ready and even anxious to learn in re-
gard to our religious belief. And notwith-
standing the fact that among this class
are found men of learning and deep re-
search, men who are looked up to by
their fellow men, strange as it may seem
to a people who keep pace with the age,
we find the great majority of them much
astonished when they learn that we be-
lieve in the Bible, and that we take the
teachings of that Book to substantiate
our doctrines. Among this class who are
so uninformed as to our theological sta-
tus are Congressman, governors, legisla-
tors and others of distinction and charac-
ter.

We find also in the ordinary walks of
life honest-hearted people. We find them
in the churches and out of the pale of
the church. We meet with men belong-
ing to the sects of the day who say, "If
we have not got the truth, we wish to
obtain it." And we meet with others who
do not belong to any religious denomina-
tion who say, We have examined the doc-
trines taught by the different churches;
they will not do. Now we are willing to
investigate what you teach. But, then,
we cannot help but notice this kind of ex-
pression in their faces: "Can any good
thing come out of Nazareth?" Can any
good come out of Utah? This, of course, is
owing to the widespread misunder-
standing in regard to our religious views.

The newspapers today are teeming
with articles in regard to the Latter-
day Saints. We are written about by
editors and special correspondents; lo-
cal editors gather up items respecting
us and our labors among the people of
their vicinity; reporters appear to be
greedy for an interview with a "Mor-
mon;" ministers preach about us from
their stands, and lawyers have to allude
to us from the forum; and to such an ex-
tent is this spirit and feeling indulged
by the people of all grades and classes,
that today "Mormonism" is a living ques-
tion in the United States. Recently some
politicians endeavored to work up an is-
sue, and make a live question out of the
tariff, and it was rather amusing to wit-
ness after their exertions how slow the
public were to take the bait. And espe-
cially amusing did such efforts appear
to those who watch with a lively inter-
est the progress of this latter-day work
called "Mormonism," in view of the fact
that if a couple of "Morman" Elders go
into a town, almost without any effort
on their part to make themselves known,
the whole town is stirred up. In my opin-
ton the "Morman" iron is red hot, and it
is a proper time for the Elders to beat it
into shape.

We observe changes taking place in
the minds of the people continually. In-
deed, I can notice marked changes in the
people of the United States during the
past six years. For instance, quite re-
cently I listened to a sermon preached
by one of the distinguished ministers of
the United States, the Rev. Henry Ward
Beecher, and was very much surprised
to hear him enunciate an idea like this:
"What shall be done with all the thou-
sands and millions of the human fam-
ily who knew not, even of the existence
of the Bible. Shall they perish?" "No,"
said he, "not if my God reigns in the
next world." But, continued he, "what
shall be done? They will have the Gospel
preached to them in the spirit world."
Another minister, the Rev. Dr. Thomas,
of Chicago, of the Methodist Church,
made similar assertions; but he was not
as strong as Mr. Beecher, and they
therefore excommunicated him from the