warfare, labor and faithfulness before
the Lord in order for us to keep in fellow-
ship with the Holy Spirit, and to live in
such a manner that we may obtain these
blessings. Jesus says—"Strait is the gate
and narrow the way that leads to eternal
lives, and few there are who find it, while
broad is the way that leads to death, and
many there be who go in thereat." The
road to death is broad enough to catch
the whole world, and they do not like
to walk in the strait and narrow one,
they do not like to keep the celestial law.
I have met with professed ministers of
the Gospel, in my travels, at whose ta-
bles I have eaten and drank, and I have
given them the Book of Mormon and the
Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and
have talked to and labored with them,
and I have known some of them spend
days and days in this warfare, trying to
decide which to do, whether to receive
the Gospel of Christ and take the re-
proach of the world, or reject it; and I
may say that in nine cases out of ten
they have come to the conclusion to re-
ject it. When I visited Fox Island the
first time, I went to the house of Mr.
Newton, a Baptist minister; and I stayed
with him. But first I went to his church
and heard him preach, and when he got
through I wanted to bear record of the
Gospel, for I had a message to that peo-
ples, and I appointed a meeting for four
o’clock in the afternoon, and I preached
the Gospel to them, and Mr. Newton
took me to his home and I gave him the
Book of Mormon and the Book of Doc-
trime and Covenants, and for ten days
that man walked about his room until
midnight trying to decide what he should
do. The Spirit of the Lord bore record to
him that my testimony was true, and he
felt that if he obeyed the Gospel which I
had proclaimed unto him he would lose
his good name and honor among men,
but that if he did not receive it, he would
be damned. Finally he rejected it, and
the consequence was that he became a
vagabond, and a miserable outcast. I
baptized all his flock who owned any por-
tion of the meetinghouse, and if he had
embraced the Gospel and been gathered
with them he would have been here and
saved in the kingdom of God, instead of
the vagabond that he has since become.
I merely mention this to show how the
minds of some men are acted upon by
the tidings of the Gospel. Some of them
feel that it would be a great reproach to
obey that Gospel and to keep the com-
mandments of God. Bless your souls, we
who obey the Gospel of Christ are all in
good company. Whenever you are perse-
cuted for righteousness sake, said Jesus,
rejoice and be exceeding glad for so per-
secuted they the Prophets and Apostles
which were before you.
I will say to all, whether in the church
or in the world, it will pay you to keep the
commandments of God. Here is a man
who has a wife that he thinks a great
deal of; they have lovely children, and
the ties of affection bind them closely.
Now should not such a man have respect
equal for God to keep his command-
ments and so secure to himself his wife
and his children in the celestial world af-
ter the resurrection? But you cannot get
worldlings to believe in such a principle;
the people, as I said before, have not in-
trest enough in the things of the king-
dom of God to be willing to keep the com-
mandments of God.
I say to the Latter-day Saints, we
should be faithful to our God. We
are blessed above all the people that
breathe the breath of life upon the
earth, and we are blessed above all
other dispensations and generations