fathers and mothers, middle aged, old
and young—who transgress the com-
mandments of God, "If Zion does not ob-
serve to do all things whatsoever that I
have commanded her, I will visit her ac-
cording to all her works, I will visit her
with sore tribulations—with pestilence,
plague, vengeance, sword, with the flame
of devouring fire," &c.

The Lord means what he says. He
has told us in one of the first revela-
tions published in this book, that though
the heavens and the earth should pass
away, not one of the prophecies and pre-
dictions contained in these revelations
should go unfulfilled; therefore if Zion
sins, if her people suffer pride to arise in
their hearts, and follow after the foolish
fashions of the Gentiles who come into
their midst, and are lifted up one above
another, the rich and wealthy looking
down upon the poor with scorn and de-
rision because they cannot clothe them-
selves in the same costly apparel as the
rich, and begin to make distinctions of
classes among themselves, behold the
Lord will visit Zion according to all her
works, and he will purge her and pour
forth his judgments upon her, according
to that which he has spoken.

I hope that we shall take a course
to prevent these things coming upon us.
It is better to be chastened and
receive judgment in this world, even
if it be sword, pestilence, famine and
the flame of a devouring fire, if we
can be brought to repentance thereby,
than to remain unchastised and go
down swiftly to the pit. If we, be-
cause of our sins, need chastising by
the Almighty, let the chastisement come
while we are in the flesh, that we may
repent; and I would say still further,
and pray in the name of the Lord,
"Oh Lord, if chastisement must come,
may it come from thine hands." When
the Lord through the Prophet gave
David the choice of one of three terrible
judgments—first to fall into the hands
of his enemies, and for the people of Is-
rael to be afflicted many years; second,
a lengthy famine, and third, three days'
pestilence, he chose the three days' pesti-
ulence, for he said it was better to fall into
the hands of the Lord, who was full of
tender mercy, and who might repent and
withdraw the chastisement, than to fall
into the hands of the wicked who have
no mercy. I would say the same so far
as my feelings are concerned, and if it be
needful let the Lord chasten those who
need it, and not suffer us to continue in
our sin, and to grow and flourish like the
green bay tree, as the wicked do until we
are cut off finally from the earth and cast
away in the eternal worlds. It is better
for us to be saved there if we are pun-
ished here.

The scourge of the Lord, we are told
in this revelation, shall go forth by day
and by night, and the report thereof
shall vex all people. Among all those
revelations concerning the scourges that
were to go forth, the one which I
have read was given long before the
cholera broke out. The first year that
we have any knowledge of that terri-
ble plague, if I mistake not, was 1837,
some four years after this revelation
was given that the Lord would send
forth scourges. He did send forth a
scourge that seemed to sweep over all
the nations of the earth. Did it come
among the Latter-day Saints? It did.
Why? Because they did not keep his
commandments, and as the Destroyer
was abroad laying waste the nations,
the Latter-day Saints had to receive
their share, I mean those among us who
did not keep the commandments of the