the exercise of the most profound wis-
dom, and the greatest talent in order
that these things may be corrected. It
devolves upon us, Latter-day Saints, to
help to accomplish this work. It devolves
upon us, and will devolve upon us more
particularly in the near future, to main-
tain upon this continent and through
this broad land pure republican institu-
tions, constitutional liberty in its broad-
est sense. For the day is not far distant
when the power such as is growing up in
the mountains will be needed. Conflict of
parties, an increase of party feeling, an
increased disposition to take possession
of power by any means, no matter what
it might be, are becoming general in the
United States. This is so self-evident
that no man, unless completely wedded
to the idea that this nation will exist in
perpetuity, can fail to see for himself that
there is a crisis approaching in the af-
fairs of our nation. Already the feeling
prevails that in order to accomplish cer-
tain things fraud is justifiable. Money
is used to an extent in the accomplis-
ning of certain results in government af-
fairs, and in politics that you, as a peo-
ple who live in these mountains, have
scarcely any conception of. And this is in-
creasing. What the end will be is not dif-
cult to foretell. Republicanism ceases
to be republicanism whenever fraud en-
ters into the decision of questions and
the will of the people cannot be properly
ascertained.

So far as religious liberty is con-
cerned we have fought that battle
thus far with tolerable success; but
we have yet to contend still more
for greater liberty, not for ourselves
alone, but for every human being
that dwells upon this land, from the
east to the west and from the north
to the south. The principle must
be maintained, the principle, that ac-
tuated the founders of our government,
when they laid the foundation stone
thereof, that in matters of religious con-
cernment no man has a right to step be-
tween his fellow man and his God. I
may worship idols; I may burn incense
to idols; I may worship the sun and pay
adoration to him, the great luminary of
day; I may do other things which may
seem equally improper, but have I not
the right to do these things under our
constitution? Was it not the intention
of the framers of our form of govern-
ment that every man should have this
right? Certainly it was; and it can be
clearly proved that this was their inten-
tion, that this was the spirit that actu-
ated and prompted them.

In Salt Lake City, if the "Mormons"
had supreme control—I say "Mormons,"
I ought to say Latter-day Saints—if they
had supreme control from our north-
ern boundary in Idaho, to the southern
boundary, Arizona, and from our east-
ern boundary, Colorado, to our western
boundary, Nevada; if we had supreme
control and undisputed possession of this
land, without the right of dominion over
us being questioned, we would have no
authority under the constitution under
which we live to say to any human be-
ing within these confines how he should
worship, what he should or should not
do in order to please the Creator. If the
Chinaman should come here and build
a Joss house and burn incense to Joss,
if he prostrate himself in adoration be-
fore the images that he thinks repre-
sents his deity, we have no right in the
world to interfere with him. If an In-
gersoll should come here and say that
he did not believe in any God at all,
and he could carry his feelings into prac-
tice, we would have no right to interfere