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## HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

SEPTEMBER, 1843.

As your office has not the necessary Hebrew and Greek type to publish the original text of the Bible, I must imitate the sounds with Roman letters; and will begin with an extract from the 33d chapter of Deuteronomy, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 verses; and follow it with the simplest translation, into English, that any known rules of rendition will allow; and then let candid men judge which sounds most like truth: so here it is:—

Deuteronomy, 33; 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17:

“Ooleyoasafe aumare, maboracat yehovauh aurretso, memagad shaum ahyeem, metaul, oometehome robatsat tanchat; oomemagad toboote shaumash; oomemagad garash yerancheem; oomerosh handeray kadame; oomemagad gebe gnote gnolaum; oomemagad arats, oomeloath; ooretone shokenay senah, taubotauh lerosh yosafe, oolekandekode nezeer achauv. Bekore shoro handaur lo, vekahrenay Ream kaurenav, banhame gnoumeem yehalgelch yahchedauv ahfesy aurats; vehame reebote aferahyeem, vehame ahlefay menahsheh.”

Literal translation:—

“And for Joseph he said, on account of the blessings of Jehovah on his land; from the most precious things of the heavens, from the dew and from the great deep's resting place beneath; and from the most precious increase of the sun; and from the most precious productions of the moons; and from the highest honors of ancient times; and from the most precious things of the hills of eternity; and from the most precious things of the earth, and her fulness; and the delight of dwelling in the bush, come thou for the head of Joseph, and for the crown of the prince of his brethren. The firstling of his bullock's majesty is for him, and the horns of the Ream are his horns, with them he shall push the people together from the ends of the earth; and they will be the multitudes of Ephraim; and they will be the thousands of Manasseh.”

NOT THE PROPHET, S. T. P.’

Saturday, 2.—I was not well, and therefore adjourned mayor's court.

Sunday, 3.—I attended council with my brother Hyrum, N. K. Whitney, Willard Richards, William Law and William Marks, and gave instructions to the brethren in relation to things in futurity.

A tremendous storm at Chester, Penn. The creek rose 23 feet in two hours, and swept away all the bridges, many factories and houses, and upwards of twenty persons drowned.

A conference was held at Hayward's Hotel, Manchester, England. Charles Miller president; William Walker, clerk. Present—1 patriarch, 1 high priest, 25 elders, 40 priests, 21 teachers and 4 deacons.

Total number of members represented were as follows:—1549 members, including 44 elders, 99 priests, 56 teachers, 22 deacons. Baptized since last general conference, 80; cut off, 29; emigrated, 18; removed, 25; died, 4.

Monday, 4.—Attended mayor's court, and tried three cases, viz:—

City vs. A. Dodge, S. Dodge, and Luther Purtelow.

The two first I fined five dollars, and the last one dollar and costs. One p.m., called and gave license for a circus performance, which I attended with my family until 5 p.m.

Copy from the New York Sun as follows:—

“This Joe Smith must be set down as an extraordinary character, a prophet-hero, as Carlyle might call him. He is one of the great men of this age, and in future history will rank with those who, in one way or other, have stamped their impress strongly on society.

Nothing can be more plebeian, in seeming, than this Joe Smith. Little of dignity is there in his cognomen; but few in this age have done such deeds, and performed such apparent miracles. It is no small thing, in the blaze of this nineteenth century, to give to men a new revelation, found a new religion, establish new forms of worship, to build a city, with new laws, institutions, and orders of architecture, to establish ecclesiastical civil, and military jurisdiction, found colleges, send out missionaries, and make proselytes in two hemispheres; yet all this has been done by Joe Smith, and that against every sort of opposition, ridicule,

and persecution. This sect has its martyrs also, and the spirit in which they were imprisoned and murdered, in Missouri, does not appear to have differed much from that which has attended religious persecutions in all ages of the world.

