the only ones that were righteous. When
Noah and his family had seen the
dreadful wreck, the awful calamity, the
heartrending scenes of distress and an-
guish, trouble and death, that over-
whelmed the world—with all this star-
ing them in the face, how soon his poster-
ity departed from correct principles, and
bowed their necks to the power of the ad-
versary; how soon was the weakness of
human nature made manifest! Consider
the trouble, afflictions, war, and blood-
shed that have come in consequence of
all this, the fostering of evil passions in
the human heart, and giving way to ev-
ery kind of iniquity, being led captive by
the devil at his will, until nation has
been arrayed against nation, kingdom
against kingdom, power against power,
and authority against authority. Witness
the human beings that have been slain,
and the human carcasses that have been
left to rot upon the battlefields; all this
has been in consequence of not adhering
to what is righteous, true, and holy.

Wherein are we better than many of
those of which we have spoken? God has
revealed His truth to us; He has opened
the heavens and sent forth His holy an-
gels, has restored the holy Priesthood
in as great power as ever it was in any
age, and in fact greater; for we are now
living in the dispensation of the fulness
of times, when God has determined to
gather all things in one, whether they be
things in heaven or things in the earth;
notwithstanding all this, are we much
better than the ancient people we have
just noticed? We can read the history
of the people of this continent, in the
Book of Mormon, of their faithfulness
to God, and the principles of truth and
righteousness, and the hand of God was
stretched out in mighty power to save
them from their enemies; and we read
again of their destruction and overthrow
in consequence of their departure from
God. And among this people, who have
been blessed with the light and revela-
tions of God, who have been gathered
from different nations, who have trav-
elled thousands of miles for the privi-
lege of listening to the oracles of eternal
truth, of securing to themselves salva-
tion, who have hailed with joy the mes-
gage of mercy that has been extended to
them, whose hearts in former times beat
high with prospects of mingling with the
Saints of God in Zion, and listening to
the words of eternal life, what do we see
even among them? The same specimen
of fallen human nature; the same weak-
ness, infirmities, and follies that have
characterized men who have lived in for-
mer ages.

How many of us have fallen on the
right hand and on the left; those we
have judged to be men of intelligence,
some of them have stepped aside in
one shape and some in another. Some
have given way to their corrupt ap-
petites and passions, and have fallen
in an evil hour, have lost the Spirit of