

cause God ordained, on the 6th day of April, 1830, as you can read in the Doctrine and Covenants, that all things in this Church should be done by common consent. This is the reason for the voting. Although the Lord may give a revelation upon the subject, although he might say, Let my servant Hyrum Smith be Patriarch; or Let my servant Brigham Young be President of the Twelve Apostles; notwithstanding the Lord may give this by revelation, yet he himself was anxious to carry out the principle he had revealed a long time before that; namely, that all this I have named may be brought before the General Conference to be sanctioned and approved, or not to be sanctioned. What! the people have a right to reject those whom the Lord names? Yes, they have this right, he gave it to them. "Let them be approved of or not approved of;" showing that he had respect to the people themselves, that they

should vote and give their general voice to either sustain or not to sustain. I do not know why, only in the latter days the kingdom is in a little different circumstances upon the face of the earth, than it has been in during any former dispensation. We are living in a free Republican Government, wherein the people vote, and the Lord established this great American Government and gave the Constitution, and he wished the people to have a voice in the officers named; he wished the people to exercise their agency; you may call it a democratic principle. Notwithstanding He himself may point out the persons, and call them by name, yet you may approve of them or disapprove of them at my General Conference.

Perhaps I have said enough; there is a great field open when Priesthood is spoken of. May the Lord bless you. Amen.

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## THE VOICE OF GOD, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE—THE POSITION OF THE TWELVE—READINGS FROM DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS.

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR, DELIVERED AT THE SEMI ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE, HELD IN THE NEW TABERNACLE, SALT LAKE CITY, SATURDAY  
AFTERNOON, OCT. 6, 1877.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

I am very happy to find so great an unanimity of feeling in the voting, as has been manifested at this Conference. There is a very common axiom in the world, "Vox populi,

vox dei," or, "The voice of the people is the voice of God." Although the voice of the people is very important, we do not believe in that action separate and alone. It was