

Letter from Alfred Cordon to Joseph Smith
General Correspondence 17 February 1842

Hanly, Stafford Co. Eng. Feb. 17th, 1842.

President Joseph Smith,

Dear Brother, Whom, having not seen, I love--I take it upon me this morning to write a few lines to you, hoping they will find you and your and your's in good health; feeling confident they will be read with interest.

The work in which we are engaged, rolls on well in this land, and in spite of all its enemies, moves onward in majesty and Power; there are many who devote all their time, and talent in endeavoring to overthrow it; but discover they can do nothing against the truth; but for it.

Many tracts have been published against us, containing all manner of lies, but in the end good will be the result. "He that knoweth God heareth us." Some of the tools of satan are doing more in spreading the truth than we are able to do, one in particular, a Mr. Brindley is publishing a Periodical shewing the Errors and Blasphemies of Mormonism. In order to do this he publishes many of our Revelations, (or the Revelations of God given to us) and through this means, the testimony is visiting the mansions of the high and mighty ones--the Reverends, Right Reverends, and all the noble champions of sectarians receive them as a precious morsel. They are read with much interest, whereas if we had sent them, they would have been spurned from their dwellings, and would not have been considered worth reading.

The state of this country is very awful, and is according to prospects on the eve of a mighty revolution. All confidence is gone between master and men, and men are afraid of each other, peace is fast removing from this land. In the course of the last few days, in many parts of this Isle, they have been burning the effigy of the great men of this nation--Poverty, and Distress, and Starvation abounds on every hand. The groans, and tears, and wretchedness of the thousands of the people is enough to rend the heart of demons. Many of the saints are suffering much through Hunger, and Nakedness; many with large families can scarcely get bread and water enough to hold the spirit in the Tabernacle. Many, very many, are out of employ and cannot get work to do, and others that do work hard fourteen or fifteen hours per day, can scarcely earn enough to enable them to live upon the earth.

Surely there is need of deliverance in Zion, and I am ready to exclaim thanks be to thy name O Lord, for remembering thy covenants! and that the "set time to favor Zion is come," and that he has chosen the West for a refuge for his people. Yet in the midst of all these troubles and calamities, there is some thing in the bosom of the saints that is very cheering, it often makes my heart to rejoice when I am in their company. They talk of gathering to Zion, and of building up cities and temples to the Most High; and at the same time scarcely know how to live day by day;. Though poor and destitute, they are rich in faith, firmly relying upon our testimony; believing most assuredly that God has spoken from the heavens.

I was conversing the other day with a young lady respecting the Glories of Zion, she has not as yet been Baptized, but as a proof of her Faith in the Testimony she gave me a Guinea (which is equal to 21 shillings of our money), desiring me to send it to you to be appropriated to the use of the Temple according to your judgment, or the judgment of those who are appointed to govern the concern; this circumstance transpiring is the cause of this letter being written to you.

Mrs. Cordon has sent a small token of her regard to Sister Emma, which she hopes will be accepted, and joins with me in sentiments of profound respect to you and your lady. Wishing you all success I remain yours in the New and Everlasting Covenant.

ALFRED CORDON.

Source: Letter, Alfred Cordon, Hanley, Stafford, England to Joseph Smith, Nauvoo, Illinois, 17 Feb 1842, *Times and Seasons* 3 (16 May 1842): 795-96; *History of the Church*, 4:515-16.