

**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