

to heaven and say, I have magnified the office of an Elder. After our conversation was over in the Council, some of the brethren began to query, and said we ought to be ordained High Priests; at the same time I did not consider that an Apostle needed to be ordained a High Priest, an Elder, or a Teacher. I did not express my views on the subject, at that time, but thought I would hear what brother Joseph would say about it. It was William E. McLellin who told Joseph, that I and Heber were not ordained High Priests, and wanted to know if it should not be done. Said Joseph, "Will you insult the Priesthood? Is that all the knowledge you have of the office of an Apostle? Do you not know that the man who receives the Apostleship, receives all the keys that ever were, or that can be, conferred upon mortal man? What are you talking about? I am astonished!" Nothing more was said about it.

I know that Joseph received his Apostleship from Peter, James, and John, before a revelation on the subject was printed, and he never had a right to organize a Church before he was an Apostle.

I have tried to shew you, brethren, as briefly as possible, the order of the Priesthood. When a man is ordained to be an Apostle, his Priesthood is without beginning of days, or end of life, like the Priesthood of Melchizedek; for it was his *Priesthood* that was spoken of in this language, and not the *man*.

When I arose to address you, I wanted to talk to you a little of my experience in practical "Mormonism," but I have not had time, and have talked long enough already. I have been round about it, you know, for it is all inside of what I have been telling you.

May the Lord bless you forever, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE—CONSTITUTION OF
THE UNITED STATES—DISCOVERY, COLONIZATION, AND
PROGRESS OF AMERICA—DESPOTIC
NATIONS—INFLUENCE OF AMERICA FOR THE
UNIVERSAL PREVALENCE OF LIBERTY.**

AN ORATION BY ELDER P. P. PRATT, DELIVERED AT GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, 1853, ON
THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 4TH OF JULY, 1776.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

Friends and Fellow Citizens—We have been edified and instructed today, our hearts have been warmed, and our minds entertained with a variety. Shall I say interspersed with music? No, for it has all been music, whether

flowing from the hearts of our fellow citizens, or produced by the skill of our hands in the use of musical instruments. All has been music—music to the ear, and poetry to the heart. We have had a variety, all