endeavors to preach the Gospel and
gather together the people under the
blessing and guidance and direction of
the Almighty, we have been very suc-
cessful thus far. Although in our history
there are many things which have been
unpleasant for people to meet with—
such as mobbings and drivings, killings
and imprisonment, and a variety of
other things that are not pleasant to
the feelings of human nature, yet upon
the whole the Lord has controlled these
things for our good, just in accordance
with the words of the Psalmist, where
he says: "Surely the wrath of man shall
praise thee: the remainder of wrath
shalt thou restrain." It has not been
pleasant for people to be driven, say as
I have been, and as many of you have
been from our homes; but, then, we had
to endure it, and there is no use grunt-
ing about it. We had to do it in Mis-
souri. We were driven from our homes
there. Then we went to Illinois, and at
first we were treated very kindly. But
when we began to grow and increase,
they did not like our religion, and they
don't like it today, and we don't fancy
their's much either; so on the religious
question there is not much love lost. We
had to leave Illinois and come here. It
was not very agreeable, as I have said, to
have to leave our homes and our farms
and come out here to live among the Red-
skins; for this was a desert when we first
came here. It was not full of beauti-
ful farms and houses, orchards and gar-
dens, cities, villages and hamlets. It
was a desert where the red man roamed
unmolested, where the crickets had full
sway, and where the white man had
scarcely trodden. There had been a few
pass through before we came here, and
it had been discovered perhaps a hun-
dred years or two by some travelers that
had existed in those days; but to all
intents and purposes it was what was
called then and marked on the maps as
the "Great American Desert." Since then
the solitary place has been made glad,
and the desert has been made to blossom
as the rose. The Lord has been very kind
and merciful to us, and opened out our
way, and provided for our wants, and al-
though we may have some little things
to complain of—all of which are very tri-
fling in comparison to many things that
exist among other peoples—yet are we
abundantly blessed all over the land. Is
there anybody here in your conference,
or is there anybody in any of the confer-
cences of the Stakes of Zion, that lacks the
necessaries of life? Is there anybody that
is destitute of food, or of clothing, or of
habitations? Not that I know of, and if
there are any such things, they ought not
to exist among us.

Now, then, if we are blessed we have
not to thank any man, or any set of men
for it. If we are provided for, we have
not obtained it from anybody else, but
from the Lord God of Israel, who has
watched over and protected His people
just as He said He would do. He said
it was His business to take care of His
Saints, but, then, it is our business to
be Saints. And being gathered together
as we are under these circumstances, we
are organized according to certain laws
laid down in the order of God, and given
by revelation of God, for our guidance
and direction, wherein we are instructed
in things pertaining to this world and to
the next; pertaining to things that are
past, things that are present, and things
that are to come—pertaining to time and
eternity. By this means man, the noblest
work of God, is brought into closer rela-