earth, but God has moved heaven and
earth for the accomplishment of that ob-
ject. Men in most instances have been
blinded by the adversary who leads them
captive at his will, but they do not know it.
And he operates very frequently among us trying to lead us astray, and
we do not know it. It is a very difficult thing for us to comprehend the position
that we occupy to God and to His Church
and Kingdom.

God desires our welfare, and He has
instituted laws for that purpose; He has
introduced the everlasting Gospel for
that purpose; and He has restored the
Holy Priesthood that existed anciently,
together with all the principles, bless-
ings, powers, rites, ordinances, and privi-
leges that have graced the earth from the
commencement of time. We can hardly
realize this important fact, but when you
reflect you will see some peculiar fea-
tures associated with this work.

We all look upon Joseph Smith as
being a Prophet of God. God called
him to occupy the position that he did.
How long ago? Thousands of years
ago before this world was formed. The
Prophets prophesied about his coming,
that a man should arise whose name
should be Joseph, and that his father's
name should be Joseph, and also that he
should be a descendant of that Joseph
who was sold into Egypt. This prophecy
you will find recorded in the Book of
Mormon. He had very great and pre-
cious promises made to him by the Lord.
I have heard him say on certain oc-
casions, "You do not know who I am."
The world did not like him. The world
did not like either the Savior, or the
Prophets; they have never liked revealed
truth; and it is as much as a bargain
for the Saints even to bear the truth.

In the commencement of the work,
the Father and the Son appeared to
Joseph Smith. And when they appeared
to him, the Father, pointing to the Son,
said, "This is My Beloved Son. Hear
Him!" As much as to say, "I have not
come to teach and instruct you; but I
refer you to my Only Begotten, who is
the Mediator of the New Covenant, the
Lamb slain from before the foundation
of the world; I refer you to Him as your
Redeemer, your High Priest and Teacher.
Hear Him."

What next? Then came men who had
held the Priesthood before. Who were
they? Moroni, an ancient Prophet who
had lived upon this continent and who
had charge of the records from which
the Book of Mormon was translated—
a fitting person to introduce the same
principles again. Afterwards it was nec-
essary that the Priesthood should be
conferred; and John the Baptist came
and laid his hands upon Joseph Smith
and Oliver Cowdery, saying, "Upon you
my fellow servants, I lay my hands, and
confer upon you the Aaronic Priesthood,
which shall never be taken from the
earth again, until the sons of Levi of-
fer an acceptable offering before me."
That was the Lesser Priesthood—the
Aaronic—appertaining to the bishopric.
And why was John the Baptist chosen to
confer this Priesthood? Because he was
the last that held this holy Priesthood
upon the earth. And why did he come?
Because the Priesthood administers in
time and eternity; both the Aaronic and
Melchizedek. And he, holding the keys
of that Priesthood, came and conferred
it upon Joseph Smith. When he had
conferred this Priesthood upon Joseph
Smith, other things had to be conferred;
that is, what is called the Melchizedek
Priesthood. But you understand