times in the past, to have our faith tested
to the proof, to see whether we really
have faith in God or not. The idea gen-
erally prevails among those who are not
familiar with us and with our methods
of preaching and teaching, that in or-
der to gather the people together from
the various nations the Elders of this
Church hold out extraordinary induce-
ments to their converts, telling them flat-
tering tales about the life that they will
lead if they will only gather to Utah; and
by these means they are successful in be-
guiling the ignorant and unsuspecting,
inducing them to forsake their homes
and connections. But those who have
been familiar with the teachings of the
Elders of the Church know that the very
opposite of this has been the course and
the style of the teaching adopted by those
who have faithfully preached this Gospel
to the inhabitants of the earth. From
the beginning we have been taught to ex-
pect that our adherence to this Gospel
might cost us everything that was near
and dear to us upon the earth; that God
designed to have a tried people, a people
that should be tested to the very utmost,
that should be felt after in the most try-
ing manner, a people that would be will-
ing to pass through and endure faith-
fully the most severe ordeals. And up
to the present time those who have en-
tered this Church, who have espoused
the doctrines taught by the servants of
God, have not been disappointed. It is
true that in many respects the faithful
people of God have had a much better
time, have enjoyed circumstances that
have been more pleasant and prosper-
ous than they were led to expect; but
this has been because they have had the
faith to overlook the evils by which they
were threatened, and attached no im-
portance to them, and did not allow them
to disturb their peace or to annoy them
in any manner. For if it had not been for
faith, the faith that God planted in the
hearts of those who espoused the truth,
it would have been impossible for them
to have endured; they would have been
so frightened that they never could have
remained faithful to this work. And one
of the most striking evidences that this
people offer to the world of the divinity
of this work, which the world opprobriously
call "Mormonism," is the fact that in the
midst of the most severe trials and per-
secutions, surrounded by circumstances
that in some respects have been the most
threatening in their character, the peo-
ple of God have remained true and faith-
ful, united and undisturbed.

One by one the falsehoods that are
propagated concerning us are exposed.
The idea has been industriously circu-
lated, printed and published, that the
people throughout the valleys of Utah
were only held together by the strength
of superstition and delusion; that the
few cunning men who had succeeded in
gaining power and place among them,
by their shrewdness and by their cunning
arts, had succeeded in duping the people
and holding them together. I do not sup-
pose that any single idea has been more
widely circulated concerning us than
this; and I do not suppose that any other
idea is more widely believed about us
than this. The great majority of people
who do not understand, by actual con-
tact with us, or who take no pains to in-
vestigate our doctrines, imagine that it is
by this means that the Latter-day Saints
have been gathered together and held in
these mountains. Why, it is not 20 years