NECESSITY OF REVELATION, ETC.

claim a blessing, if it so be that persecu-
tion brings blessings. Were their names
cast out as evil? Then we can claim with
them the same results, if blessings at-
tend any such thing. "Oh, but," says
one, "they were good people, the Apos-
tles in ancient days were good people,
but you Mormons are a very wicked peo-
ple." Why, do you imagine that if they
had considered Jesus a very good man,
a very holy being they would have cruci-
fied him between two thieves? No. The
populace, when Pilate wanted to have
him forgiven because of the feast of the
passover, cried out: "No; release to us
Barabbas, the murderer, the vile per-
son. Let him be released, but crucify
the Christ; let his blood be upon us and
our children." They were willing to risk
the consequences, because they believed
him to be a vile impostor. Do you think
that Peter and Paul, one of whom was
beheaded, and the other of whom was
crucified with his head downward—do
you imagine that in killing them the Ro-
mans thought they were killing good, in-
occent, pure men? Certainly not. They
were hated just as much as we are hated.
Of course they thought they were doing
God service, as many think they are do-
ing God service today in persecuting the
Latter-day Saints. They thought they
were doing the world some good by rid-
ing the earth of such impostors as Pe-
ter and Paul. Their eyes were blinded to
their goodness and to their virtues. Such
things were hidden from their sight.
They could only say they were delud-
ers of the people, that they led people
astray, and as impostors were worthy
of death. And so it is throughout this
Territory. The virtues of the Latter-day
Saints are not perceived. Our temper-
ance, our frugality, our perseverance, our
industry, our union, and all the qualities
that have made this wilderness blossom
until it is the admiration of every visitor,
the joy of every traveler—all these things
are obscured, and with many people lost
sight of, before the idea, imagined by
very many, that Brother Brigham was
a vile impostor, that all those who have
been associated with him are no bet-
ter, and that it would be doing God ser-
tice to destroy them from the face of the
earth that the people who are deluded
by them might be free from the influence
which they wield over them. Oh, gener-
ation of blind—I was going to say fools,
but shall I use such a phrase? But is
there not evidence sufficient before the
eyes of this generation of what has been
done in the past, in the persecution of
righteous and holy men, in the killing
of them, in the shedding of their blood,
that men cannot learn that there is such
a thing as a man being a good man, a
virtuous man, a pure man, and yet be
maligned by the enemies of purity and
virtue, as in the days of Christ? This
generation will have a great deal to an-
swer for in consequence of this thing.
As Latter-day Saints, we have been ac-
cused of every crime. It has been told of
us that we were ready to commit mur-
der at any time, in order to serve our
own ends, that we were ready to shed
the blood of the innocent, and that this
feeling to destroy life existed among us,
when at the same time, throughout these
wild mountains and secluded valleys life
has been more safe, property more se-
cure, than in the streets of the best man-
aged cities in the Union. There never has
been a day since we came beyond these
mountains that travelers could not pass
from the North to the South, and from
the East to the West, and through all