CAUTION AGAINST VAIN LAUGHTER—VALUE OF THE
LIFE OF MAN.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG, MADE IN THE TABERNACLE, GREAT SALT
LAKE CITY, APRIL 27, 1862.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

I have been highly gratified at the few remarks I have heard this morning from
the brethren who are about to leave us to fulfil their Missions. They have a great
deal of talk in them, and they will soon be in their fields of labor where they can
free their minds.

Brother George Sims' remarks created considerable empty levity. I like to be
pleased myself; I like to be filled with joy, but if I cannot be filled with joy and
gladness that is full of meat and marrow, or, in other words, full of meaning and
sense, I would rather retain my gravity.

There is but one step between life and death, between faithfulness and apos-
tasy, between the sublime and the ridiculous. We preach the Gospel and gather
the Saints, but are all Saints when they are gathered? No, we gather the goats
with the sheep. We gather people here, and then the most trifling incidents that
may occur in their lives, contrary to their wishes, will turn them aside, and they
will forsake their religion and their God. I am sorry for this.

Never give way to vain laughter. I have seldom laughed aloud for twenty or
thirty years without regretting it, and I always blush for those who laugh aloud
without meaning.

I am often full of joy and gladness, and were I to give way to the promptings of my nature at such
times, it would lead to unreasonable lev-
ity which would be a source of mortifica-
tion and sorrow to me. I noticed that the
brethren gave way to that laugh which
I choose not to hear. I hope they will
accept of this caution, and watch, gov-
ern, control and subdue their passions.
I am satisfied that those persons who
stamp, clap hands, whistle, and make
other noisy and boisterous demonstra-
tions in the theaters so untimed and un-
called for, have but little sense, and know
not the difference between a happy smile
of satisfaction to cheer the countenance
of a friend, or a contemptuous sneer that
brings the curses of man upon man.

I am rejoiced, my brethren, when I
hear the Elders of Israel speak as they
did this morning. I care little for a
man's language, if his spirit proves to
me that he has the love of God within
him. Brother Erastus Snow remarked
that the time would come when the law
of God would be written on the hearts
of the people. A Pharisee and a lawyer
asked Jesus Christ a question, tempt-
ing him, saying, "Master, which is the
great commandment in the law? Jesus
said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord
thy God with all thy heart, and with all
thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is
the first and great commandment. And
the second is like unto it, Thou shalt
love thy neighbor as thyself. On these
two commandments hang all the law and