perate acts, for they have thus made
themselves, while professing purity, the
advocates and abettors of vice, licen-
tiousness, immorality and crime.

I wish here to apologize a little for
the people of the United States, for
I think sometimes we carry the thing
too far in relation to them. Here are
men supposed—would be in any other
community—to be honorable men, re-
verend men that are teachers of religion,
combining against us. And because they
are considered honorable men, people
say, why there is the Reverend Mr. So
and So and So and So, they have re-
quested us to send petitions to Congress,
to do this and that because of the wicked-
ness and abominations of this people,
and their misrepresentations and false-
hoods have been circulated in the re-
ligious magazines and in the political
papers, until the people abroad hardly
know what to think. Many of them
think we are a very infamous people;
they think we are a great deal more cor-
rupt than they are, and that we need
not be. And they go to work to legislate
to correct our morals. Now, with thou-
sands of papers circulating these false-
hoods, and these falsehoods coming from
supposed religious and honorable men,
is it any wonder that the people should
be deceived with regard to us. I read to-
day an account of an attempt to drive our
Elders from some of their fields of labor.
What for? Because they are "Mormons."
They are so wicked and so corrupt, and
all because the papers and reverend min-
isters said so and so; and thus thousands
of honorable men are deceived; but many
of them, when they come to a knowledge
of the truth, will rejoice in it. I want,
then, to stand in defense of many of the
people of the United States who are thus
deceived. It is said in the scriptures that
the serpent cast out of his mouth wa-
ter as a flood. We have certainly had
floods of falsehoods, originating, many of
them, with these pious people. Do we
want much association with these peo-
ple? I think not. If they circulate false-
hoods about us, can we respect them very
much? I think not. We cannot hold
communion with people who are corrupt,
low and degraded. We were down in
the sloughs a little while ago ourselves;
we have come out from among them and
know what they are. We know the in-
famies which exist there, the licentious-
ness, the corruption, the social evil, adul-
teries, fornication, sodomy, child mur-
der, and every kind of infamy. And they
come here and want to teach our children
these things. We have got to be care-
ful how we guard our homes, our fire-
sides, our wives, our sons and our daugh-
ters, from their association. We don't
want these practices insidiously intro-
duced among us. We want to preserve
our purity, our virtue, our honor, and our
integrity.

The time is hastening on, and I shall
have to stop. I wish to make some
further remarks, and would have liked
to have talked some time longer. But
what shall we do? I will tell you what
I will try to do. I will try and hum-
ble myself before the Lord and seek
for his blessing, and say as one of old
said: "Search me, O God, and know my
heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any wicked way in
me, and lead me in the way everlast-
ing." I have talked with my counselors
in the same way, and they are of the
same mind. We have talked with the
Twelve about these things, and they are
of the same mind. Now, we call upon all