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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

May, 1844.

May 1.—Wednesday, 1.—Heavy rain and wind last night.

At home counseling the brethren, and rode out a short time in the afternoon with a gentleman from Quincy.

Elder Lyman Wight and Bishop George Miller arrived from the Pine country.

Mr. Thomas A. Lyne, a tragedian from New York, assisted by G. J. Adams and others, got up a theatrical exhibition in the lower room of the Masonic Hall, which was fitted up with very tasteful scenery. They performed Pizarro, the Orphan of Geneva, Douglas, the Idiot Witness, Damon and Pythias, and other plays, with marked success; the hall was well attended each evening, and the audience expressed their entire satisfaction and approbation.

Thursday, 2.—Very windy all night, breaking down large trees; a thunder storm also.

At home, and counseling the brethren.

Sent William Clayton to Wilson Law to find out why he refused paying his note, when he brought in some claims as a set off, which Clayton knew were paid, leaving me no remedy but the glorious uncertainty of the law.

At 10 a. m., the "Maid of Iowa" steamer started for Rock river for a load of wheat and corn to feed the laborers on the Temple.

William Clayton and Col. Stephen Markham started to attend court at Dixon on the case of "Joseph Smith v. Harmon T. Wilson and Joseph H. Reynolds."

In the afternoon I rode to the prairie to sell some land, and during my absence Lucien Woodworth returned from Texas.

Lieut. Aaron Johnson made the following affidavit:

"Nauvoo, May 2d, 1844.

"State of Illinois, Hancock co., ss.
City of Nauvoo.

Personally appeared before me, John Taylor, judge advocate of the Nauvoo Legion, Aaron Johnson; and being duly sworn deposes and says, that on or about the 28th day of April, 1844, at the dwelling house of Wilson Law in Nauvoo aforesaid, Colonel R. D. Foster, surgeon in chief, and brevet Brigadier General of said Nauvoo Legion, while talking about General Joseph Smith, said that General Smith kept a gang of robbers and plunderers about his house for the purpose of robbing and plundering, and he (Smith) received half the spoils; also that said General Joseph Smith tried to get him (Foster) to go and kill Boggs; with many other ungentlemanly and unofficer-like observations concerning said General Smith and others.

AARON JOHNSON,

2d Lieut. 1st Comp. 1st Regiment,
2d Cohort, Nauvoo Legion.

"Personally appeared, Aaron Johnson, the signer of the above complaint, and made oath the same was true according to the best of his knowledge and belief the day and year above written before me, JOHN TAYLOR,

Judge Advocate of the Nauvoo Legion."

Friday, 3.—At home giving advice to brethren who were constantly calling to ask for counsel. Several thunder showers during the day.

In general council from 2 to 6, and from 8 to 10 p. m. Lucien Woodworth gave an account of his mission.

Wrote a letter to uncle John Smith, and requested him to attend general council next Monday.

The following letter was written:

"Nauvoo, May 3d, 1844.

"Elder Reuben Hedlock,

Dear Brother:—Your long communication by Elder Kay was received two weeks last Saturday; also the one by Elder Clark last Saturday, and we feel to thank you for the care you have taken to write us so particularly. We are glad to receive such communications, and wish you to continue the same course as opportunities present. The brethren have all had good passages (four ships.) Elder Clark was only five weeks and three days to New Orleans; all things safe.

All things are going on gloriously at Nauvoo. We shall make a great name in the nation; Joseph for President. Your family is well, and friends generally. We have already received several hundred volunteers to go out electioneering and preaching, and more offering. We go for storming the nation. But we must proceed to realities.

The whisperings of the Spirit to us are that you will do well to content yourself awhile longer in old England, and let your wife remain where she is. We hope the Temple may be completed say one year from this spring, when in many respects changes will take place; until then who can do better in England than yourself? But we will not leave you comfortless; we will send Elders to your assistance. For three or four months we want all the help we can get in the United States; after which you may expect help.

In the meantime you are at liberty to print as many "Stars," pamphlets, hymn books, tracts, cards, &c., as you can sell; and make all the money you can in righteousness. Don't reprint everything you get from Nauvoo; many things are printed here not best to circulate in England. Select and write doctrine, and matter (new), such as will be useful to the Saints in England and new to us, so that when we exchange papers all will be edified. God shall give you wisdom if you will seek to him, and you shall prosper in your printing.

We also wish you to unfurl your flag on your shipping office, and send all the Saints you can to New York, or Boston, or Philadelphia, or any other port in the United States, but not at our expense any longer. We have need of something to sustain us in our labors, and we want you to go ahead with printing and shipping, and make enough to support yourself and help us a bit. You will doubtless find it necessary to employ br. Ward. Keep your books straight, so that we in the end can know every particular.

Ship everybody to America you can get the money for—Saint and sinner—a general shipping office. And we would like to have our shipping agent in Liverpool sleep on as good a bed, eat at as respectable a house, keep as genteel an office, and have his boots shine as bright and blacked as often as any other office keeper. Yes, sir; make you money enough to wear a good broadcloth, and show the world that you represent gentlemen of worth, character and respectability.

We will by and bye have offices from the rivers to the ends of the earth, and we will begin at Liverpool from this time and increase, and INCREASE, and INCREASE the business of the office as fast as it can be done in safety and circumstances will permit. Employ a runner if necessary, and show the world you can do a better and more honorable business than anybody else, and more of it. Don't be afraid to blow your trumpet.

We need not say deal with everybody so that they will want to deal with you again, and make all the money you honestly can. Send no more emigrants on emigration, books, or Star money. Temple orders for emigrants may be filled on Temple funds. Keep account of all moneys in their separate departments, and favor us with a report occasionally.

