

PRESENT CONDITIONS—THE HATRED OF THE WORLD TOWARD
 THE SAINTS—WHY THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH ARE
 ATTACKED—THE PURPOSE OF PERSECUTION—THE SAINTS
 NEED NOT BE AFFLICTED OR WORRIED ABOUT THE PRESENT
 STATE OF AFFAIRS—THE SIFTING PROCESS—THE EPISTLE OF
 THE FIRST PRESIDENCY—WORK OF GOD ALWAYS MET WITH
 OPPOSITION—THE GOSPEL REVEALED IN THIS DAY WAS THE
 GOSPEL THAT WAS REVEALED TO ADAM—MORE REVELATION TO
 BE GIVEN—SAINTS MUST NOT BORROW TROUBLE—WHEN A
 NATION PERVERTS JUSTICE, THEN COMMENCES ITS
 DOWNFALL—THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES—
 SAINTS MUST COMMIT NO OVERT ACT—EXHORTATION TO
 FAITHFULNESS—CONCLUSION

DISCOURSE BY APOSTLE FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS, DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL
 CONFERENCE, HELD IN THE TABERNACLE, LOGAN, CACHE COUNTY,
 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 4 AND 5, 1885

Reported by John Irvine

It is very pleasing and it is also an occasion of heartfelt gratitude to be permitted to meet, so many of us, this morning and under such favorable circumstances as those which surround us; even the elements conspire to make our coming together convenient and agreeable. Circumstances are such as prevent our brethren of the First Presidency and several of the Twelve Apostles from being with us, and perhaps others from among the people, who would be glad to be with us at this General Conference, but who deem it advisable, or are so situated that they cannot consistently attend. Let us that have come together seek unto the Lord for His Spirit and His guidance, that we may receive that measure of grace and blessing at His hand which we need under the present conditions which attend upon us.

If any evidence were wanting to indicate to the doubtful, the unbelieving, or the half-hearted, as to whether we are of the world or the world of us, we are obtaining daily evidence of the fact that we are not of the world. The Savior told the brethren that sojourned with Him: "If ye were of the world, the world would love you: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." The same reason essentially exists today that existed then. But the Lord has made very gracious and precious promises to His people—that where only two or three are agreed as touching matters pertaining to the interest of His Kingdom and the honor of His name, their prayers shall be heard. There never was a day since the Church has been organized in these last days that the Saints