permitted to remain undisturbed in their
guilt.

As in the case of the Indians upon the frontier, this also was a false con-
clusion, for if ever a people would have been justified in redressing their own
wrongs, and could have done so with impu-
ity, it was at the time of his horrible
murder. But they proved to the world,
by their quiet and peaceable demeanor,
that they had no such intention, but this
was forgotten, and in less than a year
and a half we were again assailed, our
houses and grain stacks burned, and our
brethren shot down in the glare of the
light thereof, while attempting to save a
pittance to drive starvation not from the
doors nor the tents, for there were none
of either, but from the famishing hearts
of their social circle—of their wives and
children.

And again was the aid of the Gov-
ernment invoked to quell the so-called
"Mormon disturbances," and still we see
the newspapers teeming with these and
the like epithets—"Turbulent Mormons."
"What shall be done with these turbu-

tent Mormons?" is the cry from one end
of the Union to the other. In the name of
Heaven what have we done to excite the
fears of any People or Government, that
the sound of war and blood must etern-
ally be kept ringing in our ears? I an-
swer, nothing. It is the same as before,
in the case of tampering with the slaves
and Indians, a certain fearfulness that if
we are not looked to, driven, plundered
of our homes and possessions, slain, and
massacred as before, we may do some-
thing, they have not yet, to my knowl-
dge, defined precisely what.

Have not this people invariably
evincided their friendly feelings, disposi-
tion, and patriotism towards the govern-
ment by every act and proof which can
be given by any people?

Permit me to draw your attention,
for a moment, to a few facts in relation
to raising the Battalion for the Mexi-
can war. When the stormcloud of per-
secution lowered down upon us on ev-
ery side, when every avenue was closed
against us, our Leaders treacherously
betrayed and slain by the authorities of
the Government in which we lived, and
no hope of relief could penetrate through
the thick darkness and gloom which sur-
rrounded us on every side, no voice was
raised in our behalf, and the General
Government was silent to our appeals.
When we had been insulted and abused
all the day long, by those in authority
requiring us to give up our arms, and
by every other act of insult and abuse
which the prolific imagination of our en-
emies could devise to test, as they said,
our patriotism, which requisitions, be it
known, were always complied with on
our part; and when we were finally com-
pelled to flee, for the preservation of our
lives and the lives of our wives and chil-
dren, to the wilderness; I ask, had we not
reason to feel that our enemies were in
the ascendant? That even the Govern-
ment, by their silent acquiescence, were
also in favor of our destruction? Had we
not, I ask, some reason to consider them
all, both the people and the Government,
alike our enemies?

And when, in addition to all this,
and while fleeing from our enemies, an-
other test of fidelity and patriotism was
contrived by them for our destruction,
and acquiesced in by the Government
(through the agency of a distinguished
politician who evidently sought, and
thought he had planned our overthrow
and total annihilation), consisting of a
requisition from the War Department,
to furnish a Battalion of five hundred
men to fight under their officers, and for
them, in the war then existing with Mex-
ico. I ask again, could we refrain from
considering both people and Government
our most deadly foes? Look a moment
at our situation, and the circumstances