tinued from that day until the present
time, gathering strength, increasing in
volume and intensity against the work
of God, and to those who have had no
faith, it has seemed as though it would
take but a short period for the waves of
opposition to overwhelm and completely
submerge this work that our God has
founded in the earth. But this work
being of God, the promises which He
made concerning it, have not failed. Ev-
every word thus far has been fulfilled. It
seemed like a feeble light in the begin-
ning. It seemed as though a small puff of
wind would extinguish it; but it has con-
tinued to enlarge, it has continued to in-
crease, until its blaze illumines the hori-
zon, and is watched with interest from
afar.

When we look back at the inception
of this work, at the promises that were
made concerning it, and the labors of
those who were engaged in founding it,
it is most interesting in this day to mark
and ponder upon that which was then
done, and that which was then promised
unto us. Men wonder why it is that the
Latter-day Saints believe in this work,
why it is that they believe in the claims
of Joseph Smith as a Prophet of God.
Wonder is expressed because we enter-
tain faith in the doctrines which form
our religion; but to me it is most ex-
traordinary that men, possessed of the
powers of reason, of the faculty of judg-
ing between truth and error, should with
the light there is upon this subject, with
the extraordinary evidence in favor of
the divinity of this work, doubt its truth,
or that they should hesitate to accept
it. It has always seemed from my boy-
hood, since I was old enough to com-
prehend these principles, extraordinary
that such should be the case. God
made promises in the beginning of this
work, concerning its growth and fu-
ture, every word of which has been ful-
filled. The evidences are before the
world. When the Prophet Joseph first re-
cieved his manifestations concerning the
coming forth of this work, he was but a
boy of fourteen years of age. When he
received the plates containing the Book
of Mormon, he was but twenty-one years
of age. When this Church was organized
he was but twenty-four years of age. The
revelations which were then given, and
which are embodied in the Book of Doc-
trine and Covenants concerning the or-
ganization of the Church are such that if
I were not a Latter-day Saint, and were
to read them and know as I do know
concerning the man through whom these
revelations came, and through whom
this organization was effected, I would
be compelled to admit that there was a
power connected with the organization
of this Church, that there was a light
and an intelligence connected with the
revelations that were then given, that
could not have emanated from any other
source but God. It would be harder for
me to reject this idea and this view, than
it would be to entertain it. The weight
and preponderance of argument would
be more in favor of that view than of any
other. Let any man read the revelations
which Joseph received prior to the sixth
of April, 1830. Let him read the revela-
tion that was given on that day concern-
ing the organization of this Church, and
if he can do so without being impressed
that God is in this, then he must indeed
be an extraordinary specimen of unbelief,
and of hardness of heart. A church
organized precisely upon the pattern
of the ancient church, with doctrines
precisely similar, varying in no sin-
tle particular from the doctrines of the