but when the law came, sin revived in
him, and he said, "I died." That is, his
former notions of serving God, his former
incorrect traditions, all appeared to him
in their true light, and that upon which
he had trusted for salvation as baseless
as a dream, when the law of the Lord
came by Jesus Christ; and in it he found
the promises and the gifts and the bless-
ings of the holy Gospel, through obedi-
ence to the ordinances. That is the only
legal way to obtain salvation, and an ex-
altation in the presence of God.

In this light do I view all the ordi-
nances of the house of God. I do not
know of one commandment that may be
preferred before another; or of one ordi-
nance of the house of God, from the be-
eginning to the end of all the Lord has
revealed to the children of men, that is
not of equal validity, power, and author-
ity with the rest. So we partake of bread
and wine, obeying the commandments
of the Lord; and by so doing we receive the
blessing.

But how do the people feel? Perhaps
you will refer the answer of this ques-
tion to myself. Were I to answer it, I
should say, they feel every way. Permit
me to refer particularly to the brethren
and sisters who have lately come to this
place—they have all the variety of feel-
ings that is common to the human heart.
They know how they feel; they are my
witnesses. The most frivolous and tri-
fling circumstance that can transpire,
will produce in them the most keen and
cutting trial. What can we say about it?
For one I will say, let them come, the
small trials and the large ones; let them
be many or few, it is the same; let them
come as the Lord pleases. Brother Heber
C. Kimball was speaking this morning
about this people being driven from pil-
lar to post, and he told the cause of
their many trials. I will ask a ques-
tion concerning this matter. If you had
not been driven from York State, and the
persecution become so hot as to send you
up to Kirtland, Ohio, would you have
known as much as you now know? Perse-
cution did not commence in Kirtland, nor
in Jackson County, but it commenced at
the time Joseph the Prophet sought the
plates in the hill Cumorah. It did not
commence after I came into the Church,
but I found it at work when I entered the
Church.

Suppose Joseph had not been obliged
to flee from Pennsylvania back to York
State, would he have known as much as
he afterwards knew? Suppose he could
have stayed in old Ontario County in
peace, without being persecuted, could
he have learned as much as he did by
being persecuted? He fled from there to
Kirtland, accompanied by many others,
to save their lives. There are men now
in this Church whom I see before me and
in full fellowship, who haunted my house
for days, weeks, and months to kill me,
and I knew it all the time; and Joseph
had to flee to Missouri.

Would he have known as much if this
persecution had not come upon him, as
he afterwards did by its coming upon
him? When the people left Kirtland they
went to Jackson County, Missouri, and
Joseph commenced to lay out a city to
be called Zion; and not now, but after a
time, when the Lord has accomplished
His preparatory work, it will be built,
even the New Jerusalem. The brethren
were persecuted also in Jackson County,
and driven out; they had trial upon trial,
persecution on the right hand and on the
left. Suppose, when they went to Jack-
son County, all the people of Missouri
had hailed them as brethren, fellow citi-
zens, and as neighbors, and had treated
them accordingly, and they had been pro-
tected in their religious liberty, would
the people that were driven from Jack-
son County have known as much as they