the latter days. That we may enjoy our
meeting this morning, let us strive to
concentrate our thoughts upon the object
of our assembling, for there is a prone-
ness in the mind to wander, and it of-
ten requires considerable effort to stay
it upon any one purpose. The cares
and wants of this life occupy our minds
deeply, but when we come to under-
standing we shall learn that our Father
in heaven takes cognizance of all these
matters. "And why take ye thought for
raiment? Consider the lilies of the field,
how they grow; they toil not, neither do
they spin." "Wherefore, if God so clothe
the grass of the field, which today is, and
tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he
not much more clothe you, O ye of lit-
tle faith?" "He giveth to the beast his
food, and to the young ravens which cry."
If we are faithful we shall learn in due
time that all things are sustained and
endured by his all-wise providences. We
are too apt to trust entirely to our own
ability for procuring the desirable neces-
saries of life. We are too apt to suppose
that we alone guide, govern and control
our doings and their results. We are too
apt to aspire to the power to control the
whole world and to make all bend to our
wishes and dictation.

Man is the lord of the earth, but
with his knowledge and power he is not
able to tell how a blade of grass grows.
All men must come to this very ratio-
nal conclusion, that "Paul may plant,
and Apollos may water; but it is God
who gives the increase." It was not our
choice that we came into the midst of
this desert region, but through the prov-
dience of Him who governs and con-
trols all things we are planted in the
midst of these deserts. There are rea-
sons for this, and causes produce their
effects; in short, we are here for the ex-
press purpose of preparing for the com-
ing of the Son of Man, to bear off his
kingdom to the nations and gather up
the house of Israel, according to the
words of the ancient prophets and the
revelations given to us in our day.

We are now gathering the children
of Abraham who have come through the
loins of Joseph and his sons, more espe-
cially through Ephraim, whose children
are mixed among all the nations of the
earth. The sons of Ephraim are wild
and uncultivated, unruly, ungovernable.
The spirit in them is turbulent and reso-
lute; they are the Anglo-Saxon race, and
they are upon the face of the whole earth,
bearing the spirit of rule and dictation,
to go forth from conquering to conquer.
They search wide creation and scan ev-
ery nook and corner of this earth to find
out what is upon and within it. I see
a congregation of them before me today.
No hardship will discourage these men;
they will penetrate the deepest wilds and
overcome almost insurmountable diffi-
culties to develop the treasures of the
earth, to further their indomitable spirit
for adventure.

We are not in this region by choice,
and there is no hardship that this people
would not face and overcome. If there
is a corner of the earth that can possi-
vably be inhabited by mortals, the Latter-
day Saints would venture there if they
conceived it to be their duty, and over-
come every obstacle and soon make the
desert waste blossom as a rose. Such an
undertaking is as easy to them, compar-
atively speaking, as it is to go from one
town to another. It is marvelous to the
world that the poor, ignorant, deluded
"Mormons," as they call them, can make
so much real improvement. Is there an-
other people on the earth, with the same
facilities, that can do what the Latter-
day Saints can? There is not. Is there
another people on this earth that are as
united as they are? There is not. Is there
another people on this earth that can