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## HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

APRIL, 1842.

Friday, 29.—A conspiracy against the peace of my household was made manifest, and it gave me some trouble to counteract the design of certain base individuals, and restore peace. The Lord makes manifest to me many things, which it is not wisdom for me to make public, until others can witness the proof of them.

Saturday, 30.—I received a visit from Judge Adams of Springfield and spent most of the day with him and my family. Signed deeds to James and Charles Ivins, and many others.

Sunday, May 1, 1842.—I preached in the grove, on the Keys of the kingdom, Charity, &c. The Keys are certain signs and words by which false spirits and personages may be detected from true, which cannot be revealed to the Elders till the Temple is completed. The rich can only get them in the Temple; the poor may get them on the mountain top as did Moses. The rich cannot be saved without charity, giving to feed the poor when and how God requires, as well as building. There are signs in heaven, earth and hell; the elders must know them all, to be endowed with power, to finish their work and prevent imposition. The devil knows many signs, but does not know the sign of the Son of Man, or Jesus. No one can truly say he knows God until he has handled something, and this can only be in the Holiest of Holies.

Monday, 2.—Editorial of the Times and Seasons.

"The Temple. This noble edifice is progressing with great rapidity; strenuous exertions are being made on every hand to facilitate its erection, and materials of all kinds are in a great state of forwardness, and by next fall we expect to see the building enclosed; if not the top stone raised with 'shouting of grace—grace unto it.' There have been frequently, during the winter, as many as one hundred hands quarrying rock, while at the same time multitudes of others have been engaged in hauling, and in other kinds of labor.

A company was formed last fall to go up to the pine country to purchase mills, and prepare and saw lumber for the Temple and the Nauvoo House, and the reports from them are very favorable; another company has started, this last week, to take their place, and to relieve those that are already there; on their return they are to bring a very large raft of lumber for the use of the above named houses.

While the busy multitudes have thus been engaged in their several avocations performing their daily labor, and working one tenth of their time, others have not been less forward in bringing in their tithings and consecrations for the same great object. Never since the foundation of this Church was laid, have we seen manifested a greater willingness to comply with the requisitions of Jehovah, a more ardent desire, to do the will of God; more strenuous exertions used, or greater sacrifices made than there have been since the Lord said, "Let the Temple be built by the tithing of my people." It seemed as though the spirit of enterprise, philanthropy and obedience rested simultaneously upon old and young, and brethren and sisters, boys and girls, and even strangers, who were not in the Church, united with an unprecedented liberality in the accomplishment of this great work; nor could the widow, in many instances, be prevented, out of her scanty pittance, from throwing in her two mites.

We feel at this time to tender to all, old and young, both in the Church and out of it, our unfeigned thanks for their unprecedented liberality, kindness, diligence, and obedience which they have so opportunely manifested on the present occasion. Not that we are personally or individually benefitted in a pecuniary point of view, but when the brethren, as in this instance, show a unity of purpose and design, and all put their shoulder to the wheel, our care, labor, toil and anxiety is materially diminished, "our yoke is made easy, and our burden is light."

The cause of God is one common cause, in which all the Saints are alike interested, we are all members of the one common body, and all partake of the same spirit, and are baptized unto one baptism, and possess alike the same glorious hope. The advancement of the cause of God and the building up of Zion is as much one man's business as another. The only difference is, that one is called to fulfill one duty, and another, another duty; "but if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, and if one member is honored all do rest rejoice with it, and the eye cannot say to the ear, I have no need of thee; nor the head to the foot, I have no need of thee;" party feelings, separate interests, exclusive designs should be lost sight of in the one common cause in the interest of the whole.

The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age; it is a theme upon which prophets, priests and kings have dwelt with peculiar delight; they have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live; and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipations, they have sung, and wrote, and prophesied of this our day; but they died without

the sight; we are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the Latter Day Glory; it is left for us to see, participate in, and help to roll forward the Latter Day Glory, "the dispensation of the fulness of times, when God will gather together all things that are in heaven, and all things that are upon the earth, even in one," when the Saints of God will be gathered in one from every nation, and kindred, and people, and tongue, when the Jews will be gathered together into one, the wicked will also be gathered together to be destroyed, as spoken of by the prophets; the Spirit of God will also dwell with his people, and be withdrawn from the rest of the nations, and all things whether in heaven or on earth will be in one, even in Christ. The heavenly priesthood will unite with the earthly, to bring about those great purposes; and whilst we are thus united in the one common cause to roll forth the kingdom of God, the Heavenly Priesthood are not idle spectators; the Spirit of God will be showered down from above; it will dwell in our midst. The blessings of the Most High will rest upon our Tabernacles, and our name will be handed down to future ages; our children will rise up and call us blessed; and generations yet unborn will dwell with peculiar delight upon the scenes that we have passed through, the privations that we have endured; the untiring zeal that we have manifested; the insurmountable difficulties that we have overcome in laying the foundation of a work that brought about the glory and blessings which they will realize; a work that God and Angels have contemplated with delight for generations past; that fired the souls of the ancient patriarchs and prophets; a work that is destined to bring about the destruction of the powers of darkness, the renovation of the earth, the glory of God, and the salvation of the human family."

