ty, no sooner do they become the possess-
sors of a little means, than they lift their
heels against the Gospel. This is painful
to the Latter-day Saints, who rendered
them assistance; it is grieving to God
who delivered them. Still, it is our duty
to send the Gospel to all nations, and to
continue to donate means to gather out
the poor. The Lord will save a few, all
that will accept salvation according to
the design which the Lord has devised.
He has made the plan, not us. It is
not the conception of man. It was the
Gods who sat in council together—they
planned it and now offer it to us. Will we
accept of it?
There are only two churches on the
ever—only two parties. God leads the
one, the devil the other. As soon as a
man hears the Gospel preached and be-
comes convinced of its truth fulness, he
is tempted of the devil, who, whenever
there is an opportunity, suggests doubt
for his reflection. If he entertain these
doubting influences, it is not long be-
fore what he believed true becomes a
matter of conjecture. Another may re-
cieve the Gospel, travel and preach it
faithfully, feeling in his heart to exclaim,
"Glory to God in the highest!" having no
other motive than to do good to his fel-
low beings. By and by he perhaps is
left to himself; he now begins to ques-
tion himself, saying—"I wonder if I re-
ally was right?" This single doubt is per-
haps the beginning of his apostasy from
the Church. In the days of Joseph,
people were inclined to turn away from
the faith and go into apostasy, as much
as they do now in proportion to our
numbers, and I have sometimes thought
more so. You allow the devil to sug-
gest to you that I am not leading you
right, and allow that thought to abide in
your hearts, and I will promise you that
it will lead you to apostasy. You al-
low yourselves to doubt anything that
God has revealed, and it will not be a
great while before you begin to neglect
your prayers, refuse to pay your Tithing,
and find fault with the authorities of
the Church. You will be repeating what
apostates all say, "The Tithing is not
used aright," etc. There is a feeling that
sometimes prompts me to ask, "Did you
ever pay any Tithing to me that I kept?
If so, let us be informed about it." God
has so blessed me with regard to things
pertaining to this world, that if it can be
shown that I ever received the benefit of
any man's Tithing, I am able to restore
it a hundred fold. This perhaps is a little
levity in me, but I indulge in such things
sometimes.
When brother Joseph was alive, he
appointed me to appraise property in the
Nauvoo Temple. On one occasion, a sad-
dle was brought in; it was valued at
two dollars, and being in need of a sad-
dle I used it. Brother Joseph, too, once
sent me the half of a pig which weighed
ninety-three pounds. And while preach-
ing in Boston, I received two and a half
dollars in Tithing, which I also used and
reported to brother Joseph. Otherwise
not a dime of the Tithing did I ever use
in the days of Joseph; and since his day
the right to dictate the use of the Tithing
belongs to me, and I have used what
I thought was necessary, but I have no
knowledge of using one dollar of Tithing
money for my own purposes. Though
after these statements I will say that I
dictate the Tithing very little. Neither
the Bishops nor my clerks ever ask me
anything about it, they do what they
please with it. I do not care what is done
with it, if it be rightfully and properly
used. They are perfectly welcome to use
my Tithing in common with yours; the