down upon us, and every cloud was re-
moved, apparently, from the heavens
above, and our pathway was bright and
clear without obstruction, and it has
been so until the present time.

Will there be times again of this char-
acter? Yes, undoubtedly. It is necessary
in the providences of our God, concern-
ing this work, that this should be the
case, in order that the faith of the Latter-
day Saints may be tested, and they
may be led to put their trust in God, who
alone can save us in such hours of ex-
tremity and trial. We need not expect
that it will always be sunshine; we need
not expect that the heavens will always
be free from clouds, or that our pathway
will never be obstructed or darkened. On
the contrary, we shall have these things
to contend with, in order that we may,
by contending with them in the faith and
power of God, obtain knowledge concern-
ing His work and His providences.

In the meantime the knowledge of
this work is being disseminated. With
it, however, there goes forth a spirit of
falsehood. It would seem as though, with
the means of advertising we now have,
and with the opportunities that are pre-
sented to men to visit us, a better under-
standing concerning us would be reached
by thinking men. Undoubtedly this is
the case to a certain extent. But my
observation tells me that with the in-
crease of information there is also a pro-
portionate increase of misrepresentation
and falsehood. The adversary is more in-
dustrious, if possible, in beclouding the
minds of the children of men concern-
ing us and concerning this work and the
objects we have in view than he ever
was. We become more advertised, it is true; but while we are advertised it is not
always in the direction of removing error
and giving correct ideas concerning us.
It is a strange fact that many people who
visit Salt Lake City, and visit our Ter-
ritory, notwithstanding that which they
see, notwithstanding all that is before
them, are deceived respecting us; they do
not get a correct idea concerning our mo-
tives nor the objects we have in view, nor
the character of our organization. They
look at us through spectacles that distort
us. You have seen, probably, glasses that
change the appearance of things. It is
so with their views. They cannot look at
these things as we look at them. From
such individuals the power of correct ob-
ervation seems to be taken away by the
power of darkness and the effect of false-
hood upon their minds. This is a remark-
able fact. I have been struck with it very
much of late. Many intelligent men and
women visit us, and they mingle among
us; but at the same time they have ideas
in their minds concerning us which seem
to deprive them of the power of judging
of us correctly, and they go away con-
vinced on some points, but still retain
many of the old ideas that have been im-
planted in their minds by falsehood con-
cerning us. Of course, there are many
from whose minds prejudice is removed
and whose feelings become friendly.

We need not expect, however, that
we can escape the power of prejudice;
for the reason that there are two in-
fuences at work—the power of God
and the power of Satan. Satan is as
busy darkening the minds and becloud-
ing the understandings of the children
of men as he ever was, and the in-
habitants of the earth having rejected
the truth, being unwilling to receive
the Gospel of the Son of God when