many ways, and I feel that I am improv-
ing and advancing in the things of God.

Some will say, are you not too old to
learn? I say no, for I consider if I am too
old to improve, I am too old to live. When
a man has done learning, he had better
leave and go hence.

I think I understand correctly what
President Young has been talking about,
and he wishes every one of us to accept
of it and put it in practice.

In regard to those independent com-
panies alluded to, I really do not know
whether I would lead them or not. I
know that the first company that I was
gathered with, of which President Young
has spoken today, and which embraced
nearly all the male members there were
in the Church, brother Joseph said, come
brethren, bring your money with you
and bring all you have. We gathered
brethren from Nova Scotia and from all
the States where we had any, and then
we traveled forty miles in an indepen-
dent condition, that is, every man had
his money in his pocket and was cal-
culating to have, but when we got to
Portage, Joseph called upon that inde-
pendent company and organized it with
captains of hundreds, of fifties, and tens,
with officers to lead and control them.
Then he nominated and we accepted a
paymaster and treasurer, and every of-
ficer necessary to a permanent organiza-
tion. Then he said, Brethren, I want you
to come together, and bring your money
with you. I do not want any donations,
but I want everyone to bring every cent
he has got. Some had not any, some had
a hundred dollars; some had a shilling,
and the brethren handed over what they
had to the paymaster. We were then
taught that we should be subject to the
law and government of God.

It is an important thing for a man
to lead the people of God, and unless
they will subject themselves to him and
to the officers of the Church a Prophet
cannot lead them; it is an impossibility.
This course of obedience is the one we
have to take. Talk about building up
the kingdom of God on the earth, how
can you do it except you go to work with
your might to practice as well as preach,
and labor and toil with all your might by
day and by night, and by this means ev-
ery man in the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints will become indepen-
dent. I was reflecting upon these things
when brother Joseph brought things to
terms. Then if we are ready to do as we
are told, to follow the counsel of the ser-
vants of God, won’t our offerings be ac-
cepted? I say they will.

When we went on that journey,
Joseph told us there was an endowment
laid up for us; for what? Because we
had done just as we were told; and I
can bear testimony that we received that
endowment. Have we got through with
our endowments? No, we have not; we
have only just commenced, merely re-
ceived the initiative ordinances, and we
are only children in these things yet,
but if we are faithful, we shall receive
all that our hearts can desire, for the
Almighty will withhold no good thing
from them that love him and keep his
commandments.

You will doubtless recollect reading
of a certain woman in the Scriptures
who was rather ambitious, and there-
fore wished to have her sons occupy a
conspicuous place about the Savior’s per-
son. The account of the circumstance is
related by St. Matthew in the follow-
ing language—‘Then came to him the
mother of Zebedee’s children with her
sons, worshiping him, and desiring a cer-
tain thing of him. And he said unto her,
What wilt thou? She saith unto him,
Grant these my two sons may sit, the
one on thy right hand, and the other on