pears again, a great battle fought be-
tween the Priesthood and the powers of
darkness. The wicked do not compre-
hend this. They witness various man-
ifestations of unseen powers operating
in the human family, but whether they
are good and truthful or vile and de-
ceptive they are unable to comprehend
satisfactorily, because they have not ap-
plied to the fountain of light, truth and
knowledge. The Saints, on the other
hand, can comprehend these manifesta-
tions and judge this wicked world by the
light of the Holy Ghost. We shall see
the manifestations of the powers of dark-
ness in an increased degree in the fu-
ture, deceiving the children of men. So
far as this generation is concerned it
has been since the Prophet Joseph came
forth and declared his belief in revela-
tions, visions and angels that the powers
of darkness have operated by external
and supernatural manifestations, and as
the power of God increased with the peo-
ple and extended throughout the earth
and was felt by other nations besides
this, the Evil One manifested his power
among men to a greater extent. When
the Prophet Joseph appeared, announc-
ing his belief in these things, there was
a general unbelief among religious sects
in regard to them. Professed Christians
disclaimed any belief in manifestations
from heaven, had no faith in visions or
angels, and considered the claims of any
man to be absurd who professed to have
communication with the unseen world.
Those who had faith in visions and
dreams where looked upon as supersti-
tious beings. Joseph’s professions were
viewed as inconsistent with the spirit
and enlightenment of the age. But how
great is the change! We find men and
women seeking communication with the
unseen world, with spirits of departed
friends, and receiving spiritual man-
ifestations in various forms. In the days
of the Prophet Joseph there were only a
few who entertained any faith in such
manifestations, but now they are num-
bered by millions. What has all this ef-
ected? Has it produced any more unity
in the world than existed before? Is there
an increase of happiness or aught that
is praiseworthy? The effect it has pro-
duced is evident, to the reflecting mind.
Infidelity has increased as the powers
of darkness have spread their influence
over the minds of men.

I do not expect many of the Latter-
day Saints to be able to fully contemplate
the subject, not having mingled with the
world since these great changes have oc-
curred, but there are some who possess
a general knowledge of such things by
seeing, hearing and reading. The testi-
mony of the Elders is that the world is
almost universally infidel—priests and
people. Religion is used as a cloak with
the great majority of professing Chris-
tians. There appears to prevail an al-
most general disbelief in Jesus and his
Apostles. The Bible is counted unworthy
of credence or attention, and religion is
deemed a farce. This general tendency
to infidelity is also the result of men’s ef-
forts to put down Mormonism. The world
rejected the power of God made manifest
by the visitation of holy angels, but when
the devil manifested his power through
the visitation of evil spirits, assuming
all sorts of fantastic shapes, the peo-
ple eagerly ran after them and became
blind, bewildered and stupefied. Such
persons would rather “believe a lie and
be damned;” they willingly follow after
the “strong delusions” that the Apostle
Paul referred to. These powers of dark-
ness will continue to come upon them
and spread over the earth, as we advance
in truth and righteousness.