

"Nauvoo, May 25th, 1842.

Extract from the testimony of Catherine Warren vs. Chauncey L. Higbee, before the High Council of the Church, &c.

I have had an unlawful connexion with Chauncey L. Higbee. Chauncey Higbee taught the same doctrine as was taught by J. C. Bennett, and that Joseph Smith taught and practiced those things; but he stated that he did not have it from Joseph, but he had his information from Dr. John C. Bennett. He, Chauncey L. Higbee, has gained his object about five or six times. Chauncey L. Higbee also made propositions to keep me with food if I would submit to his desires."

"We have abundance of like testimony on hand, which may be forthcoming if we are compelled; at present the foregoing may suffice.

"Why have you not published this before?" We answer, on account of the humility and entreaties of Higbee at the time, and on account of the feelings of his parents, who are highly respectable, we have forbore until now. The character of C. L. Higbee is so infamous, and his exertions such, as to destroy every principle of righteousness, that forbearance is no longer a virtue.

After all that this Chauncey L. Higbee has done, in wickedly and maliciously using the name of Joseph Smith, to persuade innocent females to submit to gratify his hellish lusts; and then blast the characters of the most chaste, pure, virtuous, and philanthropic man on earth; he, to screen himself from the law of the land, and the just indignation of an insulted people, and save himself from the Penitentiary, or whatever punishment his unparalleled crimes merit, has entered into a conspiracy with the Laws and others against the life of those who are knowing to his abandoned conduct; thus hoping to save himself from the disgrace which must follow an exposure, and wreak his vengeance, and gratify his revenge for his awful disappointments."

A two days' conference was held in Jefferson County, New York, at 10 a.m., present 300 Saints, 150 of whom had embraced the gospel since last autumn. Nine branches were represented, containing 289 members, 16 Elders, 8 Priests, and 1 Teacher. An immense concourse of people assembled to hear the elders preach. Elder Benj. Brown was president, and J. W. Crosby, clerk.

A three days' Conference was held at Dresden, Weakly County, Tennessee. Elder A. O. Smoot was chosen president, and D. P. Raney, secretary. A large congregation assembled, but the proceedings were interrupted by a mob, headed by some of the leading men of the county; yet a candidate for elector was appointed by my friends.

Sunday, 26.—At 10 a.m., I preached at the stand; the following synopsis was reported by Mr. Thos. Bullock, clerk of the steamer "Maid of Iowa":—

President Joseph Smith read the 11th ch. 2d Corinthians: "My object is to let you know that I am right here on the spot where I intend to stay. I, like Paul, have been in perils, and oftener than any one in this generation; as Paul boasted, I have suffered more than Paul did. I should be like a fish out of water if I were out of persecution; perhaps my brethren think it requires all this to keep me humble. The Lord has constituted me so curiously that I glory in persecution; I am not near so humble as if I was not persecuted. If oppression will make a wise man mad, much more a fool. If they want a beardless boy to whip all the world, I will get on the top of a mountain, and crow like a rooster; I shall always beat them. When facts are proved, truth and innocence will prevail at last. My enemies are no philosophers; they think that when they have my spoke under, they will keep me down; but for the fools, I will hold on and fly over them.

God is in the 'still small voice'; in all these affidavits, indictments, it is all of the devil—all corruption. Come on, ye prosecutors, ye false swearers; all hell boil over; ye burning mountains roll down your lava; for I will come out on the top at last. I have more to boast of than ever any man had; I am the only man that ever has been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam; a large majority of the whole have stood by me; neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus, ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as me; the followers of Jesus ran away from him; the Latter Day Saints never ran away from me yet. You know my daily walk and conversation. I am in the bosom of a virtuous and good people. How I do love to hear the wolves howl; when they can get rid of me, the devil will also go. For the last three years I have a record of all my acts and proceedings; for I have kept several good, faithful, and efficient clerks in constant employ; they have accompanied me everywhere, and carefully kept my history, and they have written down what I have done, where I have been, and what I have said; therefore my enemies cannot charge me with any day, time, or place, but what I have written testimony to prove my actions, and my enemies cannot prove anything against me. They have got wonderful things in the land of Ham. I think the grand jury have strained at a gnat and swallowed the camel.

A man named Simpson says I made an affidavit against him, &c. Mr. Simpson says I arrested him; I never arrested Mr. Simpson in my life. He says I made an affidavit against him; I never made an affidavit against him in my life. I will prove it in court. I will tell you how it was: last winter I got ready with my children to go to the farm to kill hogs; O. P. Rockwell was going to drive.

