sides there are a great many circum-
stances, transpiring from time to time,
which render it necessary that we should
be conversant with one another’s feel-
ings; that we should understand the
mind and will of the Lord, and that we
should be prepared to operate with Him
in the interests of the human family,
in the establishment of Zion and in the
building up of the Kingdom of God on the
earth. I always take pleasure in preach-
ing the Gospel—I have done a great deal
of it—and my brethren of the Twelve
feel the same. There is nothing I take
greater pleasure in than in proclaiming
the Gospel to the nations of the earth,
and in mingling among and preaching
to the Saints of God. Although I cannot
now go abroad, yet I can, and so can my
brethren of the Twelve, associate with
you—for they feel as I do in relation to
this matter; we can visit the Saints at
home and talk to them on the things per-
taining to the kingdom of God.

There are a great many things asso-
ciated also with this Kingdom that it is
proper should be presented to us from
time to time, that we may be enabled to
act and to operate together and be one
in our feelings religious, one in our feel-
ings social, and one in our feelings po-
litical; for all these things are mixed up
and intimately connected with the pos-
tion we occupy as the Saints of the
Most High God in the building up of His
Zion here upon the earth. There are
things spiritual, there are things denomi-
inated temporal, there are things also
spoken of as being eternal in their na-
ture, and all these subjects, in all their
various ramifications, demand more or
less of our attention. For instance, we
are gathered together here as a peculiar
people in these valleys of the mountains.
We are gathered here because we em-
braced the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and
because of the revealing of that Gospel to
Joseph Smith, and because after having
embraced it, we partook of its spirit, and
because there was associated therewith
the principle of gathering. We are gath-
ered here under peculiar circumstances.
But our first object was simple obedience
to the Gospel. There are circumstances
growing out of this, over which we seem
to have very little control, by being gath-
ered together in the position we now oc-
cupy, and composing part of this nation,
there are certain political duties that
seem to force themselves upon us. We
came here simply on religious principles
to start with, because we had faith in
God, because we had faith in the restora-
tion of the everlasting Gospel; because
we had faith in the gathering together
of the people; because we had faith in
the ordinances of the Gospel of the Son
of God; because we had faith in the or-
ganization of the Church and Kingdom
of God, and the various offices pertain-
ing thereunto throughout all the ram-
ifications of the Church. We came to-
gether therefore in a Church capacity:
but being gathered together as a people,
we brought our bodies with us, that is
we brought our souls, if you please, for
the spirit and the body, we are told, is
the soul of man. We brought ourselves
here and being here we naturally form
an integral part of the United States,
and have become part of what is termed
the body politic of the government. But
we could not help that, and I do not know
that we want to help it.

We became then organized in a
territorial capacity and part and par-