him this to satisfy his curiosity, for no
man, we are told, had ever before wit-
nessed such great things, and the Lord
could not withhold them from him, be-
cause of his great faith. I do not believe,
either, that this great man would have
sought the Lord seeking to satisfy curios-
ity; but I told you, and I do believe, that
He revealed to him many of his great and
marvelous purposes in relation to the in-
habitants of the earth in relation to his
future dealings with the nations of the
earth, in relation to the rise of his king-
dom in the latter days, as now taking
place. I have no doubt he saw every par-
ticular as they have occurred, since 1830
to the present time. He saw our history
and our travels and our persecutions;
and he also saw the state of darkness
that the world would be in before the
Lord would set up this Church upon the
earth again, and the persecutions that
would come up on the former-day Saints,
and how the Church would fall away
and the Priesthood be taken away from
among men; all these things were mani-
fested to him, and he was commanded to
write them. And if we had these things
now which he wrote, I have not the least
doubt, were revealed to this man of God,
and were commanded to be written, and
will come forth when the generation has
fully past away that were living in the
year 1829—forty-eight years ago.

As regards the number of years by
which a generation shall be measured,
we have no special definite period given
to us by revelation; the Lord speaks in
terms that are general in relation to gen-
erations. Among the Nephites, immedi-
ately after Christ's appearance to them,
a generation was a hundred years, and
in the fourth generation they were de-
stroyed, as a nation; except some few
who went over to the Lamanites. We
find generations numbering from father
to son, and from son to grandson, etc.,
and when we come to average genera-
tions, according to the statistic, of na-
tions, we find them to be about thirty
years to a generation; but when the Lord
speaks in general terms, and says, This
generation shall not pass away, until a
House shall be built to his name, as is
given in this "Book of Covenants," and
a cloud should rest upon it; in that case
I do not think he is limited to any defi-
nite period, but suffice it to say that the
people living in 1832, when the revela-
tion was given, will not all pass away;
there will be some living when the House
spoken of will be reared, on which the
glory of God will rest. Already forty-five
years have passed away since that rev-
elation was given, concerning the build-
ing of that House. And when he says to
Hyrum Smith, "Study my word, etc., un-
til you have obtained all which I shall
grant unto the children of men in this
generation," I do not know how long
that generation was intended, in the
mind of God, to be, and I do not think
there is any person in the Church that
does know, unless the Lord has revealed