

of my friends, and were served with the best that the table afforded, by my wife, whom they refused to allow me to see, when they so cruelly arrested and ill-treated me, which contrasted strongly with their treatment to me when I was first arrested by them, and until my friends met me.²⁵

In subsequent legal action in Nauvoo, Joseph was freed from the Missouri writ and he, as well as Reynolds and Wilson, were released.

We Will Have Means to Gather the Saints by Tens of Thousands

During the year 1842 the Church's work of gathering the Saints had been hampered by its lack of funds. On January 20, 1843, Joseph prophesied that the situation would soon be alleviated:

I prophesy, in the name of the Lord God, as soon as we get the Temple built, so that we shall not be obliged to exhaust our means thereon, *we will have means to gather the Saints by thousands and tens of thousands.*²⁶

The Temple was not completed until May 1, 1846, after the majority of the Saints had been driven from Nauvoo and had begun the trek westward to a new home in Utah. Yet despite the sufferings of the Saints the Church was growing rapidly in foreign lands during this era. By mid-1848 the Saints in the British Isles numbered 17,902. New missions were soon opened in the Society Islands, Italy, Switzerland, India, France, Denmark, Sweden, Jutland, Norway, Australia, Hawaii, New Zealand, and Tasmania. As these converts began to gather to the tops of the mountains, the Church realized the necessity of providing funds and equipment to assist them. Farms were set up along the pioneer route westward, and the Saints prepared crops to feed later companies. New conveyances such as the handcarts were implemented. Companies were established on foreign shores to organize the gathering Saints and to procure better accommodations for them at more advantageous prices. These endeavors were financed, to a great extent, by the Perpetual Emigrating Fund. This was a revolving fund which the Church established in September, 1849. Saints were allowed to borrow from the fund to finance their journey to Zion, and were expected to pay back their debt so others could obtain the same privilege. The California gold rush served to establish Salt Lake City as the "crossroads of the West" and

25. HC 5:459-60.

26. HC 5:255.

brought opportunity for trade to the Saints, thereby increasing capital available for the gathering. Joseph's prophecy was literally fulfilled for the Church, through its industry and ingenuity, obtained the means necessary to gather the Saints by the tens of thousands.

The Man was an Adulterer

On February 8, 1843, Joseph spent the day in conversation with Parley P. Pratt and others. He told them of some experiences he had had while on his trip to Washington. He had preached in Philadelphia in early 1840 and told of an incident which took place there:

When I was preaching in Philadelphia, a Quaker called out for a sign. I told him to be still. After the sermon, he again asked for a sign. *I told the congregation the man was an adulterer; that a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and that the Lord has said to me in a revelation, that any man who wanted a sign was an adulterous person.*²⁷

After Joseph had said these words another member of the audience cried out, "It is true, for I caught him in the very act!" The experience was undoubtedly a moving one for the sign-seeker, for the Prophet recorded that the individual later repented, confessed his sin, and was baptized.²⁸

Christ Will not Come this Year as William Miller Prophesied

The year 1843 was a sensational one in the religious history of the United States, for that was the year in which the world was to come to an end. Such, at least, was the prophecy of William Miller, the noted Adventist preacher. The power of his predictions swept the countryside and created a mass hysteria as the appointed day drew near. Said one historian,

The threat of the last day had spread everywhere. Hundreds of thousands of acres of crops went unharvested. Beef cattle were slaughtered and 'love feasts' given to the very poor.

Usually rational people went everywhere in flowing white robes and greeted their friends with the biblical kiss. Others took pleasure in washing the feet of those who came to visit them.

Other's even less balanced, sold all their possessions and selected some high place in which to await the Lord. Some

27. HC 5:268.

28. *Ibid.*