Tuesday, 3.—Mostly with my family.

Wednesday, 4.—I spent the day in the upper part of the Store, i.e. in my private office (so called, because in that room I kept my sacred writings, translated ancient records, and received revelations) and in my general business office, or lodge room (i.e. where the masonic fraternity met occasionally, for want of a better place) in council with General James Adams of Springfield, Patriarch Hyrum Smith, Bishops Newel K. Whitney and George Miller, and Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards, instructing them in the principles and order of the priesthood, attending to washings, anointings, endowments, and the communication of Keys pertaining to the Aaronic Priesthood, and so on to the highest order of Melchisedec Priesthood, setting forth the order pertaining to the Ancient of Days, and all those plans and principles by which any one is enabled to secure the fullness of those blessings which have been prepared for the Church of the First born, and come up and abide in the presence of the Eloheim in the eternal worlds. In this Council was instituted the ancient order of things for the first time in these last days. And the communications I made to this Council were of things spiritual, and to be received only by the Spiritual minded; and there was nothing made known to these men, but what will be made known to all the saints of the last days, so soon as they are prepared to receive, and a proper place is prepared to communicate them, even to the weakest of the Saints; therefore let the Saints be diligent in building the Temple, and all houses which they have been, or shall hereafter be commanded of God to build; and wait their time with patience in all meekness, faith and perseverance unto the end, knowing assuredly that all these things referred to, in this council, are always governed by the principle of revelation.

Thursday, 5.—General Adams started for Springfield, and the remainder of the Council of yesterday, continued their meeting at the same place, and myself and brother Hyrum received in turn from the other, the same I had communicated to them the day previous.

The city of Hamburg, the commercial emporium of Germany, was destroyed by fire, about this time.

Friday, 6.—I attended the officer drill in the morning, and visited Lyman Wight who was sick.

Saturday, 7.—"The Nauvoo Legion was on parade by virtue of an order of the 25th of January 1842, and was reviewed by Lieutenant General Joseph Smith, who commanded through the day. One year since, the Legion consisted of 6 companies; to day of 26 companies, amounting to about 2000 troops.

The Consolidated Staff of the Legion, with their Ladies, partook of a sumptuous dinner at the house of the Commander in Chief, between 1 and 3 o'clock, p.m. The weather was very fine.

In the afternoon the Legion was separated into Cohorts, and fought an unimaged sham battle; the first cohort under the command of General Wilson Law, the second under General Charles C. Rich. At the close of the Parade, Lieutenant General Joseph Smith delivered a most animating and appropriate address, in which he remarked that his soul was never better satisfied than on this occasion. Such was the curious and interesting excitement which prevailed at the time, in the great military camp, about the Legion, that Judge Douglas, a famous and able Circuit Court Judge in Session at Carthage, and came with some of the principal lawyers to see the splendid military

parade of the Legion; upon notice of which being given to General Smith, he immediately invited them to partake of the repast prepared as above." [Legion History]

In addition to this quotation, I would remark that the day passed very harmoniously, without drunkenness, noise, or confusion. There was an immense concourse of spectators, and many distinguished strangers, who expressed much satisfaction; but one thing I will notice, I was solicited by General Bennett to take command of the first cohort during the sham battle; this I declined. General Bennett next requested me to take my station in the rear of the cavalry, without my staff, during the engagement; but this was counteracted by Captain A. P. Rockwood, Commander of my Life Guards, who kept close to my side, and I chose my own position. And if General Bennett's true feelings towards me are not made manifest to the world in a very short time, then it may be possible, that the gentle breathings of that Spirit, which whispered me on parade, that there was "mischief co coaled in that sham battle," were false; a short time will determine the point. Let John C. Bennett answer at the day of judgment "Why did you request me to command one of the Cohorts, and also to take my position without my Staff, during the sham battle, on the 7th of May 1842, where my life might have been the forfeit, and no man have known who did the deed?"

The following design shows the position in which the Legion was drawn up:

Lieut. Gen. Joseph Smith, Staff, Guard, and Ladies on horseback.

Bands of Music.

Maj. Gen. J. C. Bennett and Staff.

Brig. Gen. C. C. Rich and Staff.

2d Cohort Infantry.

1st Cohort Cavalry.

Brig. Gen. W. Law and Staff.

Position proposed by J. C. Bennett for Gen. Smith.

Artillery.

A violent shock of an earthquake is reported to have been experienced at the Island of St. Domingo, at 20 minutes past 7 p.m. It was also felt at St. Marc, Gonaves, and Cape Haytien, and at various places from Port-au-Prince, to the base of the Rocky mountains, comprising a distance of 1500 miles, at San Jago de Cuba, the cathedral, and several extensive buildings were prostrated. About ten thousand persons were killed at Cape Haytien.

