now know? Could they have gained the
knowledge and wisdom they have ob-
tained by means of their persecutions?
You can answer these questions to suit
your own minds. When they had to
flee from Ohio to Missouri, it certainly
gave the people an experience they could
not have obtained in any other way.
When they were driven from Jackson
County, and went to Clay, Ray, Caldwell,
and Davies counties, persecution still fol-
lowed them, and every man and woman
who acknowledged Joseph Smith to be
a Prophet, had to leave the State forth-
with.

I feel inclined now to give some of you
a gentle touch on the left side. Brethren,
how glad I am to see you; how pleased
I am to see you; where have you been
these few years back? Where have you
been living? Where did you go after you
left Missouri? "Why I stayed there." I
say, there was not a man who would
say that Joseph Smith was a Prophet,
could stay there; they had all to leave the
State; and you will now show yourselves
at this late day, and try to have us believe
you are first-rate Latter-day Saints. My
thoughts are, "YOU POOR DEVILS!"

I hope I do not hurt any of your feel-
ings. If you will do right from this time
henceforth, and help with your mights
to build up the Kingdom of God, I will
hold you in fellowship after you have
thus proved yourselves. But you may re-
gard it as an established fact, that I have
no fellowship for you yet; and I have as
much as the Lord has. Still, if I have any-
thing to fear, it is that I fellowship peo-
ple too much, when they are not worthy;
that is, I reflect—"Can I be more merciful
than the Lord?" But I have not got light
enough nor wisdom enough to fellowship
men who lived in peace with those who
sought to kill us.

Ask yourselves whether you think
this people would have received as

much as they have received, if they never
had been persecuted. Could they have
advanced in the school of intelligence as
far without being persecuted, as they
have by being persecuted? Look for
instance at Adam. Listen, ye Latter-
day Saints! Supposing that Adam was
formed actually out of clay, out of the
same kind of material from which bricks
are formed; that with this matter God
made the pattern of a man, and breathed
into it the breath of life, and left it there,
in that state of supposed perfection, he
would have been an adobie to this day.
He would not have known anything.

Some of you may doubt the truth of
what I now say, and argue that the Lord
could teach him. This is a mistake. The
Lord could not have taught him in any
other way than in the way in which He
did teach him. You believe Adam was
made of the dust of this earth. This I do
not believe, though it is supposed that it
is so written in the Bible; but it is not,
to my understanding. You can write that
information to the States, if you please—
that I have publicly declared that I do
not believe that portion of the Bible as
the Christian world do. I never did, and
I never want to. What is the reason I do
not? Because I have come to under stand-
ing, and banished from my mind all the
baby stories my mother taught me when
I was a child.

But suppose Adam was made and
fashioned the same as we make adobies;
if he had never drunk of the bitter cup,
the Lord might have talked to him to
this day, and he would have continued
as he was to all eternity, never advanc-
ing one particle in the school of intel-
ligence. This idea opens up a field of
light to the intelligent mind. How can
you know truth but by its opposite, or
light but by its opposite? The absence of
light is darkness. How can sweetness be