numbering some 400,000,000, would be 
that they have not the power to do it. 
Ask them if they pretend to possess su-
pernatural power from God, to accom-
plish a work of this nature; and they 
will all tell you that God has never be-
stowed such power upon any of their 
ministers. And then, if it were possible, 
ask the 400,000,000 of Christians, scat-
tered throughout Asia, Europe, America 
and the islands of the seas, if a man 
can be found among them endowed, as 
ancient seers were, with the gift to see, 
or as ancient revelators were who told 
future events, what should befall men 
and nations and their final destiny; and 
the universal reply will be, O, no, such 
things are all done away. Here then the 
very first gift that the Lord set in his 
church, is a peculiar gift so far as the 
religions of the world are concerned, not 
peculiar so far as the Church of Christ 
is concerned, but so far as the religious 
world in the four quarters of the earth 
is concerned, we have something which 
they have not got, and something that 
is in accordance with the Bible. What 
man, I would ask further, among all 
the religions of the earth, for the last 
seventeen centuries, that has possessed 
the Urim and Thummim, the gift that 
would constitute him a seer and a reve-
lator? There may have been some sev-
eventeen thousand million of people that 
have passed off from our globe without 
such gifts being among them; and they 
were gifts given to the people of God be-
fore the advent of the Savior, and that 
were enjoyed by his servants that lived 
contemporary with him and with those 
who lived after he had performed his 
mission to the earth, and ascended to 
heaven. Then, in speaking to strangers, 
I would say, you must give us credit of at 
least professing to have these great and 
important gifts, gifts which all the other 
religions of the world do not even pro-
fess to be in possession of. Let me can-
didly enquire, which is the most pleas-
ing in the sight of God, for people to ob-
tain the great and precious things which 
come through the operation of the Holy 
Ghost, or for people to have no informa-
tion, no instruction for some seventeen 
hundred years, only what they could 
glean out of the writings of some of the 
ancient Seers, or Prophets, or Revela-
tors, or Apostles, who have lived and 
who have died centuries ago? Perhaps 
strangers might claim that they have the 
bookings of those favored men of God, 
and that they need no more, and that 
all the generations of men since the days 
that such men of God fell asleep needed 
no further instruction than that which 
was given to former-day Saints. The 
strangers present will readily concede 
this to be the sentiment, the belief and 
testimony of all, or nearly all the reli-
gious people upon the face of the whole 
earth. You also know if you have read 
the history of Christendom for seventeen 
centuries past, that their belief and tes-
timony in this respect have been simi-
lar to those entertained by Christianity 
of today. Now, I ask again, which is the 
more Godlike, which is the more in ac-
cordance with the Bible, for a people to 
enjoy the same gifts that were enjoyed 
by the people of God in earlier dispen-
sations, or to be obliged to depend upon 
some one else's gift who has long ago 
passed away? Now, any consistent reli-
gious man will give his testimony on reli-
gious affairs independent of the tradi-
tions of his fathers, and would say in his 
own mind, it is more consistent for us 
to have Revelators, Prophets, Seers and 
Translators inspired from heaven in our 
Church, it is more in accordance with the 
Bible to be in possession of those gifts 
ourselves than to depend upon Reve-