lic discourses, avoided, when a thing
would come before my mind pretty plain,
uttering or declaring it for fear that I
might get something out before the peo-
ple in relation to the future that was
wrong. But still, notwithstanding all
this, there is one thing that I have en-
deavored to do, and that is, to inform
my mind as far as I could by reading
what God has revealed to both ancient
and modern Prophets, in relation to the
future, and if I have not had many im-
portant prophecies and revelations given
directly to myself, I certainly have de-
rived great advantage and great edifi-
cation from reading and studying that
which God has revealed to others; and
hence most of my prophesying through-
out my life, so far, has been founded upon
the revelations given to others.

We are told that Zion—this people,
the Latter-day Saints, are called Zion—
shall be redeemed and restored to the
lands of their inheritances, and in con-
sequence of this promise made to us by
the Lord, many of us have felt much anx-
xiety to know when the Lord would ful-
fill this great revelation, and some per-
haps who were little boys and girls when
it was given, and now greyheaded—for
it is about forty-two years since—have
not considered or reflected much about
what God has promised to do with, or
what blessings he has promised to be-
stow upon, this people. In their fam-
ily prayers they have heard their fa-
thers pray to the Most High to re-
member Zion and to redeem Zion, and
to restore his people to the lands of
their inheritances, and perhaps some
of them have reflected upon the sub-
ject. Some may have thought it was
merely a form of prayer which their fa-
thers had learned, without any expecta-
tion of anything of the kind taking place,
and they have felt careless about it,
knowing nothing about whether Zion
was ever to be redeemed or not. But
those who have reflected upon the sub-
ject, and who have made it a matter of
prayer and of deep study, in order to
know the times and the seasons, and the
mode in which God would bring to pass
this great event, have been full of hope,
expectation and desire, and their con-
stant prayer has been, before the fam-
ily altar and in the public congregations,
that the redemption of Zion might be
brought about soon.

We are promised that after much
tribulation comes the blessing. The Lord
says—"I the Lord have decreed a cer-
tain decree that my people shall realize,
that after their tribulations they shall
be redeemed, and restored to the lands
of their inheritances." Little did we sup-
pose when we were driven out from Jack-
son County, the place where God has
promised to give his Saints their inher-
itures, and in the regions round about,
that nearly half a century would pass
over our heads before we would be re-
stored back again to that land. This long
period of tribulation, and the dispersion
from our homes and inheritances, have
been the cause perhaps of a great many
going down to the grave without having
the opportunity and privilege of return-
ing to participate in the blessings that
were promised. Now, it would be a source
of comfort and consolation to those who
are still living, to whom this promise
was made, if they could be assured in
their own minds that they would live
here in the flesh to behold that day. But
let me say a few words in relation to
this. We need not expect, from what God
has revealed, that a very great number
of those who were then in the Church
and who were driven, will have the priv-
ilege of returning to that land. We