identified with it. And the thousands
that compose this Church today, who
joined it when they were adults were,
the most of them, in a similar condi-
tion, a similar state of mind. Dissatis-
fied with existing creeds, members, in
many instances, of existing Churches,
but conscious that there was an ab-
sence of that divine power and of those
heavenly gifts which characterized the
Church in ancient days; dissatisfied with
this condition of things, they besought
God earnestly, fervently, and anxiously,
to restore His Gospel to the earth, or to
send some message of life and salvation
unto them. They were thus prepared for
the Gospel when it came, and received
it gladly, because their hearts were pre-
pared, and it is those few who have been
gathered from the nations of the earth,
with others who are also open, because
of the honesty of their hearts, to receive
the truth. Joseph Smith said that this
should be the character of this work. But
it is a remarkable fact—and I wish be-
fore leaving this point to call your atten-
tion to it, that, wherever we have gone
among those people whom the Book of
Mormon tells us are the descendants of
the house of Israel, we have had no trou-
ble in converting them by hundreds, and
it may be said by thousands, to the truth.
They were ready to receive it without
any difficulty whatever. It seemed as
though their hearts had been prepared
by the God of heaven, and all that has
been necessary has been to tell them the
truth, and they were natural Latter-day
Saints, natural believers in the Gospel of
the Son of God.

I myself went as a missionary, as
many of you know, to the Sandwich
Islands, the natives of which I be-
lieve to be either a branch of the Indi-
ans of this continent, or of some other
portion of the house of Israel. There
was no trouble in baptizing them, and
there is no trouble in baptizing any of
the Polynesian races. They are ready
to receive the Gospel, ready to be bat-
tized; very different in this respect from
us Gentiles; for there is a spirit of un-
belief among the Gentile race; there is
a hardness of heart; there is a want of
faith that prevents the blessings of God
from descending as they did in ancient
days upon His covenant people. Gentiles
are naturally unbelievers. It is difficult
to convert them, difficult to control them,
difficult for them to receive the truth in
plainness and simplicity.

Now God has said in this chapter,
that He would send Elijah, the Prophet,
before the coming of the great and dread-
ful day of the Lord. A very singular
prediction, a remarkable prediction es-
pecially when we consider that in this
day and age, men do not believe in the
ministration of angels; and the office
of that Prophet should be "to turn the
heart of the fathers to the children, and
the heart of the children to their fa-
thers, lest I come and smite the earth
with a curse." Elijah was to come for
a specific purpose. I do not know how
Christendom is going to arrange to have
this angel come. If he came, I do not
suppose Christendom would believe he
came. But it is on record in our sacred
books that the Prophet Elijah has come.
Permit me, in connection with this sub-
ject, to read a little upon this point. After
the completion of the Kirtland Temple,
Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery testi-
ified that they beheld the Son of God. It
is a most remarkable testimony in this
age of unbelief; but they solemnly tes-
tify that they beheld the Son of God,
and that after beholding Him, they were