the kingdom of God? I say, God forbid.

I am accused by our enemies and by
the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ of
possessing great influence over the peo-
ple of this Territory; and I would to God
that I had sufficient influence to make
every man and woman work righteous-
ness and cease iniquity, and so live that
angels and the Spirit of the God of peace
would dwell with them day by day. But
that influence I have not. I have an in-
fluence; but I have only what the Lord
has given me. No man will gain influ-
ence in this kingdom, save what he gains
by the influence and power of the Holy
One that has called him to truth, hol-
iness, and virtue. That is all the influence
I have, and I pray God that I may never
have any different influence.

If I should lose my faith, forsake my
God and my religion, I hope, and it has
always been my prayer, that I may never
have influence over a wife, child, friend,
or neighbor to drag them down to hell.
If I go there, let me go alone. It has
ever been my prayer that if I have influ-
ence over the people, it shall be exercised
to induce them to forsake their sins and
cleave to righteousness. I seek for an in-
crease of that influence, and seek to the
proper source. It is my constant prayer
that I may have influence over the spirits
of the children of men to lead them from
the power of Satan to the living God.
But we must be tried in our faith and in
our patience. The whole man must be
tried to know whether he is for God or
for the powers of darkness—whether he
will cling to that which is a hater of righ-
teousness, or to his Father and Savior.

There are thousands in this king-
dom who are willing to die for their
religion, but are not willing to live it. This is a great difficulty. The
most ignorant, blind, and superstitious
pagan upon the earth will die for what
we call their nonsense, though to them
it is as true and sacred as our religion
and God are to us. What a man will suf-
fer for his religion is no proof whether it
is true or false. Brother Pratt, in his re-
marks, said that we should not be gov-
erned by tradition. Yet we are, and so
are the whole world, more or less; and
those who are traditioned in a false reli-
gion are as willing to die for it as men
and women are for a true religion and
Priesthood. That a man is willing to
die for his religion is no proof of its be-
ing true; neither is it proof that a re-
ligion is false when one of its votaries
apostatizes from it. Our religion teaches
us truth, virtue, holiness, faith in God
and in his Son Jesus Christ. It reveals
mysteries, it brings to mind things past
and present—unfolding clearly things to
come. It is the foundation of mecha-
nism; it is the Spirit that gives intel-
ligence to every living being upon the
earth. All true philosophy originates
from that Fountain from which we draw
wisdom, knowledge, truth, and power.
What does it teach us? To love God and
our fellow creatures—to be compas-
sionate, full of mercy, long-suffering, and pa-
tient to the froward and to those who
are ignorant. There is a glory in our
religion that no other religion that has
ever been established upon the earth,
in the absence of the true Priesthood,
ever possessed. It is the fountain of
all intelligence; it is to bring heaven to
earth and exalt earth to heaven, to pre-
pare all intelligence that God has placed
in the hearts of the children of men—
to mingle with that intelligence which
dwells in eternity, and to elevate the
mind above the trifling and frivolous
objects of time, which tend downward
to destruction. It frees the mind of
man from darkness and ignorance, gives
him that intelligence that flows from