I am pleased this morning to have the
opportunity of meeting with the Saints
in this place. If you will try to be
still, I will endeavor to lay before you a
few principles on the subject, concern-
ing which your President enquired of me
a few days ago. It seems that there
have been, somewhere in this Stake, dif-
ficulties existing between the Bishop of a
Ward and certain members of his Ward.
Failing to arrive at an amicable settle-
ment, the parties appealed, against the
Bishop, to the High Council. President
Peery sent a telegram desiring my an-
swer to the question—"Whether a High
Council had authority to try a Bishop."
I could have answered yes, and I could
have answered no, to that question; but
it was a matter that would require some
explanation, and on which the brethren,
in many instances, are not very well
informed. I knew it would be almost
useless to give an answer of that kind,
without making some little explanation
thereto, because there are some things
with which more than one truth is con-

ected.

If you were to ask me whether I
am dressed in woolen clothes or cot-
ton, I could not give you an answer,
in the simple words yes or no, be-
cause part of them are woolen, part
of them cotton, and part of them
linen; and I should need time to explain.

There are many questions pertaining
to the Priesthood, which cannot be an-
swered categorically without further ex-
planation, and as this is a conference, I
wish to make a few remarks concerning
some of them; but I do not propose to
enter into all the details of these mat-
ters; there would not be time, nor half
time, nor a quarter time. I simply pro-
pose to make a few remarks in regard
to the question which was asked me by
your President.

I will here read on this subject a pas-
sage which people take up sometimes,
without understanding it, and, conse-
quently, when they do so, they are apt to
make quite a number of mistakes. The
passage to which I will refer you, is the
22nd verse of the 68th section, in the
Book of Doctrine and Covenants. After
reading it, you would think you had got
the whole answer, but then you might
not have it, although you might think
you had.

"And again, no bishop or high priest
who shall be set apart for this min-
istry shall be tried or condemned for any
crime, save it be before the First Presi-
dency of the church."

Now, does not that look very
plain? It does, when apart from
the context, and if we do not exam-