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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

OCTOBER, 1843.

We then continued on a level until we came to the inclined plane No. 3: this was one mile and a quarter long, and raised 320 feet, which we went up in four minutes. Before we reached the top, the safety car that was attached to our boat was flung from the track, and dragged many rods, and flung the rope off the wheels for ten or twelve rods. I made a signal to the engineer, who stopped, and it was replaced: here again we were in danger of breaking the rope, which would have sent us back down the mountain more than a mile, or turned us over into the yawning gulf below. In either case we would have been dashed to atoms.

My hair rose on my head; but having got all things ready we proceeded on to plane No. 4, three quarters of a mile long, and ascended 265 feet. We rose this in three minutes, but it looked awful to be thus suspended almost in the air, with such a weight of lives and freight depending upon a knot, a twine, a rope, a pin, an engine, and care of a man; should either of which give way, all would be dashed to atoms, unless saved by a miracle.

We next continued on to plane No. 5, three quarters of a mile long, 280 feet rise. We were carried up this also in three minutes, which brought us to the summit of the Alleghany mountains.

The whole five inclined planes on our ascending the mountain are four miles in length, which raises us perpendicularly 1170 feet, and I felt thankful to God that I was on the top of the mountain alive; but we had to descend in the same way that we ascended.

We ran on the top of the mountain about three miles, and then began to descend. We found snow on the top of the mountain, and the weather was exceedingly cold. We had six inclined planes to descend to get to the bottom of the mountain, the whole of which was attended with equal danger and carelessness.

As we came upon the brink of one of them, the cars being drawn by horses, the men had left the breakers; the conductor, seeing the cars coming and about to run on to the horses, he hollowed for the men to break; but finding none at the breakers, and the cars approaching the inclined plane, the teamster liberated his horses as soon as possible, and they just escaped being run over, and the conductor sprang to the breaker himself, and with great exertion merely saved it from running down the plane, which would have dashed the boat to atoms. I was standing in the cars at the time. I instantly flung my cloak from my shoulders, and prepared myself for leaping out of the cars in case it should start down the plane. In either case it might have killed me; but I knew it was certain death to go down the plane; but through the mercy of God the cars were stopped before they began to descend.

The whole distance was a constant scene of danger, and I called upon God in my heart to preserve my life. Even while on a level, we were running on the edge of precipices, hundreds of feet deep, down which, if a wheel should break, or run off the track, the cars would surely be plunged; which would make an end of all flesh that was on board.

We passed through one tunnel in the mountain, and when we reached the bottom of the inclined planes, I felt thankful to God, and felt that we were mostly out of danger; but they put the boat together, and started it on the rail with all on board, without horse or steam, and the railroad being a little descending, it increased in speed, until it ran at a rapid rate, and was still in danger of upsetting. It ran of itself four miles, until it came to the canal, where it was to take water; and here again, to finish the day with danger, a train of cars was left in our track, and with all the power that could be exerted on the breaks, we barely missed having a smash up at last. We finally got rolled into the water alive, with no bones broken, or lives lost, and for one I had a glad heart.

While conversing with the mate in the evening on the subject, he remarked that 'we were not sensible of one half of the danger that we were in during the proceedings of that day.' But I was sensible of a good deal at least. We got into the canal about dark, being 36 miles from canal to canal, in crossing the mountains. We traveled all night in the canal, which was one constant scene of locks."

Friday, 20.—In the evening I gave instructions to B. F. Johnson and others, in relation to the blessings of the everlasting covenant and the sealings of the priesthood.

Elder John P. Greene returned from a mission to the State of New York, with about 100 emigrants; some of them from Penn., who joined his company on the way.

Warm, smoky day, with strong wind; very dark evening.

Saturday, 21.—We left Macedonia, and arrived home about 2 p.m. Pleasant cool day.

Sunday, 22.—Meeting at the stand; Elder Rigdon preached half an hour on 'Poor Rich Folks.'

I remained at home all day, and held a prayer meeting at my house at 2 p.m., twenty four persons present.

