could be done to blind the eyes and
darken the understanding of the chil-
dren of men concerning the Book of Mor-
mon. Every conceivable falsehood, al-
most, has been put into circulation con-
cerning the origin of that work, and the
inhabitants of the earth have been led
to believe that it is one of the great-
est impostures that was ever palmed
upon mankind. And the name "Mormon" has been applied, in consequence
of this, in derision to us because of our
belief in that work. I have many times
been reminded of the falsehood that was
palmed upon the people by the Phar-
isees concerning the resurrection of Je-
sus Christ. They would not believe that
most momentous event in that genera-
tion, though borne testimony to by living
witnesses. They declared that his Apos-
tles, or disciples, had stolen the body,
that he had not been resurrected, and
that false belief became current in that
generation and was an accepted theory
concerning the founder of the Christian
religion, and the whole world deemed
themselves justified—speaking now in
general terms—in rejecting Jesus as the
Messiah, and his disciples as the Apos-
tles of God, and yet today it is the be-
lief of Christendom. A man who doubts
that the Savior was resurrected the third
day from death, is looked upon as unwor-
thy of that holy name, the name of Chris-
tian. So beliefs change and misrepresen-
tation and falsehood fade away as time
passes on and truth is received and ac-
cepted; and the day will yet come—and it
is not very far distant, when we speak
about it in comparison with this event to
which I have alluded—when this Book
of Mormon and all connected with it
will be received and accepted, that is,
all the truth, as the truth of the living
God, for the reason that it is true, and
that God himself is its author. For
that reason, and for that reason alone,
the time will come—and as I have said,
it is not far distant, though it may
seem very presumptuous to make such a
statement—when this record will be ac-
cepted, as the Bible is now accepted, as
a book of divine origin, and that it has
been revealed through the ministrations
and agency of holy angels. We accept the
Bible today without a question—that is,
those of us who believe in Jesus Christ
and in God. There is not a living wit-
ness to substantiate its truth. We accept
it because our fathers and our mothers
and our teachers from our earliest days
have taught us that it is true, that it
is the word of God, and among Protes-
tants a belief in its sacredness, that I
am sorry to say is fading away in many
circles, was general. The Bible was ac-
cepted after the reformation as infallible;
it took the place of the infallibility of the
Pope, and yet, as I have said, there is not
a single living witness whose testimony
has come down to us authenticated re-
specting its divinity, and in fact it is so
open to attack that there are thousands
who deem themselves justified, because
of the insufficiency of the testimony and
the conflict between statements which it
contains, in rejecting it as the word of
God. But in the case of the Book of Mor-
mon, three witnesses, in addition to the
man who was chosen of God, to trans-
late it, testify, in the most solemn man-
ner that an holy angel came and exhib-
ited the plates and testified to them that
it was of God. We have heard those
living witnesses bear testimony to this,
and though they became alienated from
Joseph Smith afterwards, though every
one of them afterwards left the Church,