young men who had been called from
the various mutual improvement as-
associations, unlearned in regard to the
condition of the world, unacquainted
with its customs, manners and habits—
especially with this class was a deep im-
pression made upon the minds of the
people. That feeling of kindness, which
is characteristic of the people there,
seemed to feel after those boys, beardless
boys as they were, as they stood up in
their places, where they could obtain a
church or a schoolhouse, to preach, and
where they could not obtain a place, in
the open air, by the road side, or wher-
ever they found a man ready to stop and
listen to them in proclaiming the things
they had been sent to declare. It made
a deep impression on the minds of the
people, and, in a number of instances,
while the violent feelings of men were
raised against them, there were those
who said, “We have boys of our own, and
if our boys were in the place of these, sep-
arated from their homes and their kin-
dred by thousands of miles, and there
were those seeking to do them violence,
we would feel to bless the hand that pro-
tected them.” And, as a general thing,
there came a division, and the two con-
tending parties were left to get through
the struggle as best they could.

The Southern States Mission at the
present time is divided into conferences,
with a president over each conference,
and traveling elders at appointed places
laboring in the districts. Yet, with
all that we can do, there are locali-
ties in the Southern States today, that
have been asking for elders for some
considerable length of time, which we
have not yet been able to supply, ow-
ing to a deficiency in our numbers.
I discover, in coming in contact with
the people of the United States, that,
notwithstanding the nation numbers
forty millions of people—a vast innumer-
able multitude almost, compared to the
Latter-day Saints who dwell in these dis-
tant valleys of the mountains—yet, if a
company of eight, ten, twelve or fifteen
elders should happen to pass through
any of the large cities, en route to their
fields of labor, they are visited by re-
porters, they are interviewed, and the in-
terview is published far and near, caus-
ing considerable excitement in regard
to this small company of elders going
to their fields of labor; in fact two el-
ders, going into a locality where the peo-
ple are unacquainted with the teach-
ings of the Latter-day Saints, and an-
nouncing themselves as Mormon elders,
will create a really more genuine sensa-
tion than almost any other incident that
could happen, and it is, doubtless, well
that some of us, who are possibly a lit-
tle more zealous than wise, should be
restrained in regard to our anxiety to
push the work forward. There is, how-
ever, an abundance of room for elders
to labor throughout the entire South-
ern States. We scarcely ever preached
in a place where we could not obtain
a hearing. We scarcely ever visited a
neighborhood—I do not recollect of any
now—in the Southern States where I de-
sired a hearing, but what I could both ob-
tain a place to preach in and a good sized
audience to hear what I had to say.

Many of the leading men of the
Southern States, having visited Salt
Lake City and been treated kindly
by our people—having observed the
thrift, enterprise and peacefulness of
our homes, extended to us many kind-
nesses and many courtesies, notwith-
standing that, with the mass of the
people, it was quite unpopular to
do so. The Governor of one of