

Subsequently in a booklet entitled "The Utah Survey," Bishop Spalding charged me with asserting, in a public meeting at Provo, that the Priesthood of the Mormon Church were perfect, and that Joseph Smith stood next to Jesus Christ in authority. I answered him through the *Deseret News*, showing that he had misunderstood my reference to Priesthood, which means to a Latter-day Saint two things—first, divine authority; second, the men in whom that authority is vested. I was speaking of divine authority when I said the Priesthood was perfect. As for Joseph Smith standing next to Jesus Christ, I had neither said it nor thought it; the Prophet himself having taught that Adam stands next to Christ and Noah next to Adam, in the Priesthood.^b I showed that Joseph's true place is at the head of this Gospel dispensation.

My last conversation with Bishop Spalding—whose deplorable accidental death shocked and saddened the whole community—was soon after he had issued his critical commentary on the Book of Abraham. "I notice," said he, "that some of your brethren have been answering me through the press. Why have you not answered me?"

"I have," said I; "I've been answering you all over the country, but it hasn't got into the papers."

"Oh, indeed, and what have you been saying?"

"I have been saying this:

'Truth is truth, where'er 'tis found,
On Christian or on heathen ground.'

"And whether it be taken from an ancient hill in North America, as was the Book of Mormon; or from the catacombs of Egypt, as was the Book of Abraham, if it's true, it's true, no matter who translated it or how many supposed flaws appear in the translation. The character of the content and the spirit accompanying it, determine better than all else the truth and authenticity of such a work. We know Shakespeare's writings by the very sound of them—they have the Shakespearean ring, and thereby literary experts can tell the difference between

^b *Hist. Ch.* Vol. 3, pp. 385, 386.