neighbor in close quarters, and not think
himself infringed upon. They wanted
to know if they were to build a fort.
"Why, yes," I said, "build a strong fort,
and a corral, to put your cattle in, that
the Indians cannot get them away from
you." "Do you think, brother Brigham,
the Indians will trouble us here?" they
inquired. I said, "It is none of your
business whether they will or not, but
you will see the time that you will need
such preparations." But I did not think
it would come so quickly. There will
more come upon this people to destroy
them than they at present think of, un-
less they are prepared to defend them-
selves, which I shall not take time, this
morning, to dwell upon. I said also to the
brethren at Utah, "Do you make a fort,
and let it be strong enough, that Indians
cannot break into it." They commenced,
and did not make even the shadow of a
fort, for in some places there was nothing
more than a line to mark where the ap-
proaching shadow would be. They began
to settle round upon the various creeks
and streamlets, and the part of a fort
that existed was finally pulled up, and
carried away somewhere else. I have
told you, from the beginning, you would
need forts, where to build them, and how
strong. I told you, six years ago, to build
a fort that the *Devil could not get into*,
unless you were disposed to let him in,
and that would keep out the Indians. Ex-
cuse me for saying devil; I do not often
use the old gentleman's name in vain,
and if I do it, it is always in the pulpit,
where I do all my swearing. I make this
apology because it is considered a sin to
say devil, and it grates on refined ears.

I told the settlement in San Pete,
at the first, to build a fort. They
did not do it, but huddled together be-
side a stone quarry, without a place
of common shelter where they could
defend themselves, in case of an In-
dian difficulty. They had faith they could
keep the Indians off. Well, now is the
time to call it into exercise. They did,
after a while, build a temporary fort at
San Pete, which now shields them in a
time of trouble.

When the brethren went to Salt
Creek, they wanted to make a settlement
there, and inquired of me if they might
do so. I told them, no, unless they first
built an efficient fort. I forbade them
taking their women and children there,
until that preparatory work was fully ac-
ccomplished. Has it ever been done? No,
but families went there and lived in wag-
os and brush houses, perfectly exposed
to be killed. If they have faith enough to
keep the Indians off, it is all right.

From the time these distant valleys
began to be settled, until now, there has
scarcely been a day but what I have felt a
twenty-five ton weight, as it were, upon
me, in exercising faith to keep this peo-
ple from destroying themselves; but if
any of them can exercise faith enough for
themselves, and wish to excuse me, I will
take my faith back.

The word has gone out now, to the
different settlements, in the time of har-
vest, requiring them to build forts. Could
it not have been done last winter, bet-
ter than now? Yes. Do you not suppose
people will now wish they had built forts
when they were told? If they do not, it
proves what they have been all the time,
shall I say fools? If that is too harsh a
term, I will say they have been foolish.
It is better for me to labor in building a
house or a fort, to get out fencing tim-
er, and wood to consume through win-
ter, when I have nothing else to do, and
not be under the necessity of leaving my
grain on the ground to do those things.
Harvest is no time to build forts, neither
is it the time to do it when we should be
plowing and sowing.