Brother Brigham is brother Joseph's rightful successor, and he has his Coun-
selors, and together they are an earthly pattern of the divine order of govern-
ment. Those men are God's agents, His servants, and are witnesses of your
covenants, which you will have to fulfil. And what you do not fulfil in this year
you will have to do in the next; and what are not then fulfilled will have to be in
some future time.

Some people think that, because they have passed through a great many trou-
bles, have been to the nations to preach the Gospel, and have been robbed and
plucked up several times, that will make an atonement for their sins. What you
have passed through has nothing to do with atonement for sins. If you have
sinned you have got to make an atonement for that sin, and the trials you have
passed through in doing your duty are not the atonement. Trials are to test you,
to prove whether you will do those things that are right. Some try to make out that
their trials will answer as an atonement, but I tell you that they will not. If you
commit sin there must be an atonement to satisfy the demands of justice, and
then mercy claims you and saves you. But, as brother Grant has said, many of
our old men think, because they were in the Church in the first beginning, that
they can now lay upon their oars, that is, that they can sit down in the ship and
not use the oars anymore. But God requires every man and woman to be faithful;
and if they have sinned, they have got to make an atonement for that sin, and your trials do not make that atone-
ment.

God says that we shall be tried in all things, even as was Abraham of old. He was called upon to offer up
his son, and was found willing to offer him up, but, as the sin was not suf-
ficient to require the shedding of his son's blood, a lamb was provided, and its
blood atoned for the sin that Abraham's son was to be offered up for, and saved
the son.

If you are ever saved, you have got to take a course to draw near to the throne of God; and how can you draw near to the
throne of God, except you draw near to those men who are placed as His repre-
sentatives in the flesh? The same principles, the same order, the same Priest-
hood, the same gifts, and the same powers are instituted, established and orga-
nized in our day as they were in the days of Jesus, and all the reason that people
do not see it is because of their traditions; the veil of darkness is over their
minds, and they cannot see it.

With all the instructions that are given to you by brother Brigham, brother Heber, and brother Jedediah, many of
you will go home and find fault with them; and you will have your contentions
and your animosities, when you should take a course to sustain their words, for
you cannot sustain them without sus-
taining their words, nor can you serve
God and slight their counsels. If you ex-
pect the favor of God, favor His servants
and sustain them. This is plain doctrine,
and you will find it so, and I am not
ashamed to teach it to you.

When brother Brigham points out a
course, it is for this people to rise up and
go to and carry out His purposes with
their might; and until that is done this
kingdom never will prosper as it should,
worlds without end.

Now I will come to the business,
and tell you what is wanted. Our breth-
ren and sisters are on the Plains
with their handcarts, and there is
snow on the ground, and many are
barefooted, and destitute of comfort-
able clothing, and we want some men
and teams to fix up this day, and
be ready to start for them tomorrow.