of God, was one to this effect, that the
time would come when we should not
only be opposed by a small circle, a few
individuals confined to a neighborhood,
but as the work should spread and in-
crease, the opposition to it would be in
proportion to its growth and its expan-
sion, until it would not be the act of the
mob, or the acts of mobs confined to coun-
ties or confined to States, but that the
time would come that in a national ca-
pacity blows would be aimed at us by
the nation of which we form a part. To-
day, my brethren and sisters, these pre-
dictions are being fulfilled in our sight.
Not one word that God has spoken con-
cerning this work will fall to the ground
unfulfilled, and the very enemies of this
work—those who are most anxious to de-
stroy it, and to prove the falsity of its
claims are the very instruments in the
providence of our God, used to fulfill his
word and accomplish his designs. Do you
think for one moment that Senator Ed-
munds in framing the bill called by his
name, or in presenting it to the Senate
for its action, had any idea in his mind
that he was an instrument in fulfilling
the predictions of God, through his ser-
vant Joseph? Have you any idea that
the House of Representatives in passing
that bill, after it had passed the Senate,
supposed for one moment that they were
helping to establish the claims of Joseph
Smith as a prophet of the living God? Or
do you imagine that President Arthur, in
selecting the five Commissioners to go
to Utah Territory to act in accordance
with the provisions of this same law, sup-
posed that he was helping in any manner
to establish the claims of what is called
"Mormonism" to divinity, or that the
Commissioners themselves, in coming
here, have once thought that they were
playing a part in the great drama of
the last days, that they in their sphere
were helping, or are helping to establish
the truth of this work, the downfall of
which is sought to be accomplished? And
yet these are the truths connected with
this work; these are the facts. The man
who framed that bill, the man who in-
troduced it in the Senate, the judiciary
committee who passed upon it, the Sen-
ate who adopted the report of its com-
mittee of judiciary and passed the bill,
the House of Representatives who took
the bill up and made it law, so far as
their action was concerned, and the Pres-
ident of the United States who signed
the Act and who appointed the Commis-
ioners under it, and the Commissioners
themselves who were thus appointed—
all these men in their official capacity
have helped, though they thought they
were doing the very opposite, to estab-
lish the truth of the predictions of the
Prophet Joseph, and of President Young
and of the Apostles who have been in-
spired of God from the commencement of
this work until this time, and who have
predicted that these events would most
assuredly take place.

Thus we see, that the wrath of man
is made to praise God. The acts of
men are converted to the glory of God,
and fight as they may, contend as they
may, resist this work as they may, this
work, the foundation of which God has
laid, they can do naught against it.
On the contrary, everything they do
contributes to its establishment; con-
tributes to prove its divine authentic-
city, to show that there is an overruling
power greater than that of man, even the
power of the Most High God, and that he
causes the nations of the earth and the