letter of the book was concerned, I under-
stood it. I professed to be a believer
in the Bible so far as I knew how; but
as for understanding by the Spirit of the
Lord, I never did until I became a Latter-
day Saint. I had many a time read
Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnez-
zar's dream, but it was always a dark
subject to me. I was well acquainted
with many of the priests of the day, and
I would frequently think to myself that
I would get some knowledge from them.
And as I became acquainted with smart,
intelligent, literary priests and profes-
sors of religion, I thought, Now I can ob-
tain some intelligence from this or from
that man; and I would begin to ask
questions on certain texts of Scripture;
but they would always leave me as they
found me, in the dark. They were there
themselves; and I knew of a surety, be-
fore I heard the Gospel, that the priests
were blind guides leading the blind, and
that there was nothing left for them only
to stumble here and there, and perhaps
fall into a ditch. That much knowledge I
had previous to my becoming acquainted
with what is called "Mormonism."

It would be very profitable to the in-
nhabitants of the earth to learn one fact,
which a very few in the world have
learned, that they are ignorant—that
they have not the wisdom, the knowl-
dge, and the intelligence outside the cir-
cle of what is called the wisdom of man.
For persons to know and understand
their own talent, their own strength,
their own ability, their own influence,
would be very profitable to the inhabi-
tants of the earth, though but very few
learn it.

I do not know that I feel particu-
larly thankful that I learned what
I did with regard to the lack of in-
telligence and knowledge professed by
Christians to be in their possession;
but I have been thankful that my lot
and fortune were such that my God
gave me good, sound sense. I am thank-
ful for that. When the Gospel came to
me, surely within me and all around
me I could see very plainly what the
Apostle meant in the words, "When the
commandment came, sin revived, and I
died."

I could see clearly where the inhabi-
tants of the earth were, in their posi-
tion before their God. The whole world—
everything upon this globe—was veiled
in darkness. There was a mist, a fog,
a veil, or covering over the minds of
the whole of the people on this earth;
and what they understood was nothing
more than a faint glimmering of light
that would dazzle before their eyes for a
minute, and they would see it no more.
They were like a ship befogged on the
ocean and depending for guidance upon a
lighthouse whose glimmering rays could
only be discerned at long intervals, when
the ship could again be put upon a safe
course. But the wind has shifted; and,
without light or compass, they do not
know whether it is blowing east, west,
north, or south; and then how could they
tell whether they were directing their
course aright? The Christian world,
I discovered, was like the captain and
crew of a vessel on the ocean without a
compass, and tossed to and fro whith-
ersoever the wind listed to blow them.
When the light came to me, I saw that all
the so-called Christian world was grovel-
ing in darkness.

We profess to have the light, intelli-
gence, and knowledge with which to un-
derstand the things of God. The dream
of King Nebuchadnezzar and its inter-
pretation by Daniel are as plain to the
man and woman filled with the power
of the Holy Ghost, as are the most com-
mon lessons to the school children: they
most clearly understand the interpreta-
tion. Daniel saw that in the latter days
the God of heaven was going to set up his
kingdom upon this his earth. He has set