That Joe Smith, the founder of the Mormons, is a man of great talent—a deep thinker, and eloquent speaker; an able writer, and a man of great mental power, no one can doubt who has watched his career. That his followers are deceived, we all believe; but, should the inherent corruptions of Mormonism fail to develop themselves sufficiently to convince its followers of their error, where will the thing end? A great military despotism is growing up in the fertile west, increasing faster, in proportion, than the surrounding population, spreading its influence around, and marshalling multitudes under its banners, causing serious alarm to every patriot.”

What is the reason that men are so blind that they cannot, or will not, see the hand of the Lord in his work of the last days?

Tuesday, 5.—Went to the office at 9 a.m., with Mr. Hamilton, of Carthage, who had obtained a deed from the sheriff of the county for Lot 2, Block 103, in the city of Nauvoo for taxes, although I had previously paid them: which is another specimen of the oppression, injustice, and rascality of Mr. Collector Bagby who by such foul means robs me and other Saints, and abuses all who come unfortunately in his power.

I requested my clerk to make out a bill of fare for the mansion.

The ship “Metoka” sailed from Liverpool with a company of Saints on board.

Wednesday, 6.—I went to the Recorder's about 6½ a.m., and found him in bed.

Held mayor's court on the case, “City vs. Joseph Owen.”

“Meeting convened pursuant to adjournment. The former chairman not being present.

EDSON WHITNEY, Esq., was called to the chair, and the meeting being organized the following Preamble and Resolutions were submitted by the committee, and unanimously adopted:—

### PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

This meeting having convened for the purpose of taking under advisement a subject of vital importance, not only to this county, but to all the surrounding counties, regret that we are necessarily and irresistibly forced to the conclusion, that a certain class of people have obtruded themselves upon us, calling themselves Mormons, or Latter Day Saints, and under the sacred garb of Christianity, assumed, as we honestly believe, that they may the more easily, under such a cloak, perpetrate the most lawless and diabolical deeds that have ever, in any age of the world, disgraced the human species.

In evidence of the above charge, we find them yielding implicit obedience to the ostensible head and founder of this sect, who is a pretended prophet of the Lord, and under this Heaven-daring assumption, claiming to set aside, by his vile and blasphemous lies, all those moral and religious institutions which have been established by the Bible, and which have in all ages been cherished by men, as the only means of maintaining those social blessings, which are so indispensably necessary for our happiness.

We believe that such an individual, regardless as he must be, of his obligations to God, and at the same time entertaining the most absolute contempt for the laws of man, cannot fail to become a most dangerous character, especially when he shall have been able to place himself at the head of a numerous horde, either equally reckless and unprincipled as himself, or else made his pliant tools by the most absurd credulity that has astonished the world since its foundation.

In the opinion of this meeting, a crisis has arrived, when many of the evils to be expected from a state of things so threatening, have transpired. We feel convinced that circumstances have even now occurred, which prove to us most conclusively, that Joseph Smith, the false prophet before alluded to, has evinced, in many instances, a most shameful disregard for all the forms and restraints of law: by boldly and presumptuously calling in question the acts of certain officers, who had fearlessly discharged the duties absolutely imposed upon them by the laws, particularly when they have come in contact with his own sordid and selfish interests.

He has been heard to threaten—nay, he has committed violence upon the person of an officer, because that officer dared honestly to do his duty according to law.

He has caused his city council to pass laws contrary to the laws of the State, and subversive of the rights of citizens of this State.

Citizens have been arrested, tried, and punished, for breaches of those mock laws from time to time, in such manner that they have been compelled to the humiliating necessity of seeking an asylum elsewhere, in order to escape the tyranny and oppression of this modern Caligula.

He has caused the writ of habeas corpus to be issued by the municipal court of the city of Nauvoo, in a case not provided for in the charter of that city, and indeed contrary to the letter of that instrument; and, himself a prisoner, arrested under grave charges made by a neighboring State, brought before said court, tried,

and acquitted.—Thereby procuring his own rescue from the custody of the law.

Citizens from the adjoining counties have been denied the right to regain property stolen and taken to Nauvoo, even after they have discovered both the thief and the property; and themselves, under the most frivolous pretences, arrested, fined, and other property rifled from them, to satisfy the mock judgments and costs of his cormorant officers.

Persons upon whom stolen property has been found in the city of Nauvoo, have been brought before this religio-political chief, and he in the capacity of mayor of the city has refused to convict, where the cases have been most clear and palpable.

We have had men of the most vicious and abominable habits, imposed upon us, to fill our most important county offices, by his dictum, in order as we verily believe, that he may the more certainly control our destinies, and render himself, through the instrumentality of these base creatures of his ill-directed power, as absolute a despot over the citizens of this county, as he now is over the serfs of his own servile clan.

And to crown all, he claims to merge all religion, all law, and both moral and political justice, in the knavish pretension that he receives fresh from heaven, divine instructions, in all matters pertaining to these things; thereby making his own depraved will the rule by which he would have all men governed.

He has caused large bodies of his ragamuffin soldiery to arm themselves, and turn out in pursuit of officers, legally authorized to arrest himself; he being charged with high crimes and misdemeanors committed in the State of Missouri, and those officers arrested by the vilest hypocrisy, and placed in duress, that he might enable himself, to march triumphantly into Nauvoo, and bid defiance to the laws of the land.

In view of the above grievances, this meeting feel that it is their bounden duty to resist, by every laudable means, all such unwarrantable attacks upon their liberties; therefore—

Resolved, 1st. That inasmuch as we honestly believe that the combination of people, calling themselves Mormons, or Latter Day Saints, have given strong indications, in their recent movements, that they are unwilling to submit to the ordinary restraints of law; we are, therefore, forced to the conclusion, that the time is not far distant, when the citizens of this county will be compelled to assert their rights in some way.

Resolved, 2nd. That while we would deprecate anything like lawless violence, without justifiable cause; yet we pledge ourselves in the most solemn manner to resist all the wrongs which may be hereafter attempted to be imposed on this community by the Mormons, to the utmost of our ability; peaceably, if we can, but forcibly, if we must.

Resolved, 3rd. That in the event of our being forced into a collision with that people, we pledge ourselves that we will stand by and support each other, in every emergency, up to the death.

Resolved, 4th. That we believe that it is also the interest of our friends in the neighboring counties, and also the neighboring States, to begin to take a firm and decided stand against the high pretensions and base designs of this latter-day would-be Mahomet.

Resolved, 5th. That provided we must necessarily, for the well-being of this community, the protection of our dearest rights, and the preservation of our excellent institutions, adopt measures to humble the pride and arrogance of that audacious despot; we, therefore, call upon all good and honest men, without distinction of party or place to come to the rescue.

Resolved, 6th. That we pledge ourselves in the most determined manner, that if the authorities of the State of Missouri, shall make another demand for the body of Joseph Smith, and our Governor shall issue another warrant, to stand ready at all times to serve the officer, into whose hands such warrant may come, as a posse, in order that it may not be said of us in future, that the most outrageous culprits have been suffered to go unwhipped of justice.

Resolved, 7th. That a corresponding committee be appointed to communicate with the different parts of this county, and also with other counties; and we would also recommend to all surrounding counties to appoint like committees, for the purpose of a mutual interchange of views, in regard to the subjects embraced in these proceedings.

Resolved, 8th. That as it has been too common for several years past for politicians of both political parties; not only of this county, but likewise of the State, to go to Nauvoo and truckle to the heads of the Mormon clan, for their influence, we pledge ourselves that we will not support any man of either party in future, who shall thus debase himself.

Resolved, 9th. That if the Mormons carry out the threats they have made in regard to the lives of several of our citizens, we will, if failing to obtain speedy redress from the laws of the land, take summary and signal vengeance upon them as a people.

Resolved, 10th. That when the government ceases to afford protection, the citizens, of course, fall back upon their original and inherent right of self-defence.

In pursuance of the 7th resolution, the following gentlemen were appointed to act as a central corresponding committee at Carthage: namely—Capt. R. F. Smith, Maj. T. J. Bartlett, H. T. Wilson, F. A. Worrell and Walter Bagby.

On motion of Henry Stephens, it was ordered that committees, consisting of two persons, be appointed in each election precinct of this county, for the purpose of communicating with the central committee at Carthage, and that those two may add to their number at discretion.

On motion of Daniel Beaver, it was made the duty of the person, whose name stands first on the list of each committee to act as chairman, and that all communications from the other committees, or from any other source, shall be added.

The following gentlemen were then appointed by the chair, as committees in the several precincts, to wit:—

In Green Plains—Edson Whitney, and Levi Williams.

Bear Creek—William White, and Andrew Moore.

Chili—Stephen Owen, and Arthur Morgan.

Augusta—Wm. D. Abernethy, and Alex. Oliver.

Saint Mary's—William Darnell, and Daniel Beaver.

Fountain Green—Thomas Geddis, and S. H. Tyler.

La Harpe—Jesse Gilmer, and Chas. Comstock.

Camp Creek—Jas. Graham and Thomas Harris.

Appanoose—Jno. McCanley, and Jno. R. Atherton.

Montebello—Samuel Steel, and Benj. B. Gates.

Warsaw—Thomas E. Sharp and Mark Al-drigh.

On motion of Levi Williams, Col. Root of McDonough county, was added to the central corresponding committee at Carthage.

On motion of Henry Newton, Esq.,

Resolved, That the central committee of correspondence act as a general committee of supervision, and in case of a contingency occurring requiring aid, that they immediately call on the precinct committees, and upon all others favorable to our cause, to furnish such aid as the exigency of the case may require.

On motion of Chas. C. Stevens, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the president of this meeting be requested to communicate with the Governor of Missouri, and respectfully request him to make another demand upon the authorities of this State, for the body of Joseph Smith, commonly called the Mormon Prophet; and in the event of a requisition and an order for his arrest and delivery to the proper officers of the State of Missouri, we offer our services to enforce said order, and pledge ourselves to sustain the supremacy of the laws, at all hazards, and under all circumstances.

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the publisher of the Warsaw Message, Quincy Whig, and Quincy Herald, for publication, with a request to them to add a note soliciting all editors friendly to our cause, in this State, Missouri, and Iowa Territory, to copy.

It was then moved and seconded, that this meeting adjourn, subject to the call of the central corresponding committee.

EDSON WHITNEY, Chairman.

W. D. ABERNETHY, Sec.

Editors throughout Illinois, Missouri, Iowa Territory, friendly to the Anti-Mormon cause, are requested to publish the proceedings in today's paper, of a meeting held at Carthage on the 6th instant.”

Thursday, 7.—I took home the letter written to Harrisburg for the church history, a small fragment of which only has been preserved, and is as follows:—

“Messrs. Editors:—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was founded upon direct revelation, as the true church of God has ever been, according to the scriptures, (Amos 3, 7 and Acts 1, 2) and through the will and blessings of God, I have been an instrument in his hands, thus far, to move forward the cause of Zion: therefore, in order to fulfil the solicitations of your letter of July last, I shall commence with my life.

I was born in the town of Sharon, Windsor co., Vermont, on the 23rd of December, A.D. 1805. When ten years old my parents removed to Palmyra, New York, where we resided about four years, and from thence we removed to the town of Manchester.

My father was a farmer and taught me the art of husbandry. When about fourteen years of age I began to reflect upon the importance of being prepared for a future state, and upon inquiring the plan of salvation I found that there was a great clash in religious sentiment; if I went to one society they referred me to one plan, and another to another; each one pointing to his own particular creed as the summum bonum of perfection: considering that all could not be right, and that God could not be the author of so much confusion, I determined to investigate the subject more fully, believing that if God had a church it would not be split up into factions, and that if he taught one society to worship one way, and administer in one set of ordinances, he would

[A portion is here continued to page 396.]