Sunday, 8.—Attended meeting at the Grove, and heard Elder Rigdon preach.

After meeting many persons were baptized, some in the font, others in the river. Eighty persons killed and as many wounded, by an accident on the Paris and Versailles Railroad, the carriages being consumed by fire, and their passengers roasted alive.

Monday, 9.—Spent the day with my family.

Tuesday, 10.—Transacted a variety of business at the Store, Printing Office, &c.

By letter from Elder Levi Richards, dated at Liverpool, we learn that the work is progressing in the north of England, namely Carlisle, Bradford, Burnstones, Alston, and Newcastle upon

Tyne, where he has been laboring for a few weeks.

Wednesday, 11.—Called with my clerk at Brother Joseph W. Coolidge's to examine a new cabinet for the Temple Recorder's Office; also called at Bishop Knight's; dictated several letters and other items of a business nature.

Thursday, 12.—Dictated a letter to Elder Rigdon, concerning certain difficulties, or surmises which existed, and attended the meeting of the Female Relief Society, the house being filled to overflowing. There was a heavy thunderstorm at the close of the meeting.

Friday, 13.—Received a letter from Sidney Rigdon, in reply to mine of yesterday.

Spent most of the day in my garden, and with my family.

Dictated the following letter to Horace R. Hotchkiss, Esq.:

Dear Sir:—I proceed without delay to give a hasty reply to yours of the 12th ultimo, just received. My engagements will not admit of a lengthy detail of events and circumstances which have transpired to bring about that state of things which now exists in this place, as before you receive this you will probably be apprised of the failure of myself and brethren to execute our designs in paying off our contracts, or in other words, that we have been compelled to pay our debts by the most popular method; i.e., by petitioning for the privilege of General Bankruptcy, a principle so popular at the present moment throughout the Union.

A pressure of business has been sufficient excuse for not giving you earlier notice, although it could have been of no real use to you; yet I wish you to understand our intentions to you and your company, and why we have taken the course we have. You are aware, sir, in some measure of the embarrassments under which we have labored through the influence of mobs and designing men, and the disadvantageous circumstances under which we have been compelled to contract debts in order to our existence, both as individuals, and as a Society, and it is on account of this as well as a pressure on us for debts absolutely unjust, in themselves, that we have been compelled to resort to the course we have to make a general settlement, and this we deferred till the last moment, hoping that something would turn in our favor, so that we might be saved the painful necessity of resorting to such measures, to accomplish which, Justice demanded a very different course from those who are justly our debtors, but demanded in vain.

We have been compelled to the course we have pursued, and you are aware, sir, that all have to fare alike in such cases. But, sir, you have one, yea, two things to comfort you; our faith in intention and good feeling remain the same to all our creditors, and to none more than yourself; and secondly, there is property sufficient in the Inventory to pay every debt, and some to spare, according to the testimony of our solicitors, and the good judgment of others; and if the Court will allow us some one for assignee who will do justice to the cause, we confidently believe that yourself and all others will get their compensation in full, and we have enough left for one loaf more for each of our families. Yes, and I have no doubt you will yet, and in a short time, be enabled to have your pay in full, in the way I have before proposed, or some other equally advantageous, but money is ought of sight, it might as well be out of mind, for it cannot be had.

Rest assured, Dear Sir, that no influence or exertion I can yet render shall be wanting to give you satisfaction, and liquidate your claims, but for a little season you are aware that all proceedings are staid; but I will seek the earliest moment to acquaint you with anything new on this matter.

I remain, Sir, with sentiments of respect, your friend and wellwisher,

JOSEPH SMITH.

In the evening I walked with Elder Richards to the Post Office, and had an interview with Elder Rigdon, concerning certain evil reports, put in circulation by Francis M. Higbee, about some of Elder Rigdon's family, and others; much apparent satisfaction was manifested at the conversation, by Elder Rigdon; and Elder Richards returned with me to my house.

Saturday, 14.—I attended city council, in the morning, and advocated strongly the necessity of some active measures being taken to suppress houses, and acts of infamy in the city; for the protection of the innocent and virtuous, and good of public morals; showing clearly that there were certain characters in the place who were disposed to corrupt the morals and chastity of our citizens, and that houses of infamy did exist; upon which a City Ordinance concerning brothels and disorderly characters was passed, to prohibit such things, and published in this day's "Wasp."

I also spoke largely for the repeal of the Ordinance of the City, licensing Merchants, Hawkers, Taverns and Ordinaries, desiring that this might be a free people and enjoy equal rights and privileges, and the Ordinances were repealed.

Brother Amos Fielding arrived from Liverpool. After council I worked in my garden, walked out in the city, and borrowed two sovereigns to make a payment on my bonds.

It was reported in Nauvoo, that Ex-Governor George of Missouri had been shot.

I granted the petition of J. B. Nicholson and