confidence of a good man or woman, we
never should allow ourselves to do an
act that would in the least degree impair
it. It is an absolute truth that the confi-
dence of this people in the men God has
placed to lead them is daily increasing,
and the confidence of the heavens is in-
creasing in us in the same ratio as our
confidence increases in one another. It
will not do to lie to and deceive one an-
other; neither will it do to cease to chas-
ten and reprove the people when it is
necessary to do so. There is no people
on the earth that can bear to be spoken
to in the language of reproof, and have
their faults laid open before them, as this
people can. All who are in possession
of the Holy Spirit of truth receive such re-
proofs as kindnesses, and are thankful.
In this way we go on from truth to truth,
and from light to light.

It is interesting to follow this people
from the beginning of their existence—
through all their drivings and persecu-
tions up to the present time. It will be
seen that they have steadily increased in
numbers, in righteousness, and in power
and influence up to this day. Note the in-
crease of love, of joy, and of peace; our
peace flows like a river: it is glorious.
Hallelujah; praise the God of heaven, for
He has spoken from the heavens and has
called us to truth and virtue, and wishes
to put into our possession the wisdom of
eternity; this to us is a matter of great
joy. If we will do right and seek the Lord
with all our hearts, he will give unto us
everything our hearts can desire. The
earth is before us, heaven is before us,
and the fullness of eternity is before us,
and it is for us to live for all our hearts
can desire in righteousness.

We have enemies; they are with us
all the time, prompting the Saints to
do wrong, that their minds may be
darkened, and they be plunged into
sorrow and grief. Are we ready to re-
ceive an enemy? We should be as ready
to meet an enemy in one capacity as in
another. Every time the enemy throws
us off our guard, and we give way to
temptation, he gains so much; he weak-
ens us and strengthens himself; when
we resist temptation, it strengthens the
Saints and weakens the enemy. We
should be ready for all emergencies at all
times, in all places, and under all circum-
stances, meeting the enemy at the door,
and not waiting until he takes posses-
sion of the house. We should at all times
be well qualified by faith, by the power
of the Holy Spirit of the Gospel which
we possess, and be well fortified on ev-
every side—this we should do spiritually;
this we should do temporally. If the en-
emy finds that we are prepared, he will
be very apt to keep out of doors.

The earth is before us, and all the
blessings of the earth. There is not a
man who is called now to receive the
blessings which pertain to the spiritual
world, and the things of eternity, but
what is first called to learn how to sus-
tain his natural life here in this world.
This life is worth as much as any life that
any being can possess in time or in eter-
nity. There is no life more precious to us
in the eye of eternal wisdom and justice
than the life which we now possess. Our
first duty is to take care of this life; and
in this duty we are, as a people, tolerably
skillful.

I do not think that another commu-
nity can be found anywhere more ca-
pable of taking care of themselves than
are the Latter-day Saints. It is true
that we do not raise our own tobacco: we
might raise it if we would. We do
not raise our tea; but we might raise it
if we would, for tea raising, this is as
good a country as China; and the cof-
fee bean can be raised a short distance
south of us. Our ladies wear imported