and a standing in the Church, disregard
the authority of the Priesthood, both lo-
cal and general. I hear sometimes of
parties, and of cliques, and of rings in
our midst. What! What, a party in
the Church and kingdom of God? What!
Rings associated with the principles of
eternal truth—associated with the cele-
tstial law that emanates from our Heav-
enly Father? The devil got up a ring and
was cast out of heaven for getting it up,
as also a third part of the spirits who
associated themselves with him. They
were cast out because they devised prin-
ciples that were in opposition to the word
and will and law of God, and every man
who follows in their footsteps, unless he
speedily repent, will be placed in the
same position—will also be cast out. The
law of God must be put in force against
the transgressor. No man who professes
to be a Latter-day Saint can transgress
with impunity. The Priesthood of God
cannot be disregarded with impunity.
We have men in our midst who are not
afraid to speak against the authorities of
the Church in the localities in which they
live. Jude, in his general epistle, refers to
such men. He alludes to them as "filthy
dreamers who defile the flesh, despise
dominion, and speak evil of dignities.
Yet," he says, "Michael the archangel,
when contending with the devil he dis-
puted about the body of Moses, durst not
bring against him a railing accusation,
but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But
these speak evil of those things which
they know not. * * clouds they are with-
out water, carried about of winds * *
wandering stars, to whom is reserved
the blackness of darkness forever. These
are murmurers, complainers, walking af-
ther their own lusts; and their mouths
speaketh great swelling words, having
men's persons in admiration because of
advantage." So also Peter speaks of such
characters, "But these, as natural brute
beasts, made to be taken and destroyed,
speak evil of the things that they un-
derstand not; and shall utterly perish
in their own corruption." Now, we have
such men as these up and down. I think
Brother Hosea Stout describes them as
"smart Alecs." They think they are wiser
and better than other people, and they
want to regulate the affairs of God, when
God has given them no authority to do it.
But it is woe to those who fight against
the authorities of the Church of God. Let
such be brought up before proper tri-
bunals; for no backbiting, nor anything
of that kind can be sanctioned in the
Church and kingdom of God. These are
things that prevail more or less in vari-
ous parts of the Territory. I suppose we
have them to meet. They have always
been, to a greater or less degree, mixed
up with the Church and kingdom of God
upon the earth; but it is for the au-
thorities to purge the Church of all such
things, and to have a people who will be
united, who will be one, and who will be
governed by the law of God. If I violate
any law of the Church, bring me up for
it; if anyone else does, bring him up for
it; but don't go sneaking around back-
biting and misrepresenting. Let us act
as men, at least, if we won't be Saints;
but we should be true to our calling and
profession, and honor our God. There
is nothing new in all this. The spirit
of rebellion has gone on ever since the
devil and his angels were cast out of
heaven. He and they have been making
war against the Saints, and will continue
to do so; but Satan will finally be over-