An Englishman came in and wanted a private conversation with me; I told him I did not want any private conversations; 'I demand one of you!' Such a one I am bound to obey

anyhow. Said he, 'I want a warrant against the man who stabbed brother Badham; he said it was a man who boarded at Davis'; he said it was Mr. Simpson—it answered his description.

I said I had no jurisdiction out of the city. He said the man must be arrested, or else he will go away. I told him, 'you must go to Squire Wells, Johnson, or Foster.' Mr. Lytle stepped up and said 'I am a policeman.' I jumped into my carriage and away I went.

When I came back I met Mr. Jackson. He said, 'you did wrong in arresting Mr. Simpson.' I told him I did not do it. I went over and sat down, and related the circumstances. He turned round and said, 'Mr. Smith, I have nothing against you; I am satisfied.' He went and supped with me. He declared in the presence of witnesses that he had nothing against me. I then said 'I will go over to Esquire Johnson, and testify what the Englishman told me.' I told him not to make out that I believe he is the man, but that I believe he is innocent. I don't want to swear that he is the man. Mr. Coolidge, Rockwell, Hatfield, and Hawes were present.

Mr. Johnson made one out in due form; and as I sat down in a bustle, the same as I do when one of the clerks brings a deed for me to sign, Johnson read it. I said 'I can't swear to that affidavit; I don't believe it; tear up that paper.' Mr. Simpson agreed to come before Badham and make it up. I did not swear to it.

After a while Dr. Foster and others came in; they called me up to testify. I told it all the same as I do here. Mr. Simpson rose up, and asked, 'do you believe now that I am the man who stabbed Mr. Badham?' I replied, 'no, sir; I do not now, nor ever did; the magistrate says I did not swear to it.' He considered, and made a public declaration that he was satisfied with me.

Aaron Johnson went before the grand jury, and swore that I did not swear to it, when Dr. Foster goes and swears that I swore to it, and that he was in the room when he was not in. Chauncey wanted me to stay and have a conversation. Dr. Foster asked Aaron Johnson for the writ and affidavit; he handed them to Dr. Foster who read them, and then threw them into the fire. I said, 'Doctor, you ought not to have burned it, it was my paper.' Dr. Foster goes to the grand jury and swears he did not burn only one; but I say he burnt both. This is a fair sample of the swearing that is going on against me.

The last discharge was the 40th, now the 41st, 42nd, 43rd, all through falsehood. Matters of fact are as profitable as the gospel, and which I can prove; you will then know who are liars, and who speak the truth. I want to retain your friendship on holy grounds.

Another indictment has been got up against me; it appears a holy prophet has arisen up, and he has testified against me; the reason is he is so holy. The Lord knows I do not care how many churches are in the world; as many as believe me, may; if the doctrine that I preach is true, the tree must be good. I have prophesied things that have come to pass, and can still.

Inasmuch as there is a new church, this must be the old, and of course we ought to be set down as orthodox; from henceforth let all the churches now no longer persecute orthodoxy. I never built upon any other man's ground. I never told the old Catholic that he was a fallen true prophet. God knows then the charges against me are false.

I had not been married scarcely five minutes, and made one proclamation of the gospel, before it was reported that I had seven wives. I mean to live and proclaim the truth as long as I can.

This new holy prophet (William Law) has gone to Carthage, and swore that I had told him that I was guilty of adultery. This spiritual wife! why, a man dares not speak or wink, for fear of being accused of this.

William Law testified before forty policemen, and the assembly room full of witnesses, that he testified under oath, that he never had heard, or seen, or knew anything immoral or criminal against me. He testified under oath that he was my friend, and not the Brutus. There was a cogitation who was the Brutus. I had not prophesied against William Law. He swore under oath that he was satisfied that he was ready to lay down his life for me; and now he swears that I have committed adultery.

I wish the grand jury would tell me who they are; whether it will be a curse or blessing to me. I am quite tired of the fools asking me.

A man asked me whether the commandment was given that a man may have seven wives; and now the new prophet has charged me with adultery. I never had any fuss with these men until that Female Relief Society brought out the paper against adulterers and adulteresses.

Dr. Goforth was invited into the Laws' clique, and Dr. Foster and the clique were dissatisfied with that document, and they rush away and leave the church; and conspire to take away my life; and because I will not countenance such wickedness, they proclaim that I have been a true prophet, but that I am now a fallen prophet.

Jackson has committed murder, robbery, and perjury, and I can prove it by half a dozen witnesses. Jackson got up and said, 'by God he is innocent'; and now swears that I am guilty; he threatened my life.

There is another Law, not the prophet, who was cashiered for dishonesty and robbing the government. Wilson Law also swears that I told him I was guilty of adultery. Brother Jonathan Dunham can swear to the contrary. I have been chained; I have rattled chains be-

fore in a dungeon for the truth's sake. I am innocent of all these charges; and you can bear witness of my innocence; for you know me yourselves.

