

**GOD'S PECULIAR PEOPLE CALLED A KINGDOM OF
PRIESTS—THEIR MINISTRY THUS FORESHADOWED—THE
MELCHIZEDEK AND AARONIC PRIESTHOODS—THEIR
RESTORATION IN THE LATTER DAYS—THE PREACHING
OF THE GOSPEL—EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH—THE
LINEAGE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH
SMITH—PREDESTINATION AND ELECTION—THE
DISPERSION AND GATHERING OF ISRAEL—THE
PRIESTHOOD ENDLESS, ADMINISTERING IN TIME AND
ETERNITY—THE BLINDNESS OF THE GENTILES TO THE
THINGS OF GOD—THE RESULTS OF PERSECUTION—THE
FUTURE OF THE FAITHFUL.**

DISCOURSE BY APOSTLE ERASTUS SNOW, DELIVERED AT LOGAN, SATURDAY
AFTERNOON, MAY 6, 1882.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

I will call the attention of the congregation to the words of the Lord through Moses, spoken to the children of Israel, contained in the 5th and 6th verses of the 19th chapter of Exodus:

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then shall ye be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."

In connection with this passage I will read the words of the Apostle Peter, as recorded in the 5th verse, 2nd chap. of 1st Peter:

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Also the 9th verse of the same chapter:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Elder Penrose referred this morning to the fact of so large a portion of the Latter-day Saints being called and ordained to bear some portion of the Priesthood, remarking that at times he had queried in his mind as to why this was so appointed unto us. This reminded me of the Scriptures I have just read in your hearing. The consideration of the subject involves the whole mission of the Latter-day Saints. The promise of God to ancient Israel contained in the first text sets forth the purposes of Jehovah in choosing the seed of Abraham especially and separating them from other peoples and nations, and taking them under His especial care and guidance, and leading them as he did out of Egyptian bondage with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and planting them in Canaan in fulfillment of the promises made to their father Abraham, and to Isaac and Jacob. And when God called Abraham to leave his father's house and go to a land which he should show him and which he afterwards promised to him and his seed for an inherit-