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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JANUARY, 1843.

Jan.—Sunday, 29.—I attended meeting at the Temple. After reading the parable of the prodigal son, and making some preliminary remarks, I stated that there were two questions which had been asked me concerning my subject of the last Sabbath, which I had promised to answer in public, and would improve this opportunity.

The question arose from the saying of Jesus, "Among those that are born of women there hath not risen a greater prophet than John the Baptist; nevertheless he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." How is it that John was considered one of the greatest of prophets? His miracles could not have constituted his greatness.

Firstly. He was intrusted with a divine mission of preparing the way before the face of the Lord. Whoever had such a trust committed to him before or since? No man.

Secondly. He was intrusted with the important mission, and it was required at his hands, to baptize the Son of Man. Whoever had the honor of doing that? Whoever had so great a privilege and glory? Whoever led the Son of God into the waters of baptism, and had the privilege of beholding the Holy Ghost descend in the form of a dove, or rather in the sign of a dove, in witness of that administration? The sign of the dove was instituted before the creation of the world, a witness for the Holy Ghost, and the devil cannot come in the sign of a dove. The Holy Ghost is a personage, and is in the form of a personage. It does not confine itself to the form of a dove, but in sign of a dove. The Holy Ghost cannot be transformed into a dove, but the sign of a dove was given to John to signify the truth of the deed, as the dove is an emblem or token of truth and innocence.

"Thirdly. John, at that time, was the only legal administrator in the affairs of the kingdom there was then on the earth, and holding the keys of power. The Jews had to obey his instructions or be damned, by their own law; and Christ himself fulfilled all righteousness in becoming obedient to the law which he had given to Moses on the mount, and thereby magnified it and made it honorable, instead of destroying it. The son of Zachariah wrested the keys, the kingdom, the power, the glory from the Jews by the holy anointing and decree of heaven; and these three reasons constitute him the greatest prophet born of a woman.

"Second question:—How was the least in the kingdom of heaven greater than he?

"In reply, I asked—Who did Jesus have reference to as being the least? Jesus was looked upon as having the least claim in all God's kingdom, and was least entitled to their credulity as a prophet, as though he had said, 'He that is considered the least among you is greater than John, that is, myself.'

"In reference to the prodigal son, I said it was a subject I had never dwelt upon; that it was understood by many to be one of the intricate subjects of the Scriptures, and even the elders of this church have preached largely upon it without having any rule of interpretation. What is the rule of interpretation? Just no interpretation at all; understand it precisely as it reads. I have a key by which I understand the Scriptures. I inquire what was the question which drew out the answer, or caused Jesus to utter the parable? It is not national, it does not refer to Abraham, Israel, or the gentiles, in a national capacity, as some supposed. To ascertain its meaning, we must dig up the root and ascertain what it was that drew the saying out of Jesus.

"While Jesus was teaching the people, all the publicans and sinners drew near to hear him, and the Pharisees and Scribes murmured, saying, 'This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them.' This is the key word which unlocks the parable of the prodigal son. It was given to answer the murmurings and questionings of the Sadducees and Pharisees, who were querying, finding fault, and saying, 'How is it that this man, as great as he pretends to be, eats with publicans and sinners?' Jesus was not put to it so, but he could have found something to illustrate his subject if he had designed it for a nation or

nations; but he did not. It was for men in an individual capacity, and all straining on this point is a bubble. 'This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them,' and he spake this parable unto them, 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them,—Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance.' The hundred sheep represent one hundred Sadducees and Pharisees, as though Jesus had said, 'If you Sadducees and Pharisees are in the sheepfold, I have no mission for you; I am sent to look up sheep that are lost, and when I have found them, I will back them up and make joy in heaven.' This represents hunting after a few individuals, or one poor publican, which the Pharisees and Sadducees despised.

"He also gave them the parable of the woman and her ten pieces of silver, and how she lost one, and searching diligently found it again, which gave more joy among the friends and neighbors than the nine which were not lost; like I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons that are so righteous they will be damned anyhow, you cannot save them."

Monday, 30.—Spent the day at home until six in the evening, when I presided in the city council, where much business was transacted, the most important of which was, a bill reported by a committee, which passed as follows:—

"LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NAUVOO.

The city council do ordain as follows:—The several sections following are declared laws and ordinances of the said city, and any person who shall be guilty of any of the offences hereinafter mentioned shall be subject to the penalty hereinafter to be prescribed, to be sued for and collected before the mayor, the municipal court, or any alderman of said city.

OF CITY OFFICERS.

There shall be appointed by the city council of the city of Nauvoo, biennially, the following officers for the city of Nauvoo, in addition to those provided for in the city charter of said city, to wit: an engineer, market master, weigher and sealer of weights and measures, a fire warden in each ward of the city, a sexton, and a police officer, to act under the direction of the mayor, as captain of the watch and a supervisor of streets and alleys.

FIRST DIVISION:

OF THE PRESERVATION OF GOOD ORDER.

Sec. 1. No person shall keep a billiard table, faro bank, or any other instrument of gaming, where, or on, or with which, money, liquor, or other articles, shall in any manner be played for; or if any person shall keep a disorderly or gaming house, such person shall for every offence forfeit and pay a penalty of twenty-five dollars, and also the further penalty of twenty-five dollars for every forty-eight hours during which such person shall continue to keep the same after the first conviction for any violation of this section.

Sec. 2. Any person or persons who shall make, aid, countenance or assist in making any improper noise, riot, disturbance, or diversion in the streets, or elsewhere; and all persons who shall collect in bodies or crowds for unlawful purposes, to the annoyance or disturbance of citizens or travelers, shall for each offence forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars in the discretion of the court convicting.

Sec. 3. No person shall use any abusive, indecent, or threatening words to another individual, without being deemed a disturber of the peace, and shall forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than one dollar and not exceeding twenty dollars, and shall moreover be bound to keep the peace in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 4. If any person shall injure another by quarrelling, fighting, assaulting, beating, or otherwise, the person so offending shall on conviction forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than three dollars and not exceeding one hundred dollars, and moreover may be imprisoned not exceeding six months in the discretion of the court convicting.

SECOND DIVISION:

OF STREETS AND ALLEYS.

Sec. 1. No person shall place, or cause to be placed, any stones, timber, lumber, plank, boards, or other materials for building, in, or upon any street, lane, alley or public square, without a written permission for that purpose first obtained from the mayor, or one of the aldermen, under the penalty of two dollars for each offence, and the further penalty of two dollars for each and every forty eight hours during which the articles or materials aforesaid shall be or remain in any such street, lane, alley or public square (without permission as aforesaid), after notice from the mayor, any alderman, the supervisor of streets, or any police officer, to remove the same.

Sec. 2. The mayor, or any of the aldermen, is authorized to grant to any person permission in writing to place and keep any building materials in any of the public streets for a period not exceeding four months, but such permission shall not authorize the obstructing of more than one half the side walk, and one half the street, on the

side next the lot on which a building is to be, or being erected, by the person to whom such permission is granted, and such permission may be revoked at any time by the city council in their discretion.

Sec. 3. Every person to whom permission is granted as aforesaid shall cause all the timber, building materials and rubbish arising therefrom, to be removed from the street by the expiration of the time limited in such permission as aforesaid, under the penalty of one dollar for every forty eight hours the timber, materials, or rubbish aforesaid shall be and remain in such street after the expiration of the time limited in the permission granted, but no single recovery shall exceed the sum of twenty-five dollars.

Sec. 4. All ornamental or shade trees hereafter placed or set out in any street shall be placed within one foot of the outer line of the side walk of such street, under the penalty of five dollars for each offence, and the further penalty of one dollar for each week any such tree shall be suffered to remain contrary to the prohibition contained in this section.

Sec. 5. All side walks in said city shall be at least eight feet in width where the streets are three rods wide, but where the streets shall exceed that width, ten feet shall be the width.

Sec. 6. Any person who shall injure or tear up any pavement, side or cross walk, drain or sewer, or any part thereof, or who shall dig any hole, ditch or drain in any street, without due authority, or who shall hinder or obstruct the making or repairing any pavement, side or cross walk, which is or may be making under any law or resolution of the city council, or who shall hinder or obstruct any person employed by the city council or the supervisor of streets, or the person employed by him in making or repairing any public improvement or work ordered by the city council, shall for every offence forfeit and pay a penalty of ten dollars.

Sec. 7. No person shall cast or throw, or cause to be cast or thrown into any of the drains or sewers within the city, any straw, shavings, wood, stones, shells, rubbish, or any filthy or other substances, or any obstructions, nuisance or injury in, or to the same, by diverting or stopping the course thereof, or otherwise, under a penalty not exceeding ten dollars, nor less than one dollar for every offence, in the discretion of the court convicting.

Sec. 8. No person shall, without permission from the city council, dig, remove, or carry away, or cause the same to be done, any stone, earth, sand or gravel, from any public street, highway, alley, or public ground in this city, under the penalty of five dollars for each offence.

THIRD DIVISION:

NUISANCES.

Sec. 1. No person shall throw, place, or deposit, or suffer any person in his or her employ, to place or deposit any dead animal, carrion, putrid meat or fish, or decayed vegetables, or nuisances of any kind, in any street, alley or public square in said city. Any person who shall violate any of the prohibitions contained in this section shall for each offence forfeit and pay a penalty of two dollars.

Sec. 2. No owner or occupant of any lot or tenement in said city shall cause or permit any nuisance to be in or upon the same lot or tenement, or between the same and the centre of the street adjoining, upon the pain of forfeiting the penalty of two dollars for each and every twenty-four hours during which the same nuisance shall be or remain on the same lot or tenement, or on such part of the street adjoining as aforesaid, but no single recovery shall exceed the sum of twenty five dollars.

Sec. 3. Every butcher or other person immediately after killing any heaves, calves, sheep, or other animals, shall destroy the offal, garbage and other offensive and useless parts thereof, or convey the same into some place where the same shall not be injurious or offensive to the inhabitants, under a penalty of twenty dollars for every offence.

