

**THE LAWS OF GOD AND THE LAWS OF THE LAND—THE
SAINTS AN OBEDIENT AND LAW-ABIDING
PEOPLE—THEIR PERSECUTIONS PRODUCTIVE OF
PROSPERITY—THEIR PAST AND PROSPECTIVE
EXPERIENCE AND EVENTUAL TRIUMPH.**

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH, DELIVERED AT THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE, ON SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH, 1882.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

Nearly all the brethren who have spoken at this Conference have referred to the circumstances in which we, as a people, are now placed; and it would seem unnecessary for me to make any further reference to this all-prevailing subject with which the people generally are more or less familiar, and in which we necessarily are considerably interested. But while the brethren who have spoken have merely referred to some of the sayings of the Prophet Joseph, and to items in the revelations through him, to the Church, I feel impressed to read in the hearing of the congregation one or two passages from the revelations previously referred to. I will, therefore, call the attention of the congregation to a verse or two in the revelation given in 1831, which will be found on page 219 of the Doctrine and Covenants:

"Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land.

"Wherefore, be subject to the powers that be, until he reigns whose right it is to reign, and subdues all enemies under his feet.

"Behold, the laws which ye have received from my hand are the laws of the church, and in this light ye shall hold them forth. Behold, here is wisdom."

The following I quote from a revelation given December, 1833, page 357:

"According to the laws and the constitution of the people, which I have suffered to be established, and should be maintained for the rights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles;

"That every man may act in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, according to the moral agency which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment.

"Therefore, it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another.

"And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood."

Again, in a revelation on page 342: