

not required to cast their “pearls before swine.” [Matthew 7:6.]

They are under no obligation to preach to or hold controversy with those who have heard the Gospel an innumerable number of times and who have rejected and systematically opposed it, or with those who, having once known the truth and partaken of the Spirit of the Lord, have turned away therefrom. To talk to such individuals is time spent in vain; no good result can possibly attend such labor. There is enough work to be accomplished of a productive and satisfactory character in the world, to occupy all the time and attention of the Elders and Saints, without spending any in labor so barren of good results. There are thousands of individuals with whom time can be profitably spent, who have never heard the truth and the message of this last dispensation.

THEY RISE AND THEY FALL. There are many apostates who profess to have claims which they wish to maintain, and they cry loudly for investigation. The Church of God, they say, has fallen into transgression and gone astray, and they, since their apostasy, have been able to ascertain the causes of this and have found the remedy. This has been the cry of every apostate of note from the beginning of the work of God in these days until the present time. One after another has risen, in countless numbers, denouncing the servants of God as having fallen and gone astray and professing to have the power to correct the evils of which they complained. One after another they have passed away into oblivion, after fully exposing their folly and imbecility, while the men whom they have denounced and attempted to ruin have continued to increase in knowledge and in power with God and man. (August 1, 1863, MS 25:489)

OPPOSITION TO AUTHORITIES CAUSES APOSTASY. A friend . . . wished to know whether we . . . considered an honest difference of opinion between a member of the Church and the Authorities of the Church was apostasy. . . . We replied that we had not stated that an honest difference of opinion between a member of the Church and the Authorities constituted apostasy, for we could conceive of a man honestly differing in opinion from the Authorities of the Church and yet not be an apostate;

but we could not conceive of a man publishing these differences of opinion and seeking by arguments, sophistry and special pleading to enforce them upon the people to produce division and strife and to place the acts and counsels of the Authorities of the Church, if possible, in a wrong light, and not be an apostate, for such conduct was apostasy as we understood the term.

We further said that while a man might honestly differ in opinion from the Authorities through a want of understanding, he had to be exceedingly careful how he acted in relation to such differences, or the adversary would take advantage of him, and he would soon become imbued with the spirit of apostasy and be found fighting against God and the authority which He had placed here to govern His Church. (DEN, November 3, 1869)

SATAN SEEKS TO UNDERMINE AUTHORITIES.

Though men may deny the faith, in one sense, and turn away from the path of righteousness and dissolve their connection with the Church, yet they will cling, in most instances, to what we term the first principles of the Gospel of Christ; and it is a very rare thing to see those who have been members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints turning away and joining what we call sectarian churches. If they leave this Church, it is an exceedingly difficult thing for them to connect themselves with other denominations. . . .

But there are other principles more advanced with which the people are not so familiar, and of this the adversary seeks to take advantage, and when men deny the faith, they are apt to deny these principles; when they get into the dark, there is probably no point upon which they differ more frequently than that which relates to the authority that is exercised in presiding. This is a point that the adversary always aims at. . . .

It seems as though the adversary, in the day in which we live, seeks, by every means in his power, to undermine the influence and the authority of the man whom God has called to preside over His people. (December 5, 1869, JD 13:44)

CLEANSING PROCESS WEEDS OUT IMPURE. We are setting an example in regard to virtue. Yet, I feel there is secret sin practiced among us. There is this, however, for our protec-