Sec. 4. Whenever any dead carcass, putrid or unsound meat of any kind, fish, hides, or skins of any kind, or any other putrid or unsound substance shall be found in any part of the city, it shall be the duty of the supervisor of streets to cause the same to be destroyed or to be disposed of in such other manner as may be equally secure as regards the public health; and if any person shall resist the supervisor of streets in the execution of the duties hereby imposed, or shall disturb, hinder, molest or resist him, or any person or persons by him employed in the execution thereof, such offender shall forfeit the penalty of twenty-five dollars.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the supervisor of streets to cause any stagnant waters to be drained off, or removed from any lot, or out of any street or other place within said city, and he is hereby authorized to call upon such persons as owe road labor to assist him therein, and also to abate or remove every nuisance whatever within the city.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the supervisor of streets to report to the city council with respect to any other nuisances that may exist in the city, such as may be caused from vats, pits, or pools of stationary water, whether from tanners, skinners, dyers or other persons, as he may deem injurious or dangerous to the public health, for their order thereon, and shall carry the order of the city county into effect in the premises.

FOURTH DIVISION:

OF THE PREVENTION OF FIRES.

Sec. 1. No pipe of any stove or Franklin shall be put up unless it be conducted into a chimney made of brick or stone, except where the mayor or any alderman shall deem it equally safe, if otherwise put up, to be certified under his hand.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the fire wardens of each ward to examine carefully under the direction of the city council any cause from which immediate danger of fire may be apprehended, and to remove or abate, with the consent of the mayor or any alderman (in case of neglect or refusal of the owner or occupant) any cause from which danger may be apprehended, and to cause all buildings, chimneys, stoves, pipes, hearths, ovens, boilers, ashhouses, and apparatus used in any building, which shall be found in such condition as to be considered unsafe, to be without delay, at the expense of the owner thereof or occupant thereof, put in such condition as not to be dangerous in causing or promoting fires.

Sec. 3. If any person shall obstruct or hinder any person under the direction of the warden aforesaid in the performance of his duty under the preceding section, such person shall for every such offence forfeit the penalty of twenty-five dollars.

FIFTH DIVISION:

OF THE CITY WATCH.

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the city council of the city of Nauvoo that there be established in said city a night watch or patrol, to be composed of a captain of the police, and such watchmen as may from time to time be appointed by the city council, and who shall be governed by such laws and regulations, and endowed with such powers and authority, as may be given or imposed upon them by the city council.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the captain of the police to keep a general superintendence of the watch, direct the manner of keeping watch, and the times and rounds of the watchmen, and to perform such duties as are necessary and proper for the discharge of his duty and office; he shall keep a register of the watchmen, and have a house or building for the use of the same, and shall appoint a lieutenant who shall discharge his duties in his absence.

Sec. 3. To the said watch shall be intrusted the peace and safety of the city during the night, and they shall arrest all persons who may be found in said city at unusual hours and under suspicious circumstances, and bring such person or persons before the captain of police, who may in his discretion detain such person or persons until such time as the mayor or some alderman can examine into the nature of the charges against him or them; they shall also stop all riotous or improper noises during the night, and may arrest offenders as aforesaid, and exercise such a discretion in preserving the peace and quiet of the city as may be proper and salutary; and for such or other services there shall be allowed them such reasonable compensation as the council may agree upon.

SIXTH DIVISION:

PUBLIC MARKET.

Sec. 1. All persons keeping fresh meat or fish in this city shall at all times keep the building in which such meat or fish is exposed for sale, clean and free from any disagreeable smell, and any person neglecting to comply with this or the next succeeding section shall for each offence forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the supervisor of streets to inspect the state of all places within this city in which fresh meat or fish is exposed for sale, once in each month, between the first of November and the first of April, and once in each week between the first of April and the first of November, and if he shall find the foregoing section to be not complied with, he shall order the said buildings to be cleansed, and it shall be the duty of the person or persons in charge of said building or buildings to facilitate such examination, and when directed, as aforesaid, to cause such place or places to be cleansed and put in a healthy condition.

JOSEPH SMITH, Mayor."

"Passed January 30, 1843.

JAMES SLOAN, Recorder."

Tu day, 31.—At home all day. A severe snow blow.

SCARCITY OF BREAD IN GERMANY.—The extreme suffering of the lower classes, owing to the scarcity of bread throughout Germany, has led, and is daily leading to remedial measures of a most excellent kind. The courts of justice are bestowing an extra allowance on their officials, the railway companies the same, and all large corporations are in one way or another assisting their subordinates. In many places the inhabitants form themselves into associations for feeding the poor cheaply. In Hamburg, Berlin, Hanover, Prague, and other large towns, the poor are fed at cost; that is, by economy in cooking; in one large establishment, a quart of soup, containing three ounces of meat, and vegetables ad libitum, is furnished for three cents.—[Ex.]

A LITERARY SOLDIER.—Bestonjeff, the renowned conspirator of 1825, was obliged to publish his novels under the pseudonyme Marlinsky. When an edition of his works was published, accompanied by a portrait of the author, dressed in the uniform of a common soldier, to which low rank he had been degraded, the Chief of the Secret Police was diminished from his place for allowing this edition to appear.—[Alexander Herzen.]