

POWER ATTENDING THE ACTION OF GENERAL CONFERENCES—
 GOD CONFIRMS THE AUTHORITY OF HIS SERVANTS BY
 MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS POWER AND FAVOR—JOSEPH SMITH
 CHOSEN AND ORDAINED TO ORGANIZE THE CHURCH OF
 GOD—THE LORD REVEALED TO THE SAINTS HIS CHOICE OF
 PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG, AND ALSO OF PRESIDENT JOHN
 TAYLOR—GOD BLESSES EVERY MAN WHO WILL MAGNIFY HIS
 OFFICE AND CALLING, AND GIVES TO ONE MAN ONLY AT A
 TIME, REVELATION TO GOVERN THE CHURCH—FOLLY AND
 WICKEDNESS OF WITCHCRAFT

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE,
 SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 14, 1884

Reported by John Irvine

It is always an impressive sight to me to see a congregation numbering so many people as this does, raise their hands before the Lord to sustain the names of men who are presented to them as holding office in the Church, and though we do this semi-annually, in our general conferences for the General Authorities, and quarterly, that is, four times a year for the local authorities, it should not be in our feelings nor in our practice the performance of an empty form, but should be done in a spirit that will be acceptable unto our Father, and in consonance with the responsibility that devolves upon the men whom we sustain. For when we thus sustain these men it means more than the mere lifting of our hands, or at least should do so. It means the sustaining of these men by our faith and by our prayers, and so far as works are required, by our works, and when we thus vote and thus act, there is a power and an influence accompanying such action

as we have performed this afternoon, that are felt by those in whose favor we vote: they feel strengthened, and God our Eternal Father seals His blessing, or causes it to descend upon those who are voted for, and there is a spirit that rests down upon them from that time forward, so long as they are faithful and are thus sustained, that manifests itself unto all with whom they are brought in contact. Let this congregation lift up their hands to sever a man from the Church, and no matter how high he may be in authority, no matter what Priesthood he bears, no matter how great and mighty he may have been in the Church and in the ministry—let this congregation for just cause lift up their hands against any such man and how quickly the effect is felt, how quickly that man is stripped of his power and of his influence, and of that spirit and those gifts which have been conspicuous in his labors previous to such action, or while he was in good