we have our being, and from which we
derive our sustenance, will pass away;
and the heavens that are over our heads
will also pass away; at the time this
great event shall happen, we are in-
formed that a great white throne shall
appear; that a certain personage will sit
thereon, and that so great will be his
glory, and so great the power attending
him, that the earth itself will flee away
from before his presence, and the heav-
ens, the literal heavens that are over our
heads—probably meaning the heavens
that pertain to this creation—will pass
away; the atmosphere and those things
included in the atmosphere; and the
earth itself, the solid portions thereof,
and the liquid portions, will all pass
away, before the face of him that sits
upon this throne. This is believed not
only by the Latter-day Saints, but by all
Christian denominations, with very few
exceptions. They believe that the heaven
and the earth will, at some future period
have a great change wrought upon them.
They expect that they will pass away, but
I believe that most of them consider that
the earth will become annihilated; that
the very materials of which it is com-
posed will be reduced to nothing. I think
that used to be, when I was a boy, a tenet
of the sectarian world; it used to be their
idea, that the earth was, in the begin-
ing, made out of nothing by the word
of God, and that it would be reduced to
nothing when it passed away.

But I have not time to dwell upon the
idea of the Christian world, and their
views, concerning this matter; I shall
touch upon those things according to the
ideas and the faith of the people called
Latter-day Saints. We do not believe
that the earth was made out of nothing,
like the modern Christian idea; we have
no such belief; for we do not find any
such declaration contained anywhere in
the scripture. We do not take it for
granted, because they have incorporated
these things in their modern theology,
in their doctrines, in their disciplines, in
their church articles, in their creeds—we
do not receive it on this testimony; but
when we have searched them, we find
there is no indications whatever, that the
earth was made out of nothing, or that it
sprang into existence, where there was
nothing on which to work.

We read in the first chapter of Gene-
sis that God created the heaven and the
earth, and the earth was without form
and void, but there is nothing in this
passage that informs us that he made
the earth out of nothing. Our view is
that the elements out of which this and
all other worlds were made existed from
all eternity; they never had any begin-
ning. There are a few individuals on
the earth that make no profession of
religion—some call them materialists—
who believe this same principle; and in
doing so, they have got one truth incor-
porated among their ideas, though they
do not believe in God. The materials
of this creation, according to our view,
and that which God has revealed to us,
in this last dispensation, have existed
from all eternity. These materials have
been, from all eternity, subject to the
command of the great Jehovah; they are
under his jurisdiction; he has power to
control them; he gave them laws; they
act according to these laws; and they
have been governed by laws, so far as
we have any knowledge, and so far as
our creation is concerned, for indefinite
ages past; and we have every reason to
believe that they have been under the