so great that he and the other authori-
ties of the State were powerless to ex-
nect the law for the protection of the
Mormons. We have had one protector—
our Father in heaven, to depend upon;
but governors, judges, rulers, officers of
any kind, high or low, have utterly failed
to extend protection to the Latter-day
Saints. God alone has been our protec-
tor, and we acknowledge his hand in ev-
ery deliverance we have hitherto experi-
enced.

Several times the Church has made
advances to organize the Order of Enoch
as it was revealed in the Book of
Covenants in part, and in the ancient
history of the Zion of Enoch; these ad-
vances, however, the Saints did not seem
prepared to receive. We have been gath-
ered from many nations, and we have
brought many notions and traditions
with us, and it has seemed that with
these notions and traditions we could not
dispose. In 1838, an attempt was made
in Caldwell County, Mo., the Latter-day
Saints owning all the lands in the county,
or all that were considered of any value.
They organized Big Field United Firms,
by which they intended to consolidate
their property and to regard it as the
property of the Lord, and themselves
only as stewards; but they had not ad-
vanced so far in this matter as to per-
fet their system before they were bro-
ken up and driven from the State. I un-
derstand that three hundred and eight-
teen thousand dollars in money was paid
by the Saints to the United States for
lands in the State of Missouri, not one
acre of which anyone of us has been per-
mitted to enjoy or to live upon since the
year 1838, or the Spring of 1839; though
at the time of the expulsion, the Com-
manding General, John W. Clarke, in-
formed the people that if they would re-
nounce their religious faith they could
remain on their lands. He said that
they were skillful mechanics, industri-
ous and orderly, and had made more im-
provements in three years than the other
inhabitants had in fifteen, and if they
would renounce their faith they could re-
main. But they must hold no more meet-
ings, prayer meetings, prayer circles or
councils, and they must have no more
Bishops or Presidents; and in view of
their refusal to comply with these condi-
tions, the edict of banishment, issued by
the Governor of the State, was executed
by this general with an army at his heels,
and the Latter-day Saints were driven
from their happy homes, and thousands
of them scattered to the four winds of
heaven.

Since our arrival in these valleys, ser-
mons have been preached from year to
year, to illustrate to us the principles of
oneness. We find that we are one, gen-
erally, in faith. We believe on the Lord
Jesus Christ; we believe in the first prin-
ciples of the Gospel—the doctrines of re-
pentance, and baptism for the remission
of sins, the laying on of hands for the
gift of the Holy Ghost and the resur-
rection of the dead; we readily receive,
by the power of the Holy Spirit, mani-
fested to us through the Prophets, the
doctrine of baptism for the dead, the holy
anointing and the law of celestial mar-
rriage. This principle came in opposition
to all our prejudices, yet when God re-
vealed it, his Spirit bore testimony of
its truth, and the Latter-day Saints re-
ceived it almost en masse. In order to
make a step in the right direction, and
to prepare the people to return to Jack-
son County, the principles of cooperation
were taught and their practice entered
into; and for the purpose of instructing
and encouraging the minds of the people