accustomed to call ours, but that is for
the want of understanding.

Every man and woman has got to feel that not one farthing of anything in
their possession is rightfully theirs, in
the strict sense of ownership. When
we learn this lesson, where will be my
interest and my effort? I do not own
anything—it is my Father's. How came
I by my possessions? His providence has
thrown them into my care; He has ap-
pointed me a steward over them, and I
am His servant, His steward, His hired
man, one with whom He has placed cer-
tain property in charge for the time be-
ing, that is, pertaining to the things of
this world.

Says one, "It was preached thirty
years ago, that nothing belongs to us,
and, if I have a thousand dollars, to at
once give it all to the poor." That is your
enthusiasm and ignorance. Were you to
make an equal distribution of property
today, one year would not pass before
there would be as great an inequality as
now.

How could you ever get a people equal
with regard to their possessions? They
never can be, no more than they can be
in the appearance of their faces.

Are we equal? Yes. Wherein? We are
equal in the interest of eternal things, in
our God, not aside from Him.

We behold Church property, and not
one farthing of it is yours or mine. Of the
possessions that are called mine, my in-
dividual property, not a dollar's worth is
mine; and of all that you seem to possess,
not a dollar's worth is yours.

Did you ever organize a tree, gold,
silver, or any other kind of metal, or
any other natural production? No, you
have not yet attained to that
power, and it will be ages before you
do. Who owns all the elements with
which we are commanded and permi-
ted to operate? The Lord, and we
are stewards over them. It is not for me
to take the Lord's property placed un-
der my charge and wantonly distribute
it; I must do with it as He tells me. In
my stewardship I am not to be guided by
the mere whims of human folly, by those
who are more ignorant than I am, not by
the lesser power, but by the superior and
wiser.

Those who are in favor of an equality
in property say that that is the doctrine
taught in the New Testament. True, the
Savior said to the young man, "Go and
sell that thou hast, and give to the poor,
and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:
and come and follow me," in order to try
him and prove whether he had faith or
not.

In the days of the Apostles, the
brethren sold their possessions and laid
them at the Apostles' feet. And where
did many of those brethren go to? To
naught, to confusion and destruction.
Could those Apostles keep the Church
together, on those principles? No. Could
they build up the kingdom on those prin-
ciples? No, they never could. Many of
those persons were good men, but they
were filled with enthusiasm, insomuch
that if they owned a little possession
they would place it at the feet of the
Apostles.

Will such a course sustain the king-
dom? No. Did it, in the days of the Apos-
tles? No. Such a policy would be the ruin
of this people, and scatter them to the
four winds. We are to be guided by su-
perior knowledge, by a higher influence
and power.

The superior is not to be directed
by the inferior, consequently you need
not ask me to throw that which the
Lord has put into my hands to the
four winds. If, by industrious habits
and honorable dealings, you obtain thou-
sands or millions, little or much, it is
your duty to use all that is put in