that this Church and people were never
dissatisfied with him; for when men and
women apostatize and go from us, we
have nothing to do with them. If they
do that which is evil, they will suffer for
it. Brother Marsh has suffered. He told
me, yesterday, that the Christians might
hang up their fiddle in regard to there
being no Catholic Tophet or Purgatory.

You are aware that the children of
the Mother Church have dissented from
the idea of there being such a place as
Purgatory; but brother Marsh says that
there is such a place, and that he has
been in it during the past eighteen years
and upwards. I asked him whether he
did not have to pray himself out. He an-
swered, "Yes." I then remarked—If you
prayed yourself out, I suppose you saved
the priests' fees. "Yes," he said; "It did
not cost me a cent of money." However,
it cost him a great deal of labor, trouble,
and pain.

In conversing with brother Marsh, I
find that he is about the same Thomas
that he always was—full of anecdotes
and chit-chat. He could hardly converse
for ten minutes without telling an anec-
dote. His voice and style of conversation
are familiar to me.

He has told you that he is an old man.
Do you think that I am an old man? I
could prove to this congregation that I
am young; for I could find more girls who
would choose me for a husband than can
any of the young men.

Brother Thomas considers himself
very aged and infirm, and you can see
that he is, brethren and sisters. What
is the cause of it? He left the Gospel of
salvation. What do you think the differ-
ence is between his age and mine? One
year and seven months to a day; and he
is one year, seven months, and fourteen
days older than brother Heber C. Kim-
ball.

"Mormonism" keeps men and
women young and handsome; and
when they are full of the Spirit of God,
there are none of them but what will
have a glow upon their countenances;
and that is what makes you and me
young; for the Spirit of God is with us
and within us.

When brother Thomas thought of re-
turning to the Church, the plurality of
wives troubled him a good deal. Look
at him. Do you think it need to? I do
not; for I doubt whether he could get one
wife. Why it should have troubled an in-
firm old man like him is not for me to say.
He read brother Orson Pratt's work upon
that subject, and discovered that the doc-
trine was beautiful, consistent, and ex-
alting, and that the kingdom could not
be perfect without it. Neither can it be
perfect without a great many things that
the people do not yet understand, though
they will come in the own due time of the
Lord.

As I have but a few minutes for
speaking, I will relate a little of the cur-
rent news of the day.

On Friday evening, the 11th inst.,
two of the brethren who accompa-
nied brothers Samuel W. Richards and
George Snider from Deer Creek to 118
miles below Laramie, came in, and re-
ported that soldiers and a heavy freight
train were there encamped opposite to
them and on the south side of the Platte.
They could tell that they were soldiers,
from the appearance of their carriages,
wagons, tents, and mode of encampment.
We did not learn anything very definite
from these two brethren lately arrived.

Messrs. Russel and Waddle are
freighting for Government, and some of
their trains were scattered along to the
Sweetwater. They have twenty-six wag-
ons in each train, with a teamster and
six yoke of oxen to a wagon. Some
of those trains were on the Sweetwater
when brother Samuel passed down, and
quite a number of them are in advance of
the soldiers. The brethren learned that