after the birth of Christ, according to the
signs that were given on this American
continent, concerning his birth. Thirty-
six years prior to this time his nation
was destroyed in what we term the State
of New York, around about a hill, called
by that people the Hill of Cumorah,
when many hundreds of thousands of
the Nephites—men, women and chil-
dren, fell, during the greatest battle that
they had had with the Lamanites. For
36 years this prophet of God kept him-
self hid, and wrote as he was prompted
by the spirit of inspiration, and finally
hid up the plates of gold, containing the
records in the Hill of Cumorah, with
the promise which the Lord gave him
that these records should come to light
in the last days, that He himself would
bring them forth by his own wisdom
and power. And he also tells us his ob-
ject, namely, to benefit the Gentiles who
should occupy this American continent—
the Promised Land, as they term it; and
also for the benefit of other nations of
Gentiles to whom the book should after-
wards be sent; and when they should
reject it, the Lord would cause it to be
published to the remnants of the Laman-
ites inhabiting this country, whom we
call American Indians, which shall be
the means of revealing to them the his-
tory of their forefathers, and also cer-
tain promises made to them as a branch
of the house of Israel, setting forth that
many of their descendants should be-
lieve the record when it should be made
known to them, and that they should
be instructed in the things of God, and
the curse, which has degenerated them
to their present low condition, should
be removed, and that they should lay
down their weapons of war, and that they
should cease to war and commit mur-
ders, and thefts and robberies, and that
they should become a peaceable, and also
a white and delightsome people. These
are the predictions given in the Book of
Mormon as some of the objects of the
bringing forth of that record in the last
days. And among other objects that the
Lord had in view was, that he might en-
lighten the minds of the people in re-
gard to the Gospel in all its plainness
and fulness, with all its promises, bless-
ings, gifts and ordinances; so that the
people, the Gentiles, to whom this record
should be sent, might have no excuse
for rejecting it, and also that the Gospel
might be established in the earth in its
purity, according to ancient prophecies.
Another object was, that he might build
up his church among the Gentiles, if
they should believe in this record and
in the preaching of His servants when
they should be sent forth in the last days
among them, testifying to its truthful-
ness. In speaking of this work which
the Lord is doing in the earth, we some-
times call it the Church of God, and we
also speak of it as the kingdom of God.
It is both, God himself being the King;
not a civil power, not a civil government
in the earth, for we already have es-
tablished here upon this choice land a
government wherein all classes of reli-
gious people may worship God as they
please; but the Lord intended among
these various religions and ecclesiastic
denominations, to have a peculiar de-
nomination, a peculiar people, a peculiar
church, which he denominates his king-
dom, and himself as the great lawgiver
in this kingdom. Another object was that
men might have more faith than what
they had been in possession of in the for-
mer generations of apostasy and wicked-
ness, and that the faith which the an-
cient Saints exercised might again dwell
in the hearts of the children of men. For