This was a marked change, and I could not but notice it. The patience which
the Latter-day Saints have manifested now for four or five years in the midst
of the judicial difficulties which have environed them, has been productive, of
good effects abroad, it has, in my opinion, produced a reaction in the public mind.
Many persons have become familiar with the actual condition of affairs here, and
their sympathies have been awakened by what they have heard, and they have
felt disposed to do what they could in a quiet way to relieve us from these diffi-
culties; and if we continue to exercise patience and long-suffering in the future as
we have in the past, there is no doubt in my mind about the results. It is our duty
to do this. It is a duty made incumbent upon us by our religion to be patient, for-
bearing, and long-suffering, and if we encourage these feelings in ourselves and
in our children, putting our trust in God, relying upon him continually, there is no
doubt in my mind as to what the result will be. Men may point the finger of
scorn at us and ridicule us because of our religion; but if we are true to its princi-
ples, if we abide in the faith which God has revealed unto us, we can afford to
submit to all of this obloquy, and everything of that character. It will pass away
and be forgotten, but the virtues which we possess will endure and have their ef-
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It has afforded me the greatest plea-
sure to speak about the condition and
management of affairs in this Territ-
ory. I could point with a great deal of
pride to the fact that we were a lightly
taxed people, probably as lightly taxed
as any community within the confines
of the Union; that we were out of debt;
that Salt Lake City had, at the last
report, a goodly sum in its treasury,
besides, nearly an equal amount in as-
sets; that every other municipality in the
Territory was in the same condition; that
our county organizations were free from
debt; that the Territory itself did not owe
a dollar in any form, but had a large
amount to its credit. This speaks vol-
umes to a great many people, especially
to men acquainted with government, and
who, themselves, live in the midst of tax-
oppressed communities, groaning under
public debts created by unwise and dis-
honest officials. They could appreciate
facts of this kind, and they bore volumes
of testimony respecting the good order
and wisdom that have characterized the
operations of those who have had charge
of public affairs in this Territory.
Another thing to which my attention
was called a great many times, was the
grasshopper scourge with which Utah
had been visited so frequently. A great
many had inquiries to make on the sub-
ject. Kansas, Nebraska, and part of
Iowa were afflicted with grasshoppers
this last season, and the people were ex-
cceedingly desirous to obtain legislation
in their behalf—they wanted Congress
to relieve them by sending seeds and by
giving them pecuniary assistance! Tales
of distress came by every mail to mem-
ers of Congress, in which the writ-
ers plead piteously with them to have
Congress extend aid to the sufferers,
as you have doubtless seen in the pa-
pers, particularly in the New York Tri-
bune, which had a column daily contain-
ing the names of Sunday School chil-
dren, servant girls, widows, and other
persons who had contributed their mites
to help the sufferers in the districts rav-
aged by the grasshoppers in the States
I have named. Knowing that Utah had
been afflicted by grasshoppers, a good
many came to me to enquire how we