unto us in pleasant places. Yet every
time the Saints have been gathered to-
gether there has been manifested on the
part of the wicked a spirit of oppression,
a spirit of persecution, a bloodthirsty
spirit, a spirit which would seek to rob us
of our rights, to despoil us of our homes
and inheritances. This we have expected
among other things. We have never
dreamed of anything else than that such
a state of things would exist. I remember
when I had the Gospel first preached to
me before I was baptized, I heard a lec-
ture something like this: "Now, we have
nothing particular to promise you, only
the favor of God, if you will live righ-
teously and keep His commandments.
You may be persecuted, afflicted, impris-
oned, or put to death for the testimony
you may have to bear for the religion
you are called upon to obey; but we can
promise to you that inasmuch as this is
the case you will have eternal life." Well,
we have had a little of the other mixed
up with it. And I have seen mobs gather
from time to time, in different parts of
these United States, and I have had to
meet them time and again. For instance,
I was driven from Missouri years ago,
together with the whole people. We were
robbed and pillaged, and we had to take
and throw in what little we had to help
each other. Everybody that had a team
turned it in to help his brethren away
from whom? From their Christian per-
secutors, that is, so-called Christians. I
wish we had another name for them.
(Laughter.) We helped one another out
until we reached Illinois. I was there,
and I know what I am talking about. Did
I feel very unhappy? Not at all. I en-
joyed myself just as well as I do today. I
felt quite easy. I have been accustomed
to these things, and there is nothing
very particular about them. By and by,
we built up the beautiful city of Nau-
vo. We also built a temple there and
officiated in it, and received many pre-
cious blessings from the hands of God,
that the world know nothing about, and
never will know until they embrace the
Gospel of the Son of God. But we were
driven again, and we are here today. Did
we leave our property? Yes, I did, quite
an amount, and so did many others. We
had a city there, and we left it. What
was done to us before this! We were
mobbed, plundered; we were brought be-
fore courts; we were persecuted and pro-
scribed; that was done to us when we
were there, and in many instances we
had to defend ourselves by our own right
arms, or suffer from crawling assassins
who were seeking our lives. I had to
do it time and time again, right in that
land. I have had to have guards in
my house, so had President Young, for
nearly two years, to keep from being as-
sassinated. I was in prison with Joseph
and Hyrum, when they were shot down
in cold blood. We were there placed un-
der the protection, or professed protec-
tion, of the Governor, who told Dr. Bern-
hisel and myself that we had better not
bring any arms with us to defend our-
selves, and who pledged his faith and
the faith of the State for our protection.
I saw that faith violated and trampled
in the dust. I saw these men, to whom
protection was promised, shot down in
cold blood by assassins gathered for the
purpose. These are things that I have
witnessed in the few years that I have
lived upon the earth. When I left Nau-
vo, I left a very good house, very well
furnished. I left carpets on the floors,
stoves in the rooms, crockery ware in the
cupboards, and I got into my carriage,