

**PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD—THE GRADUAL
ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH—DUTIES OF
OFFICERS—UNION IN ALL MATTERS ADVANTAGEOUS
AND INEVITABLE—POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS GROWTH.**

DISCOURSE BY ELDER ORSON PRATT, DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SALT
LAKE CITY, SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 7, 1878.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

I will call the attention of this large assembly to the latter part of a very important and extensive parable recorded in the Book of Mormon.

The speaker read from the Book of Mormon, commencing at the 128th page.

I have read these words of the ancient prophet, to whom it seemed good unto the Lord to reveal his purposes and designs in regard to the inhabitants of this earth, by means of the trees of the vineyard, calling the house of Israel, the literal descendants of Israel, the natural trees of his vineyard; and the other nations, whom we term Gentiles, as the wild branches of the wild olive tree.

I have read only a small portion of the latter part of this extensive parable, that part which more particularly relates to the great work which we, as Latter-day Saints, are now performing in the earth.

Forty-eight years ago, yesterday, after this Book had been printed making known this great parable to the people, the Church arose, consisting of only six individuals. From that time until the present, as the Church has grown and extended its borders, the Lord through his ser-

vants, has been organizing his Priesthood. We speak of the Church being organized on the 6th day of April, 1830, and of it consisting then of only six members. No one could expect that with that very small number there could be a very perfect organization. But so far as there were individuals introduced into the Church, on the day of its organization, the Lord gave a revelation concerning their duty. And after the Church had extended forth its borders, and a few hundred individuals were gathered unto it, in the year that it was organized, a still further organization took place; and it was but a few years until the Church stood forth in a more perfect organization than it had on the day of its foundation. Twelve men were called to be Apostles according to a certain prediction given some ten months before the organization of the Church. About this same period of time the first seventy elders were chosen, which perfected the organization still more. And also in those early days the High Priesthood, after the order of Melchizedek, was made manifest more fully and men were ordained to that order of priesthood. In those early days also the Lesser Priest-