government that they have had. Our
government today is considered the
ripened fruit of the ages of experience
that men have gained upon the earth.
Yet there is not a principle connected
with it that was not known to God, that
was not taught by the Almighty in the
earliest days, and that has not been put
into operation under His instruction at
one time or another among men. And
these principles are embodied in what
we call the Gospel. It has been truth-
fully and very forcibly said many times
in our hearing that there was no princi-
ple connected with man’s existence upon
the earth that is not a part and parcel
of that Gospel which God has re-
vealed unto us and commanded us to
obey; that that which the world call
"Mormonism" embraces within its scope
every good thing upon the face of the
earth, leaving nothing outside. Every
true principle of science, everything con-
nected with the cultivation of the earth,
with the government of cities and of na-
tions, with the management of all the
multiplied affairs of men in their great
and varied diversity—that everything of
this character comes within the scope of
the Gospel which God has revealed, in
the system of salvation that He has com-
menced us to receive.
There is one great principle con-
nected with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
as it has been taught among all the peo-
ple who have ever received it, as we
find from their teachings in the records
that have come down to us, the same
principle that lies at the foundation of
our form of government, and makes
it the most valuable feature connected
with it, and that is, the equality of
man before God. No man can be a
true follower of Jesus Christ; no man
ever could be—anterior even to His com-
ing—a true follower of God, without em-
bodying in His faith and practice and in
every feeling of his heart this principle
to which I have referred, the equality of
man. There could be no class distinctions
wherever this Gospel was received and
put into practical operation. Every man
who received it became the equal of his
fellow man; he would be recognized, a
proper place be assigned unto him, and
he would have his proper influence in the
society of which he was a member. It
is this principle of the Gospel that will
make us, also, a thoroughly free people,
a thoroughly great people, a people who
shall have place in the earth, and have
influence in the affairs of the children of
men.
There have been fears indulged in
many times, and expressions have been
given to those fears, that the growth of
the Latter-day Saints was a menace to
surrounding peoples and to the govern-
ment under which we live. There can be
no menace in the growth of such prin-
ciples as are taught and as are recog-
nized and enforced among such a peo-
ple as we are. It would be impossible for
tyanny to flourish for any length of time
in our midst. Oppression of every form
would sooner or later have to disappear,
or else there would have to be apostasy
from the true principles of the Gospel
on the part of the people. Oppression,
tyranny, misrule, cannot co-exist with
the principles of the everlasting Gospel
as they are taught in our midst and re-
ceived by us. There must be the greatest
possible liberty of thought, of expression
and of action in our midst—that is the
greatest possible consistent with good or-
der, and the preservation of the rights of
others. Liberty cannot be permitted to
degenerate into license, but the utmost