

**A COMPARISON—WRATH OF MAN MADE TO PRAISE  
GOD—FALL OF SENATOR EDMUNDS—FATE OF THOSE  
WHO OPPOSE GOD'S WORK—PERSECUTION FOR  
RELIGION UNAVAILING—CASE OF THE  
HUGUENOTS—INTEMPERANCE—STARTLING  
STATISTICS—DRINK, THE CAUSE OF OTHER  
EVILS—APPEAL TO THE SAINTS.**

DISCOURSE BY ELDER MOSES THATCHER, DELIVERED IN THE LARGE TABERNACLE, SALT  
LAKE CITY, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, APRIL 7, 1883.

REPORTED BY UNKNOWN.

I feel very grateful indeed for the happy and peaceful circumstances with which we are surrounded this day, and I cannot help realizing how different they are to those which surrounded us a year ago. The pressure from the outside world at that time was very great, and the power of him who has been an oppressor from the beginning was exercised throughout this nation for the hurt of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. But when perils have threatened we have learned to appeal to the invisible forces of heaven against the visible forces of earth, and in no age of the world with which I am acquainted has the right ever failed to succeed if those who maintained it were directed, sustained and upheld by the power of God our eternal Father. When men make it their special mission to contend against this great work, they do not realize that God is a power, they cannot comprehend that exercise of faith that turns aside the shafts of our enemies and delivers us from the snares which shrewd politicians and wicked and ungodly priests lay to entrap the people. How well I recollect a conversation I had about a year ago,

with a very thoughtful man, a man connected with the Church, but who at times is given to view things from the natural standpoint. It was shortly after the arrival of the Commissioners who came to Utah to administer the provisions of the Edmunds' law. This brother was not ignorant of the exertions which has been made throughout the Union to secure the enactment of that and other proscriptive measures, nor was he ignorant of the intent of leading politicians in the Republican party to forge chains with which to bind us, while depriving us of our liberties. He understood full well the means which had been used; he was not ignorant of the tearful waves of prejudice which had swept every State in the Union. Realizing what the intentions of the wicked were, and understanding the mighty power of a mighty nation, he felt exercised and desired to know if something could not be done to compromise the question; in other words; if it was not possible to submit to the President and Cabinet certain propositions by which the people might be enabled to maintain their rights and liberties. I have not forgotten what my reflections