applicable to adulterers, and men had
to become their own accusers, it would
unseat three fourths of the members of
Congress. *Ex post facto* laws have been
passed, which are clearly unconstitu-
tional, and it is for us to test them in
the courts, and we mean to do it; for al-
though as religionists we go as messen-
gers of peace to the nations, yet as Amer-
ican citizens we mean to contend for our
rights, inch by inch, legally and constitu-
tionally, God being our helper.

Another thing God expects us to do,
and that is to maintain the principle of
human rights. I have felt sorrowful in
watching the action of Congress towards
us—sorrowful, not only on our own ac-
count, but on theirs. We fear no evil aris-
ing from those things, for we are anx-
iously performing our duty before God.
But we owe it to ourselves as men, we
owe it to our families, our children, and
to posterity; we owe it to the lovers of
freedom in this land, of which there are
thousands, yea, millions, who despise
acts of oppression and tyranny; we owe it
to all liberty-loving men, to stand up for
human rights and protect human free-
edom, and in the name of God we will do
it, and let all the congregation say Amen.
(The immense congregation responded,
Amen.)

Joseph, the despised of his father’s
house became their deliverer. Moses,
the foundling and outcast of Egypt, be-
came the deliverer and lawgiver of Is-
rael. Jesus, the despised Nazarene,
introduced principles that revolution-
ized the moral ideas and ethics of the
world. And it may not be among the
improbabilities, that the prophecies of
Joseph Smith may be fulfilled and that
the calumniated and despised Mormons
may yet become the protectors of the
Constitution and the guardians of re-
ligious liberty and human freedom in
these United States.

Now these are some of my feelings
upon some of these points. And I will
proceed a little further and say that I
do not blame many men for entertain-
ing the sentiments which they do to-
wards us. There is a feeling and de-
sire to see fair play and honesty deep
down in the hearts of millions of the peo-
ple of these United States, who ardent-
ly desire to see justice equally and honor-
ably administered to all people within
the nation. That was manifested very
clearly during the passage of the Ed-
munds bill, and while many of those ven-
erable Senators and honorable members
of the House could not conscientiously
with their limited information and the
false statements made by our enemies
sustain polygamy, yet, to their honor
be it spoken, they endeavored to main-
tain human rights, free toleration and
religious liberty, and the rights of man
without distinction of party throughout
the realm. We honor, appreciate and
respect such men as honorable repre-
sentatives of the founders of this na-
tion, and of the thousands who today
embrace similar opinions. It is the de-
bauched, the corrupt, the violators of
principles and law and desecrators of the
sacred principles of liberty, it is their
pernicious practices which are striking
at the foundation of the institutions of
this country and which are demoraliz-
ing and destroying the nation, and there
are thousands of high-minded and hon-
orable men today who, on account of
trickery, hypocrisy, dishonesty and crime
stand aloof from the filthy pool of poli-
tics. They have seen honor, truth, in-
tegrity and virtue trampled under foot,
they have seen corruption and crime