LEAVING NAUVOO, ETC.

all by the world, it is in a national ca-
pacity. Have these changes been acciden-
tal and unlooked for? Did no one antic-
ipate such results as we now behold be-
ing wrought out? Or were they antici-
pated years and years ago by those most
familiar with the genius and organiza-
tion of the kingdom of God? Those who
are not familiar with our early history
have but to read the utterances of those
who were engaged in the founding of
this work, to become convinced that they
were anticipated long ago by those who
contemplated the future growth and de-
velopment of the kingdom of God. There
is no feature connected with our cir-
cumstances today that has not been fa-
miliar for years to the minds of those
who have contemplated the future of
this work. When the church was or-
organized, and a small house would hold
all its members, predictions were in-
dulged in that the circumstances of to-
day but partially fulfil, and years will
yet have to elapse before they are com-
pletely fulfilled. Our Heavenly Father
poured out his spirit upon his servants
in the beginning, which enabled them
to comprehend the work he had estab-
lished on the earth, and through the
spirit of prophecy and revelation they
could plainly see the great results which
would be wrought out through the faith-
fulness of the people of God. Can we
now see the limit of this work? Is the
horizon of our vision bounded by those
things actually transpiring around us,
or do we still stretch forward to a fu-
ture, for this people, too glorious for de-
scription? I do not suppose there is
one here who has ever thought on this
great subject and attempted to grasp
the circumstances by which we are sur-
rounded, that has not stretched forward
in delightful anticipation of the glorious
future that awaits the people of God,
if they are only faithful to the truth that
he has committed unto them. Would
to God that all the inhabitants of the
earth could see and comprehend these
things! Would to God that they would di-
vest themselves of their prejudices and
preconceived ideas, and that they would
calmly look truth in the face and reflect
upon the work that God, our Heavenly
Father, is performing in the midst of the
nations of the earth! If they would do
this, they might avoid a great many diffi-
culties into which they will otherwise be
inevitably involved. It is no more, nor
no less, true today, than it was thirty-
seven years ago, that God has stretched
forth his hand to accomplish a great and
a mighty work, that shall stand forever,
and shall not be given into the hands of
another people; but it will go on increas-
ing and spreading abroad, until it has
accomplished that for which it was des-
tined by our Almighty Father. I say it is
as true now as it was then, and no more
true today than then, and they who paid
heed to it then have never had cause to
regret doing so; and they who give heed
to it today will never have cause to re-
gret it in the future. To us who are fa-
miliar with this work, and understand
the operations of the spirit, and can see
the design of God, our Heavenly Father,
it seems strange that mankind should be
so indifferent to so great a work as this
in which we are engaged. Yet it is so. You
would imagine that men going forth with
the proclamation that the elders bear
would receive everywhere that attention
that the importance of their proclama-
tion demands, at least until men were
satisfied in their own minds of the truth
or falsity of the message they bear. But
this is not the case. No man ever calmly
sat down with a prayerful heart to ex-