Elders Young, Kimball and Geo. A. Smith returned from their mission to the Eastern States, having, in connection with Elders O. Pratt and W. Woodruff, visited the branches in Kentucky, Ohio, Penn., New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Is-

land, New Hampshire and Maine; held conferences, set in order the churches, collected tithings for the Temple, and subscriptions for the Nauvoo House, baptized many, and stirred up a general system of gathering among the Saints in the Eastern countries. They have been absent near four months, and have accomplished a good work. I was very glad to see them, and blest them in the name of the Lord. Elders Daniel Spencer and Bradford Elliott also returned from their missions, and quite a respectable number of Saints came in their company.

Pleasant cool day.

Monday, 23.—Those of the Twelve who returned from the east yesterday, visited me through the day, and paid over the means they had received for the Temple and the Nauvoo House: I immediately gave directions to send to St. Louis for groceries and different articles necessary for the Temple and the workmen thereon.

This morning President Hyrum Smith, Patriarch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, entered upon the duties of his office, having previously been appointed by the voice of the Spirit, to supply the place of the late Elias Higbee, deceased, as one of the Temple Committee. On his arrival at the Temple he was greeted by a hearty welcome from those engaged on the works, and the universal feeling is, that great good will result from this appointment.

The day cloudy, with strong east wind.

Tuesday, 24.—W. W. Phelps and Col. Dunham started for Springfield to see the Governor, and endeavor to obtain from him the quota of State arms which belong to the Legion.

Morning, warm and pleasant; afternoon, wind west by north. At 4, a little rain accompanied by snow, for the first time this fall.

Wednesday, 25.—Ice one third of an inch thick on small bodies of water. Cloudy and cold day.

In the evening settled the taxes for the Temple and Nauvoo House.

Eleven deaths in the city reported this week.

Friday, 27.—I was at home and received a visit from Bishop George Miller and Elder Peter Haws, who have just returned from their trip to Mississippi and Alabama.

Many emigrants have arrived in Nauvoo the last few weeks.

Prayer meeting at my house in the evening.

Saturday, 28.—Cold east wind. At home all day.

Sunday, 29.—Meeting at the stand, south side of the Temple, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Elders B. Young and J. Taylor preached. Dr. Richards called for a collection of \$8, to buy a new book in which to record History, which was made up.

At 9 a.m., Elders Richards, Miller and Haws ordained William C. Steffey, who was going to Texas on business, an elder.

Two p.m., prayer meeting in my house, 25 present. I gave instructions on the things of the priesthood.

Monday, 30.—At 9 a.m., went to mayor's court, and adjourned it for one week.

Twelve noon, attended a court in the office, when the parties agreed to leave their difficulty to be settled by the arbitration of brother Flagg.

I received \$300 from brother Spencer, and immediately paid it to Dr. Foster.

On account of the cold weather, most of the masons have discontinued the work on the Temple.

Tuesday, 31.—At 9 a.m., Mr. Moore was brought before me for a breach of city ordinance, which was proved, and I fined him \$5.00.

I rode out with Hyrum in the carriage to the prairie, returning about 3 p.m. Snow on the ground this morning; cold east wind, and rain all day.

Wednesday, November 1.—In the evening there was a prayer meeting in the Mansion, 29 present.

Thursday, 2.—Sitting in council with Hyrum, B. Young, H. C. Kimball, W. Richards, J. Taylor, William Law, and W. Clayton, at 10 a.m., on the subject of the following letter from J. L. Heywood:—

"Quincy, Oct. 23, 1843.

Gen. Joseph Smith:—

Dear Sir:—In a conversation with Col. Frierson, of this place, a short time since, he expressed in very warm terms, feelings of sympathy for the wrongs yourself and brethren suffered in Missouri, as well as his sense of the vindictive feelings the authorities of that State still manifested towards you personally.

Mr. F. has not yet had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with yourself, although he says he had the pleasure of meeting your lady at her sister's residence on Rock River. Mr. F. has been written by the Hon. B. Rhett, of S. Carolina, upon the subject of the *Persecution*, and Mr. F. thinks of all men he would be the best qualified to present a petition in our behalf—and says should such an arrangement meet your approbation, he will use his influence in favor of a petition, and says he knows of some honorable men in Missouri, whom, he has no doubt, are anxious to wipe off the stain that rests upon them, by some just reparation.

I submit, by permission of Mr. F., a copy of a letter he has written to a distinguished citizen of South Carolina, together with a circular put out confidentially by the friends of Mr. Calhoun of S. C., whom with my present feelings I should cheerfully support for our next President, and whom I have no doubt would be preferred by the brethren to Mr. Van Buren.

