and bring the means and lay it down at
the feet of the Apostles, and then live,
eat, drink and wear until it is all gone,
and then what? Do without? Yes, or
be beggars. Our traditions lead us to
this point, and that throws us into a
dilemma, out of which we know not how
to extricate ourselves. To the Latter-
day Saints, I say, all this is a mistake;
these are false ideas, false conclusions.
I am here to tell you how things are,
and, as far as necessary, to tell you how
they were, and then to tell you how they
should be, and how they will be. To be-
gin with, we will unitedly labor to sus-
tain the kingdom of God upon the earth.
Shall we sell our possessions, have all
things in common, live upon the means
until it is gone, and then beg through the
country? No, no. Sell nothing of our pos-
sessions. True, the earth is at present
in possession of the great enemy of the
Savior, but he does not own a foot of it;
he never did, but he has possession of
it, and they say that possession is nine
points of the law, and it seems to be so.
Well, if I have a foot of land that I have
dedicated and devoted to my heavenly
Father for his kingdom on the earth, I
never dispose of that. I have owned a
great deal of land, and I now own a great
deal of land in the United States, and I
have never yet sold a foot of it. I say
to the Latter-day Saints, keep your land,
dedicate it to God, preserve it in truth, in
purity, in holiness; pray that the Spirit of
the Lord may brood over it, that whoever
walks over that land, may feel the influ-
ence of that Spirit; pray that the Spirit of
the Lord may cover our possessions, then
gather around us the necessaries of life.
Dispose of nothing that we should keep,
but continue to labor, praying the Lord
to bless the soil, the atmosphere and the
water. Then we have our crops, our fruit,
our flocks and herds to live upon, to im-
prove upon, and then go on and make
our clothing, build houses, improve our
streets, our cities and all our surround-
ings and make them beautiful; beautify
every place with the workmanship of our
own hands. Keep what is necessary, dis-
pose of what we may have to dispose of.
To whom? To those who are operating
in our mines to develop the resources in
our mountains, and to all who have need.
By such a course the wasting of our sub-
stance, as has been too much the case,
will be stopped; and when we labor, let
our labor count something for our bene-
fit. We ask concerning the rich, Do we
want your gold and your silver? No, we
do not. Do we want your houses and
lands? We do not. What do we want?
We want obedience to the requirements
of wisdom, to direct the labors of every
man and every woman in this kingdom
to the best possible advantage, that we
may feed and clothe ourselves, build our
houses and gather around us the com-
forts of life, without wasting so much
time, means, and energy. And instead of
saying that I shall give up my carriage
for the poor to ride in, we will direct the
poor so that every man may have his car-
riage, if he will be obedient to the re-
quirements of the Almighty. Every fam-
ily will have all that they can reason-
able desire. When we learn and prac-
tice fair dealing in all our intercourse
and transactions, then confidence, now
so far lost, but so much needed, will
be restored; and we will be enabled to
effectually carry out our operations for
the friendly and profitable cooperation of
money and labor, now so generally and
so injuriously antagonistic.