from any man or set of men, or any
court or any organization existing; and
if God has not revealed it, then the
whole thing is a falsehood and fiction,
and there is nothing to it. Here is a pic-
ture [pointing to the ceiling] of the angel
Moroni appearing unto Joseph Smith,
revealing to him among other things
the plates from which the Book of Mor-
mon was translated. We have another
here [pointing to John the Baptist con-
ferring upon Joseph Smith and Oliver
Cowdery the Aaronic priesthood], and
still another, representing Peter, James
and John conferring upon Joseph Smith
the Melchizedek priesthood. Very well.
Are these things true? There are thou-
sands of Latter-day Saints who will tell
you they know it. We will come to these
things by and by. But if these things
were not so, then our faith is in vain,
then we are dark and benighted as oth-
ers are, then the things we believe in are
a phantom and can avail us nothing, ei-
ther pertaining to this world or the world
to come; then the building of these tem-
ple amounts to nothing, if these things
are a fiction, and everything we have
done and are engaged in amounts to
nothing. But if they are true, then there
is nothing of so great importance to the
world of mankind and to us, as the reve-
lation of these truths to man in these last
days, and pertaining also to our associa-
tion therewith.

Now, when an elder lays his hands
upon a man and confirms upon him
the Holy Ghost, he tells him to re-
ceive it by virtue of the authority con-
ferrred upon him. What authority? Why
God restored the authority of the holy
priesthood by those who held the keys
of that priesthood and who administer
in time and in eternity, who hold that
priesthood upon the earth, and who now
hold it in the heavens. They came here
to impart it to men, and did restore it to
men. Very well, that being the case, man
was again placed in communion with his
God; not left any longer to guess and
suppose and surmise and to think, but
to know. For instance, I have myself
been thousands of miles and hundreds of
thousands to preach this Gospel; would
I have gone if I had not known it to
be true? No, I would not. There is
nothing very pleasing in going forth to
an unbelieving world to meet the errors
and the prejudices of ages, and to op-
pose the false theories of men, to intro-
duce the principles that are opposed and
repudiated by the carnal mind, and by
the corrupt everywhere; there is noth-
ing very pleasant or inviting to be tra-
duced and to have your name cast out as
evil, no matter how honorable you may
be, this has been the lot of the elders
of this Church and is their lot today, by
men who know not of what they speak,
by men who are bigoted, superstitious
and ignorant; men who comprehend not
God nor his laws; but we know it, and
I know the truths of which I speak, and
bear testimony to it before you. If others
do not know it, I cannot help it; I have
obeyed the method appointed to receive
these things, as you have had to do, to
be initiated into the Church and king-
dom, according to the laws which God
has ordained. What I have done, then,
all others in this Church have done;
and the elders of Israel have been actu-
ated by the same impulses, have obeyed
the same doctrines and ordinances, and
have administered the same ordinances
to others. They are influenced by the
same spirit, and they realized and knew
for themselves of the things which they
promulgated and taught. Is this con-