

**OBJECT OF GATHERING—OUR PRINCIPLES AND
ORGANIZATION REVEALED FROM GOD—HE IS
COGNIZANT OF ALL THINGS—OUR FAITH NOT AFFECTED
BY THE IDEAS OF MEN—OUR DEPENDENCE UPON
GOD—ENOCH'S CITY—GOD'S JUSTICE IN SENDING THE
FLOOD, AND IN THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND
GOMORRAH—HIS JUDGMENTS WILL COME UPON THOSE
WHO PERSECUTE HIS SAINTS—THE LORD WILL BLESS
HIS PEOPLE—WE WILL STAND BY THE CONSTITUTION
THOUGH OTHERS IGNORE IT.**

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, SALT LAKE
CITY, SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1884.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

We hear a great many things associated with the Church and Kingdom of God in which, as a people, we are very much interested.

We meet together, from time to time, to sing, to pray, to speak, to hear and to attend to the various duties and responsibilities that devolve upon us. We are taught of things pertaining to time and things pertaining to eternity, and perhaps we are more favored—well, there is no perhaps about it—we are more favored than any other people that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. We have been gathered together from among the nations of the earth in order that we may be instructed in the laws of God, and in the principles of truth and life, that we may be able to comprehend our relationship to our heavenly Father, to his Son Jesus Christ, to the Priesthood that exists in the heavens, and to the inhabitants of the earth by whom we are surrounded, and among whom we dwell.

There is something very peculiar

about the position which we occupy among the nations of the earth. We have not received any of the intelligence which we possess from these nations, with the exception of some matters pertaining to science, to art, and the common education of the day. But as regards our religious principles we are not indebted to any men who live upon the earth for them. These principles emanated from God. They were given by revelation, and if we have a First Presidency, if we have High Priests, if we have Seventies, if we have Bishops, Elders, Priests and Teachers, if we have Stake and other organizations, we have received them all from God. If we have Temples, if we administer in them, it is because we have received instruction in relation thereto from the Lord. If we know anything pertaining to the future, it comes from him, and in fact we live in God, we move in God, and from him we derive our being. Men generally will not acknowledge this, but we as Latter-