If the plan suggested of memorializing

Congress should meet your approbation, please inform me. Col. Frierson promises his aid in such an event, and says, he would go to Nauvoo and assist in arranging papers relative to such a step. Please accept my assurances of love and esteem for yourself and family, and a prayer that wisdom from on high may direct you in your deliberations.

I remain, your brother in Christ,
JOS. L. HEYWOOD."

And agreed to write a letter to the five candidates for the Presidency of the U. S., to inquire what their feelings were towards us as a people, and what their course of action would be in relation to the cruelty and oppression that we have suffered from the State of Missouri, if they were elected.

The Twelve Apostles published the following in the Times and Seasons:—

"TO THE ELDERS AND CHURCHES ABROAD.

On our late mission to the Eastern States, we discovered that the publications at Nauvoo were very little patronized by the Saints and branches, in the various sections of the country where we passed, while the common newspapers of the day received a liberal support by those who pretend 'to hunger and thirst after righteousness.' We feel justified, therefore, in reprobating such a course, as detrimental to the general good of the whole church, that shows a lack of charity in the elders.

"Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

Nauvoo, at present, is the seat of the First Presidency: the place of the gathering for all saints, and the great centre of the world for pure religion, revelation, truth, virtue, knowledge and everything else preparatory to the coming of the Son of Man: the best news, the best people, and the best plan of salvation must be there; wherefore,

Resolved unanimously that the traveling elders are hereby instructed to use due diligence in obtaining subscribers for the Times and Seasons, and Nauvoo Neighbor, and forward the pay, by safe hands, to the publishers at Nauvoo, that the Saints and the world may receive 'line upon line, and precept upon precept; here a little and there a little,' together with such extracts of translations and revelations, as the Presidency of the church may direct, for the edification of the whole body of the church in righteousness.

Done in council at Nauvoo, November, 1843. BRIGHAM YOUNG, President of the Twelve.

WILLARD RICHARDS, Clerk."

Friday, 3.—I continued in council all day.

Died at sea, Elder Knowlton F. Hanks. I copy the following letter from Addison Pratt, one of the Pacific Island missionaries:—

"Ship Timoleon, North Atlantic Ocean,
Nov. 4, 1843. Lat. 20 deg. 15 min.; long.
25 deg. 19 min., west from Greenwich."

I expect ere this reaches you, brother P. B. Lewis will deliver you the letter and articles I sent you by him, with the \$8 in cash. I expect he has told you the state of brother Hanks' health when he left us. The reason I never wrote you the particulars of his health was, because he did not wish to have his friends know the worst.

I did not see him from the time I left them at Evansville, till he came to me at Winchester. At first sight of him there I saw he had failed materially, and I was bed-fellow with him; my heart often ached to hear the deep rooted cough, as it racked his whole frame. I kept a bed vessel with some fresh water in it, and what he raised from his lungs would sink in it like lumps of clay; this indicated to me that short of the immediate interposition of Divine Providence, nothing would save him from a premature grave.

On his passage from Nauvoo to New York he seemed to recruit; but from New York to New Bedford, he, with brother Grouard, took passage in a packet: the weather was rough, and they were both sea sick; by being exposed to the sea air, together with his sea sickness, his disease took a downward course, from which I had but little hopes of his recovery. When I met him at Winchester, the kind attention and anxious solicitude which sister Abigail and the rest of the family took in his welfare, seemed to recruit him a little.

When we took stage for Boston, our friends in Winchester, with myself, felt fearful he would not be able to perform the journey; but the thought of meeting brothers Rogers and Grouard, the expectation of seeing some of the Twelve, and attending conference with a large collection of brethren, stimulated him to great faith, and he stood the ride far beyond my expectation. The stage was crowded inside with ladies, and we were obliged to take an outside seat; for one of that kind it was very good, much of the way I supported him in my arms, and when I thought he was getting fatigued, I would secretly place my hands upon him and raise my desire to Him who is able to save and strengthen.

We staid in Boston with sister Whitmore; her untiring kindness to him is long to be remembered. He was able to attend conference but little; he was administered to by some of the Twelve once or twice while there. I was with him continually while I staid in Boston; I nursed him as well as I knew (as you know I am not very skilful!) I daily rubbed him with flannels, anointed him with consecrated oil in the name of the Lord, and prayed with him, and was often assisted by brother Rogers.

