best advantage, they are right, if they do
the best they can, and can tell all who
find fault, "I ask no odds of you: I have
done as I have, and have done the will of
God, according to the best of my knowl-
dge." And let every man treat his wives
and children in the same way; and when
a wife says, "O no, my dear, I think I un-
derstand this matter as well as you do,
and perhaps a little better; I am conver-
sant with all the whys and the where-
fores, and am acquainted with this little
circumstance better than you are, and I
think in this case, my dear, that I know
better than you," reply, "Get out of my
path, for I am going yonder, and you may
whistle at my coattail until you are tired
of it." That is the way I would talk to my
wives and children, if they intermeddled
with my duties. And I say to them, If you
cannot reverence me, tell me where the
man is you can reverence, and I would
speedily make a beeline with my car-
riage and servants and place you under
his care.

I told the people in Nauvoo, before
they wished me to stand as their Pres-
ident, that if there were any Latter-day
Saints that did not wish to take the coun-
sel of the Twelve, they could go to hell
their own road: we asked no odds of
them, for the Twelve were capable of
building up the kingdom of God on the
earth. You know whether I here ask
much odds or not. I also told them that
if they were not Saints at that critical
juncture, they ought to repent of their
sins, and get the Holy Ghost, and not live
another twenty-four hours without the
spirit of revelation within themselves,
for who knows but what you are the
elect; and you know that false prophets
were to arise in the last days, and, if possible, deceive the very elect, and
that many false shepherds would come
and pretend to be the true shepherds.
Now, be sure to get the spirit of revela-
tion, so that you can tell when you hear
the true Shepherd’s voice, and know him
from a false one; for if you are the elect,
it would be a great pity to have you led
astray to destruction. But if you are
not the elect of God through the sancti-
fication of the Spirit of truth upon your
hearts, then you can go as quickly as you
please, for we do not want you.

We feel just the same now. Every man
and woman that will not strive to sancti-
fy themselves before the Lord God, and
to possess within themselves the spirit of
revelation to know the voice of the true
Shepherd from a false one, the quicker
they go out of the Territory the better
it will be. Take ten men whose hearts,
when they pray, are upon one sentence
and upon one idea at a time, when they
ask God for anything, or to bring this or
that to pass, do you think that the pow-
ers of hell can hinder what they ask for?
No. It is as true as the heavens—as firm
as the mountains that rest upon these
valleys—as sure as eternity, that noth-
ing can fail which they agree upon; for
God will grant it.

What is our difficulty? When I go to
my prayer room, among men who have
been with me for years, there is too great
a diversity of feeling and desires to be
in accordance with the Gospel. There
is too much of Babylon in that. When
that is the case, and when I am pray-
ing for one thing and others for another,
our faith comes in contact and we do
not receive what we ask for. How many
times have I said that I would rather
have one hundred true Saints in the
mountains than five millions that are not
Saints, if I had to contend against the
whole world? What, with the sword?
Yes. Let me have the Gideonites that
can kneel down and lap the water, and
one will chase a thousand, and two
put ten thousand to flight. Whether
the Lord will require this people to
use the sword, or not, I do not know,