When I love the poor, I ask no favors of the rich. I can go to the cross—I can lay down my life; but don't forsake me. I want the friendship of my brethren. Let us teach the things of Jesus Christ. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a downfall.

Be meek and lowly, upright and pure; render good for evil; if you bring on yourselves your own destruction I will complain. It is not right for a man to bear down his neck to the oppressor always. Be humble and patient in all circumstances of life; we shall then triumph more gloriously. What a thing it is for a man to be accused of committing adultery, and having seven wives when I can only find one.

I am the same man, and as innocent as I was fourteen years ago, and I can prove them all perjurers. I labored with these apostates myself until I was out of all manner of patience; and then I sent my brother Hyrum, whom they virtually kicked out of doors.

I then sent Mr. Backenstos, when they declared that they were my enemies. I told Mr. Backenstos that he might tell the Laws if they had any cause against me, I would go before the church, and confess it to the world. He was summoned time and again, but he refused to come. Dr. Bernhisel and Elder Rigdon know that I speak the truth. I cite you to Captain Dunham, Esquires Johnson and Wells, brother Hatfield and others, for the truth of what I have said. I have said this to let my friends know that I am right.

As I grow older my heart grows tenderer for you. I am at all times willing to give up every thing that is wrong, for I wish this people to have a virtuous leader. I have set your minds at liberty by letting you know the things of Christ Jesus. When I shrink not from your defence, will you throw me away for a new man who slanders you? I love you for your reception of me. Have I asked you for your money? No, you know better; I appeal to the poor. I say cursed be that man or woman who says that I have taken of your money unjustly. Bro. Babbitt will address you. I have nothing in my heart but good feelings."

I rode out in the afternoon. On my return my lawyers, Col. Richardson and Almon W. Babbitt called upon me on the subject of the writs which were out against me.

A man called and informed me that John Eagle and several others intended to kidnap Jeremiah Smith during the night, I therefore stationed an extra police in order to protect him.

President B. Young arrived at Cincinnati at 5 p.m.

Monday, 27.—About 8 a.m., I started on horseback with a few friends, went by the Temple, and pursued my course towards Carthage, thinking it best for me to meet my enemies before the Circuit Court, and have the indictments against me investigated.

After I had passed my farm on the prairie, most of the following brethren joined my company, and the remainder soon after my arrival in Carthage, viz.: Aaron Johnson, Dr. J. M. Bernhisel, Joseph W. Coolidge, John Hatfield, O. P. Rockwell, Lorenzo Rockwell, William Walker, Harrison Sagers, Hyrum Smith, John P. Greene, John Y. Greene, Judge Wm. Richards, Shadrach Roundy, Theodore Turley, Jedediah M. Grant, John Lytle, Joseph B. Nobles, Edward Bonney, Lucien Woodworth, Cornelius P. Lott, Jonathan Dunham, and other friends.

We arrived at Hamilton's Hotel about noon. Chas. A. Foster overtook us three or four miles from the city, and accompanied us to Carthage. I had considerable conversation with him, and he appeared to be more mild than previously, and as though he was almost persuaded that he had been influenced to some extent by false reports.

Joseph H. Jackson, Francis M. Higbee, and Chauncey L. Higbee, were in Hamilton's Hotel when we arrived. Soon after our arrival there, Chas. A. Foster took me into a private room, and told me in a friendly manner that there was a conspiracy against my life. Robt. D. Foster told some of the brethren (with tears in his eyes) that there was evil determined against me; and that there were some persons who were determined I should not go out of Carthage alive, &c. Jackson was seen to reload his pistols, and was heard to swear he would have satisfaction of me and Hyrum.

I had a short interview with Judge Thomas, who treated me with the utmost courtesy; he is a great man, and a gentleman. After dinner (at the second or third table) we retired to our room, when Jackson who had been to the court house; came towards the hotel; some person told him Hyrum had arrived, when he immediately turned towards the Court House again.

My lawyers, Messrs. Richardson, Babbitt, and Skinner, used all reasonable exertions to bring forward my trial on the charge of perjury; but the prosecuting party were not ready, one Withers, a material witness, (as they asserted in court) being absent.

My attorneys frequently called on me to report the state of things in court, and I was ready to go in at a moment's warning, being anxious for my trial; but the case was deferred until next term. I was left to give bail to the sheriff at his option, he told me I might go home, where he would call and take bail at his own convenience.

We immediately called for our horses, and while they were being harnessed, Chauncey L. Higbee came to me and wanted me to stay as a witness in a certain case in which he was employed as attorney; he urged me considerably, but I told him I did not recollect the oc-

currence he referred to particularly enough to testify in the case, and got him to excuse me.

