did his best to put him off, telling him
that he was a minister and so forth, but
the stranger would not be disappointed,
and, as Mr. Mack turned round, he
kicked him. The reverend gentleman's
religion could not stand this, and he set
to and gave the stranger a good thrashing. He went before his congregation
and made a confession, which was some-
thing like unto this—"I bore all this pa-
tiently, notwithstanding my own nature
was to try the man's strength, but af-
fter he kicked me I took off my coat and
flogged him most properly." I think that
kind of a rule might work under some
circumstances; but at the same time a
man should never lay down his religion,
and should never believe that it is nec-
essary to swear, not even in the canyon.
I tell you that every vile word we utter
and every vile sentiment we entertain
is a wrong for which we, someday, will
have to atone. When I hear men—young
or old—talking intemperately or improp-
erly, I realize that they have that folly to
overcome and repent of.

In speaking of the education of our
children, I wish to draw the attention
of the Saints particularly to the system
of phonetics, or the Deseret alphabet,
which has been referred to by President
Young and some of the brethren. This
is calculated to considerably abridge the
labor of our foreign brethren in learn-
ing to read English. I think that in all
our schools phonetics should form one
branch of study, and as fast as works of
phonotopy can be obtained they should
be introduced, for there is no doubt that
a general reformation will be effected in
our English orthography. It is said that
the Lord will restore to the people a pure
language, and to make themselves profi-
cient in the useful branches of educa-
tion, we wish them to remember that
the orthography which the English na-
tion has adopted is by no means perfect,
for our present mode of spelling might
be materially improved. According to the
present system, it is a very long and dif-
ficult job for a man to learn to spell. I
commenced as soon as I was old enough
to put three letters together, and I have
been at it ever since, and I hardly dare
write a letter now without consulting the
dictionary to see how some word or other
should be spelled. The spelling of the
English language is very arbitrary. For
several generations it has been under-
going improvements and modifications,
and it will, no doubt, go on until En-
glish orthography will become so perfect
that every letter will have but a single
sound, instead of having, as now, in some
cases, four or five sounds to the same let-
ter. Now, when a child learns to spell, he
learns first to give to the vowel a its long
sound, as heard in the word male, sup-
posing that to be its only sound. In an-
other position he gives it the Italian or
grave sound—as in the word father, and
so on, until he finds it has four or five
distinct sounds, and then he has to con-
tinually exercise his judgment, or has to
depend upon the judgment of some other
man, to know which of these sounds to
use.

I wish our brethren to give this
subject their serious and candid con-
ideration, and do their best to intro-
duce into our schools a system that
will greatly abridge the time required
to gain the various branches of a good
education. No greater or more blessed
mission can be given to an Elder in
Israel than to teach the true princi-
pies of education to the rising gen-
eration of this Territory. I would