasons of sor-
row, tribulation, difficulty and tempta-
tion; and when he had proved himself be-
fore the Heavens, and before the Saints
in Paradise who once dwelt on this con-
tinent, and had shown that he was full
of integrity, God permitted him to take
the plates, and he translated the record
thereon into the English language.

Perhaps I have spoken sufficient in
relation to these two powers. What I
have said has been with the design to
comfort and encourage the Saints, that
they may not think, because some are
tried this way, and some that way, and
some another, that something has be-
fallen them different to what has taken
place upon the human family before,
and that they are more tried than any
other individual that has ever been upon
the earth. Do not think this, Latter-
day Saints, but strengthen yourselves in
God, and in the hour of your trial call
upon him, and he will impart strength
and faith to you, light up your under-
standings, and bring you through victo-
riously, and your blessings will be still
greater than before your temptations
came upon you.

By and by the time will come when
the veil, which hides this earth, and
shuts out its inhabitants from the pres-
ence of God, will be removed. We read
this in the Book of Covenants. The
earth is now shut out from the pres-
ence of God, and all the inhabitants,
and the animal creation, the fowls of the
air and the fishes of the sea, and ev-
erything wherein there is life, all are
shut out from the presence of God. Be-
cause of the fall of the great head and
being who was to have dominion over
this creation, it is banished, a veil is
let down which hides us from the pres-
ence of God. This veil or covering
will soon be taken away, and the earth
will roll back again into the presence of
God. When I speak of the earth’s rolling
back again, I do not mean that the