comes along who can surpass him, and
the former is glad to learn of the lat-
ter. And so we may follow it through
until we come to the subject of religion.
But the moment that subject is touched
men rise up, no matter how ignorant
they may be with regard to the principles
which are calculated to exalt mankind,
and say, "I must think for myself; no
man must be trammeled in those mat-
ters; every man must have the privilege
of worshipping God according to the dic-
tates of his conscience." So say I, but I
do know, and we have indubitable evi-
dence of the fact that the men who stand
at the head of this people are skilled in
the things pertaining to the building up
of the kingdom of God in the last days.
This fact is proven to the satisfaction of
the Latter-day Saints, to those at least,
who have followed them the last 15 to
30 years. We know that they under-
stand more about these things than we
do. When questions arise, whether in
politics, finance, morals or law, requir-
ing the judgment of sound and experi-
enced men, or when circumstances arise
in our individual lives which are perplex-
ing and of such a nature as to exhaust
our ability, we naturally seek the coun-
sel of these our brethren; and our ex-
perience has proven them to be masters
of the situation; that they are skilled
in their profession and abundantly able
to direct us. Why should I not fol-
low the leaders whom God has placed
over me? Why should not this privi-
lege be granted me? Is it more incon-
sistent in me showing my principle and
desire for right in following these men
than in acquiring the art of mechan-
ics, in being taught by a more experi-
enced mechanic? Or in politics or law
or surgery, by men who are farther ad-
vanced in those professions than my-
self? Certainly not. And besides this
the Spirit of God which I have received
which is an unmistakable guide, bears
witness to me that it is right for me to
be taught of them and that their teach-
ings are the teachings of heaven to the
children of men, and that they are calcu-
lated, if lived up to, to lead men back into
the presence of God the Father. Yet I,
in connection with this whole people, am
accused of yielding my own will and free
agency to an overbearing priesthood,
thus becoming their dupes and slaves.
This is in short, the judgment generally
passed on the Latter-day Saints by the
American nation. And while they say
this of us, their better sense would tell
them that they do the same in law, in
morals, in mechanism, in politics, etc.,
directly, and in religious matters they do
the same indirectly. Well, for one—and
in saying this I speak the sentiments of
this whole people—I intend to follow the
men appointed and ordained of God to
lead and direct his Saints, as they fol-
low Christ. "Know ye not," says the apos-
tle, "that to whom ye yield yourselves to
obey, his servants ye are whom ye obey;
whether of sin unto death, or of obedi-
ence unto righteousness?"

May the blessings of God rest upon
this people and the peace of heaven be
with them in all of their locations and
settlements, and give unto us strength
to continue faithful in the cause of truth,
that we may do our part towards the
building up of his kingdom, and at last
be saved with the faithful, is my prayer,
in the name of Jesus. Amen.