the author of my existence? Who laid
the foundation of and planned this sin-
gular structure? It is a mystery how this
wonderful machinery works, and how it
is sustained to fulfill the purpose of its
creation! In reality, however, there is no
such thing as a mystery but to the igno-
rant. We may also say, there is no such
thing, in reality, as a miracle, except to
those who do not understand the "Al-
pha and Omega" of every phenomenon
that is made manifest. To a person who
thoroughly understands the reason of all
things, and can trace from their effects to
their true causes, mystery does not exist.
Yet the physical and mental existence of
man is a great mystery to him.

In the experience of our lives we are
taught many principles that are wor-
thy the attention of the most intelli-
gent on earth. The first great princi-
ple that ought to occupy the attention
of mankind, that should be understood
by the child and the adult, and which
is the mainspring of all action (whether
people understand it or not), is the prin-
ciple of improvement. The principle of
increase, of exaltation, of adding to that
we already possess, is the grand moving
principle and cause of the actions of the
children of men. No matter what their
pursuits are, in what nation they were
born, with what people they have been
associated, what religion they profess, or
what politics they hold, this is the main-
spring of the actions of the people, em-
bracing all the powers necessary in per-
forming the duties of life.

This is the lesson we should study.
The powers of our minds and bodies
should be governed and controlled in
that way that will secure to us an eter-
nal increase. While the inhabitants
of the earth are bestowing all their abil-
ity, both mental and physical, upon
perishable objects, those who profess
to be Latter-day Saints, who have the
privilege of receiving and understand-
ing the principles of the holy Gospel,
are in duty bound to study and find
out, and put in practice in their lives,
those principles that are calculated to
endure, and that tend to a continual in-
crease in this, and in the world to come.
All their earthly avocations should be
framed upon this principle. This alone
can insure to them an exaltation; this is
the starting point, in this existence, to an
endless progression. All the ideas, cog-
itations, and labors of man are circum-
scribed by and incorporated in this great
principle of life.

When we duly reflect upon the cogi-
tations of our own minds, when we look
upon the people called Latter-day Saints,
upon the earth on which we stand, and
upon the mighty universe around us, by
the light of the Spirit of truth in our
minds, we marvel with astonishment.
When the light that lighteth every man
that cometh into the world, illuminates
the understanding, and exposes to view
the true order of the works of the Framer
of the Universe, so that they can contem-
plate the great first cause of all things,
and then look upon the groveling pur-
suits of mortals, and their anxiety to ob-
tain that which will perish, at the ex-
 pense of the more enduring substance,
every person must be struck with aston-
ishment beyond measure.

The human family are like so many
children that have just learned how to
walk, in the eyes of a person whose mind
has been opened by the light of the Holy
Ghost. The sage, greyheaded grand-
fathers, and those of fewer years, but
not of less experience and wisdom, have
viewed the eagerness of children to pos-
sess mere trifles, and often something
that would be their sure destruction if
they obtained it. So it is with the in-
habitants of the world. A company of
little children at play is a perfect mini-
ture picture of the life of man: "Give me