gress to cover their shameless infrac-
tion of the Constitution of the United
States, which guarantees religious lib-
erty to all—in order to avoid the odium of
religious persecution which naturally at-
taches itself to them, may pervert an in-
stitution of God by misnaming polygamy
and calling it bigamy and not religion,
and though the Supreme Court of the
United States may confirm their acts, yet
there are more than one hundred thou-
sand persons who know better than they
do, who will declare that polygamy is a
part of their religion and a command and
revelation from God.

These are our feelings and we will try
to acknowledge the Lord in all things.
And then, on the other hand, we do
not wish to treat anybody disrespectfully.
Have we any quarrel with this nation?
No; they are seeking to quarrel with us;
don’t let us give them the opportunity.
They are like the boy strutting along the
street with a chip on his shoulder, ask-
ing us to knock it off. But we won’t
knock it off; but let them strut. It is
true they try all they can to annoy and
provoke us—that is, a few mean men
do, although that is not generally the
feeling of the nation, but is confined in
great measure to religious fanatics and
corrupt politicians, some of them holding
positions under government, are trying
to stir up strife. What for? Well, they
want to get a certain “ticket” elected.
A great amount of this “fuss and feather-
ers” that we have today is simply a po-
itical ruse in the interest of party poli-
tics. What for? Why, the brethren have
told you. Mormonism is very unpopular,
and if they can only do something that
will be in opposition to Mormonism it
will satisfy the howling priests through-
out the land, and a great many of
their flocks. As was remarked by one of
the brethren, when Jesus was crucified,
Pilate and Herod could be made friends.
When Mormonism is to be opposed, all
men, or at least a great many men, can
unite in opposing it. And they want to
go before the people and tell them that
they have rooted out slavery, and now
they are after Mormonism, and won’t
you religious fanatics join in? No, ex-
cuse me, I mean, you pure and holy re-
ligious people, who are so humble and
possess so much of the spirit that dwelt
in the lowly Jesus, won’t you help us
to do this thing—won’t you vote for us
because we are doing this thing? Why,
bless your souls, they would not hesitate
to sweep us off the face of the earth to
get elected. That is their feeling. They
care nothing about human rights, liberty,
or life, if they can bring about the re-
results desired. They would despoil, de-
stroy and overthrow this people to ac-
complish their own end. Well, the other
party, it is true, would not be very well
suited about it, but they would not care
to see it politically. However, it is for us
to do the best we can. We have got to put
our trust in the living God. We might
ask—Will they derive any benefit from
any course taken against the Latter-day
Saints? No! A thousand times no!! I tell
you that the hand of God will be upon
them for it, and every people, be it this
nation, or any other nation, that shall
lift up their hands against Zion shall be
wasted away; and those that want to try
it let them try it, and it is them and their
God for it. But it is for us to fear God,
to keep his commandments; we can af-
ford to do right whether other people can
or not. Respect all men in their rights,
in their position, and in their privileges,
politically and socially, and protect them