When I left for New Bedford, brother Rogers took charge of him; they went to Salem

on business for the mission; back to Boston, and then came on to New Bedford. When I was away from him a few days, the change was more visible than when I saw him daily. I was surprised at the change, and knew at that rate he could live but a few days. I asked him particularly how he felt; he would at no time betray the least fear that he should not live, notwithstanding he closed up all his business before we left New Bedford. I believe he was determined to die as near the place of our destined mission as possible, and therefore nothing would deter him from his course.

When I saw his feeble state, and knew the privations he would naturally have to suffer by a sea voyage, I could not help speaking discouragingly to him on the subject, and told him of all the privations he would have of necessity to undergo, but nothing would discourage him: I believe the reason he would never betray any fear of not living, was because if he did so, our faith for him might fail, and this was what he depended on to carry him to the last extremity. Indeed it was so, the mate of the ship (not knowing the cause) observed to me, he was the strongest constitutioned man he ever saw in his life, for he never saw a man live so long that was so reduced.

After we left New Bedford we had rough weather, and there were but two or three days we thought it prudent to take him on deck. He kept his berth the most of the time; we took the best care possible of him, daily rubbing him with flannels and anointing him in the name of the Lord. When he was afflicted with pains in any part of his system, we used to administer to him by the laying on of hands, and he never failed of receiving immediate relief; but to approach the root of the disease, we never had power, but it kept its regular march, reducing him from day to day, till I could clasp with my hand within one fourth of an inch the calf of his leg, making it but a little larger than my wrist, though his appetite continued good: he coughed and raised continually.

Soon after we sailed, he got so weak that if he slept too long, he would get into a profuse sweat, and we found it necessary to watch him; we accordingly divided the night into watches of three hours each, and kept it up: he continued regular till the first of November, then his cough took a different turn; it was hard for him to raise, and his lungs seemed stuffed up.

I had no fearful apprehensions of him till the 2nd, at low 12; I was called by brother Rogers to relieve him, and stand my regular watch with brother Hanks; I then had fearful apprehensions his dissolution was near at hand. At 10 o'clock, a.m., his extremities were cold, and the large drops of cold sweat covered his emaciated system. It was with great difficulty he could raise strength enough to throw off from his lungs the rattling phlegm that was continually threatening to strangle him. At that moment as I stood watching him, he made a violent struggle to throw up the obstacle, but through weakness was not able, and in the struggle he lost his breath, his eyes rolled up in his head, and I thought he had left us forever.

I flew to brother Grouard (who from unwearied attention had laid down to take a little repose,) but before he could spring to his feet, brother Hanks caught his breath again and revived a little.

Soon after some of the cabin passengers came in to see him. Dr. Winslow recommended a little wine and water; after taking that, he revived so much that he wished to be shaved and his hair combed. After this was done, I talked with him some time about his departure; his mind was clear, calm and perfectly resigned. I told him it was a great satisfaction to me that he had visited the place of my nativity, he had been in the house my father had built, was acquainted with his companion (my mother,) was acquainted with the surviving brothers and sisters of those that had gone to the world of spirits before them. He had seen the portrait of my brother Marshall; I asked him if he thought he should know him; he said if he looked like that, he should. I told him it was taken very correctly. I sent word by him to those I had been baptized for, and those I intended to be baptized for when I returned to Nauvoo. He then adjusted some of his temporal affairs: between 12 and 1 o'clock, p.m., he had another strangling turn; this reduced his strength; he could only speak in whispers after: between 8 and 10 he fell into a drowse. After he awoke, he whispered to me and said, 'I dreamed a dream; do you wish to hear it?' I told him I did. He said, 'I dreamed I went to the spirits in prison; it was an immense space; I looked to the east and to the west, and saw immense multitudes of people that looked just like people in real life. I said, can these be spirits? I was assured they were. I looked to the north and saw a stand; somebody had just been preaching there, and they were dispersing from around it. I saw no children among them. I looked to see if there were anybody that I knew, but saw none. I thought they were coming together again in a few minutes and I should be there; then I should see people I knew: I then awoke.' About 11 o'clock he had another dream; he heard the last trump sound, and saw the multitude which John saw, that no man could number, small and great, stand before God, (they were small and great in capacity) for there were no children there. He awoke before he saw any farther.