At 4½ p.m., we started on our return; but when we had got as far as brother George D. Grant's, a heavy shower of rain commenced, and I went into the house, while most of the brethren went into the barn until the shower abated. After the storm had subsided we went forward, and I, Hyrum, and some others, arrived at home about 9 p.m., and found Emma sick. My carriage, with Joseph B. Nobles, arrived a little after; it was upset on the Temple Hill, but no one hurt. I rode on horseback all the way on "Jo Duncan."

As we left the tavern in Carthage, and passed the Court House, there were many people about in small groups; Jackson stood on the green with one or two men some distance off.

While at Hamilton's, C. L. Higbee offered some insulting language concerning me to O. P. Rockwell, who resented it nobly as a friend ought to do; Hamilton seeing it, turned Rockwell out of doors.

It was afterwards reported to me by James Flack, that Robert D. Foster, Chas. A. Foster, Wm. H. Rollinson, and the Higbees, were on the hill when I passed in the morning; they immediately gathered their pistols, mounted their horses, and were in Carthage before me; excepting Chas. A. Foster.

Also Mr. Powers was talking with Mr. Davies, tailor, about my going to Carthage, and said they would attempt to kill Joseph Smith. Mr. Davis replied, "O no, I think not." Mr. Powers rejoined, "they will by God, and you know it by God."

Samuel Smith, of Montebello, heard at 5 this morning, that I had been taken prisoner to Carthage by a mob; he immediately gathered a company of 25 men for the purpose of assisting me, and arrived at Carthage about the time I did.

Tuesday, 28.—At home all day. Rain in the afternoon. The "Maid of Iowa" started for the Iowa river at 11 a.m.

I received a letter from Mr. J. Bronder, dated Philadelphia, May 20th, expressing his strong desires that I should allow my name to stand as candidate for the Presidency of the United States, urging many reasons for his request.

Wednesday, 29.—At home. Rain in the morning.

Luther W. Hickock, of Burlington, Iowa, came in, and arrested Jeremiah Smith on a warrant issued by Nathaniel Pope, Judge of the U. S. Circuit Court. During our conversation in the afternoon, we learned to our mutual joy that Jeremiah Smith and I were of one origin.

Received the following letter:—
"Baltimore, May 9th, 1844.

Dear Brother Joseph:—
From the time of my departure to that of my arrival here on Saturday last, I was blessed with prosperity. The feelings manifested by the passengers on the boat to St. Louis were quite favorable.

At St. Louis I embarked on board the steamer 'Valley Forge' with about 125 cabin passengers. I gradually introduced myself to those whose facts gave indications of honest hearts and intelligent minds.

On Sunday I was invited to give, in a public discourse, the points of difference between the faith of the Latter Day Saints, and other professors of the Christian religion. There was a Methodist preacher on board, with whom arrangements were made to follow me, and blow Mormonism to the four winds. Well, I led off in a discourse of an hour and a half. After dinner the Methodists tried to rally their preacher, but he could not be induced to undertake the fulfilment of his engagements.

I spent the time in conversing with groups of enquirers; and giving further information to those who sought it. After tea, the Methodist priest was, by much persuasion, induced to preach; but, to the astonishment of all, he never once mentioned Mormonism.

By the bye, we had a beautiful specimen of Missouri treatment to the Saints on board; while I was speaking, I referred to the many false statements which found their way to the public through the papers; a case in point was that of Joseph Smith having just discarded his wife.

After I had finished speaking, and was standing on the guard of the boat, a Missourian stepped up to me asking me if I wished to be understood that all who said Jo Smith had discarded his wife were liars. On my answering him in the affirmative, he drew his bowie knife on me; but some passengers, who had heard him threaten my life were watching, and caught him as he was in the act of striking, and I in the act of pitching him overboard; but they saved him, and I am glad of it. The whole affair turned much to my advantage; it was an ocular demonstration to the crowd, of Missourians' feeling towards the Church of Christ.

By this time the way was pretty well paved for introducing national matters, and from this on to our arrival at Wheeling, the time was principally occupied on that subject, reading your views on political economy, &c.

On arriving at Wheeling, a stranger might have imagined me to be a man of some consequence; for it was, 'Will you take a seat in our coach?' 'Go with us in this stage; hold on and take a seat with us,' says the third. In fact the Mormon was quite a lion among the passengers.

But passing the minutiae, I arrived in this city two days after the great Whig Convention. All is joy and enthusiasm among the Whigs, while doubt and consternation is manifest among the democrats. This convention has been got up at an immense expense—hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended.