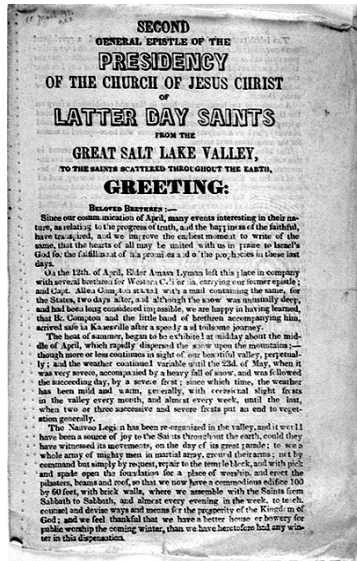


[October 12, 1849]



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**SECOND
GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE
PRESIDENCY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF
LATTER DAY SAINTS
FROM THE
GREAT SALT LAKE VALLEY
TO THE SAINTS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE EARTH,
GREETING:**

Beloved brethren, since our communication of April, many events interesting in their nature, as relating to the progress of truth, and the happiness of the faithful have transpired, and we improve the earliest moment to write of the same, that the hearts of all may be united with us in praise to Israel's God for the fulfilment of His promises, and of the prophecies in these last days. . . .

10 The Nauvoo Legion has been re-organized in the valley, and it would have been a source of joy to the Saints throughout the earth, could they have witnessed its movements on the day of its great parade; to see a whole army of mighty men in martial array, ground their arms, not by command but simply by request, repair to the temple block, and with pick and spade open the foundation for a place of worship, and erect the pilasters, beams and roof, so that we now have a commodious edifice 100 x 60 feet, with brick walls, where we assemble with the Saints from Sabbath to Sabbath, and almost every evening in the week, to teach, counsel, and devise ways and means for the prosperity of the Kingdom of God: and we feel thankful that we have a better house or bowery for public worship the coming winter, than we have heretofore had any winter in this dispensation.

The inhabitants of this great Basin have instituted a provisional state of government, adopted a constitution, elected officers, and we anticipate that, at the next session of Congress, we shall be

admitted into the Union, free and independent like our sister States. Our city lies near the Great Salt Lake, which borders on the west on an extensive desert which runs through the Basin from north to south. We call our new state, Deseret. . . .

The 24th of July was a day long to be remembered by all present in this valley, and all Saints who shall learn of our celebration, as the anniversary of the arrival of the Pioneers two years previous. To behold twelve or fifteen hundred feet of tables, filling the bowery and all adjoining grounds, loaded with all luxuries of the field and gardens, and nearly all the varieties that any vegetable market in the world could produce, and to see the seats around those tables filled and re-filled by a people who had been deprived of those luxuries for years by the cruel hand of oppression, and freely offering seats to every stranger within their borders, and this too, in the valley of the mountains, a thousand miles from civilization, where two years before nought was to be found save the wild root of the prairie, and the mountain cricket, was a theme of unbounded thanksgiving and praise to the Giver of all good, as the dawning of a day when the children of the Kingdom can sit under their own vines and fig-trees and inhabit their own houses, having none to make them afraid. May the time be hastened when the scattered Israel may partake of such like banquets from the garden of Joseph.

Thousands of emigrants from the States to the Gold Mines have passed through our city this season, leaving large quantities of domestic clothing, wagons, &c., in exchange for horses and mules, which exchange has been a mutual blessing to both parties. . . .

While kingdoms, governments, and thrones, are falling and rising; revolutions succeeding revolutions; and the nations of earth are overturning; while plague, pestilence and famine, are walking abroad; and whirlwind, fire, and earthquake, proclaim the truth of prophecy, let the Saints be faithful and diligent in every duty, and especially in striving to stand in chosen places, that they may watch the coming of the Holy One of Israel. We remain your brothers in the New Covenant.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

HEBER C. KIMBALL.

WILLARD RICHARDS.

Great Salt Lake City, Deseret, Oct. 12th, 1849