Sell the Books of Mormon the first opportunity if it be at a reduced price, and forward the money by the first safe conveyance to Brigham Young.

We will pay your wife as you requested in your letter as soon as possible. We wish you to take care of yourself and family, and withal help us beside; and we have now put you in possession of means to do it.

Let nobody know your business but the underwriters; our wives know not all our business, neither does any wise man's wife know all things, for the secret of the Lord is with those that fear him, and do his business: a hint to the wise is sufficient. But we will add, if you want us to do anything for your wife, write us and we will do it, but keep our business from your wife and from everybody else.

We are glad to hear a door is open in France, and sure we have no objections to your going over and preaching, &c.; but we think perhaps you will now find as much to do in England as you can find time to do it in; if not, go by all means. We are in hopes of sending a special messenger to France in a few days; if so, very likely he may call on you, and you pass over and give him an introduction; this would be pleasant for you all.

Br. Hedlock, a word with you privately. Joseph said last conference that Zion included all North and South America; and after the Temple was done, and the Elders endowed, they would spread abroad and build up cities all over the United States; but at present we are not to teach this doctrine; nay, hold your tongue; but by this you can see why it is wisdom for the Saints to get into the United States, anywhere—rather than stay in England to starve.

The Prophet has a charter for a dam from the lower line of the city to the island opposite Montrose, and from thence to the sand bar above in the Mississippi. Could five, six, or seven thousand dollars be raised to commence the dam at the lower extremity, and erect a building, any machinery might be propelled by water. The value of a steam engine would nearly build the dam sufficient for a cotton factory, which we much need. Start some capitalists if you can; 'tis the greatest speculation in the world; a world of cotton and woollen goods are wanted here.

We have proposed to br. Clark to return to your assistance in the shipping business soon; also to enter into exchanges of goods and produce; which he will do he has not decided. What will hinder your doing a good business

in shipping this season? Good? Yes; in competing with the first offices in the city, and by next season taking the lead, if not this! When the Saints get to New York, Boston, &c., let them go to work, spread abroad in the land, or come to Nauvoo, as they find convenient and have means; and when the season arrives start again for New Orleans. Write soon after the receipt of this, and let us know the prospect.

Tell the Saints when they arrive in America to make themselves as comfortable as they can, and be diligent in business, and not be over anxious if they cannot come to Nauvoo. They will find Elders in all the States who will be ready to give them instruction, and if they can gather something by the way by their industry to assist themselves with when they arrive here, it will be well for them.

We have dropped the Nauvoo House until the Temple can be completed, and the Temple is going on finely. We have had an open winter and forward spring. The Twelve are holding general conferences all over the United States; they will go east soon, and br. Young will write you as soon as he gets the information to tell what house you can remit the book money to in New York.

We shall have a State Convention at Nauvoo on the 17th inst.—an election. A great many are believing the doctrine. If any of the brethren wish to go to Texas we have no particular objection; you may send a hundred thousand there if you can in eighteen months, though we expect before that you will return to receive your endowment, and then we will consult your interest, with others who may be going abroad, about taking their families with them.

The kingdom is organized; and although as yet no bigger than a grain of mustard seed, the little plant is in a flourishing condition, and our prospects brighter than ever. Cousin Lemuel is very friendly, and cultivating the Spirit of peace and union in his family very extensively.

William and Wilson Law, R. D. Foster, C. L. and F. Higbee, father Cowles, &c., have organized a new church. [Laws and Fosters were first cut off.] William Law is prophet, James Blakesley and Cowles, counselors; Higbee and Foster of the twelve. Cannot learn all particulars: Charles Ivins, bishop; old Dr. Green and old John Scott, his counselors. They are talking of sending a mission to England, but it will probably be after this when they come among you. 'Tis the same old story over again, 'The doctrine is right, but Joseph is a fallen prophet.'—Your brethren in the new covenant,

BRIGHAM YOUNG,
WILLARD RICHARDS."

Elder Parley P. Pratt wrote from Richmond, Mass., as follows:

"Dear Br. Joseph and Br. Orson Spencer, or whom it may concern:

This is to forewarn you that you have a snake in the grass—a base traitor and hypocrite in your midst—of whom perhaps you may not be fully aware. You may think these harsh terms, but I speak from good evidence and speak the truth.

Mr. Augustin Spencer, brother to Elder Orson Spencer, has written a letter from Nauvoo, which is now going the rounds in this neighborhood, and is fraught with the most infamous slander and lies concerning Joseph Smith and others, and which is calculated to embitter the minds of the people who read or hear of it. It affirms that Joseph Smith is in the habit of drinking, swearing, carousing, dancing all night, &c., &c.; and that he keeps six or seven young females as wives, &c., and many other such like insinuations.

At the same time he cautions the people to whom he writes, to keep the letter in such a way that a knowledge of its contents may not reach Nauvoo, as he says he is on intimate terms and confidential friendship with the 'Prophet Jo' and the Mormons, and that he hopes to get into office by their means: this is his own acknowledgment of his own baseness, imposition and hypocrisy. I have not seen the letter myself, but have carefully examined the testimony of those who have, and I have also seen and witnessed its baneful effects upon the people here.

Now, I say to the Saints, let such a man alone severely; shun him as they would the pestilence; be not deceived by a smooth tongue nor flattering words. Neither accept of any excuse nor apology until he boldly contradicts and counteracts his lying words abroad, but rather expose and unmask him in your midst, that he may be known and consequently become powerless, if he is not already so. I am well and expect to be in Boston to-morrow.

I remain as ever your friend and brother in the love of the truth,
P. P. PRATT."

Richmond, Mass., May 3rd, 1844."

Saturday, 4.—Rode out on the prairie to sell some land. The stone work for four circular windows finished cutting for the middle story of the Temple. Elder W. Woodruff moved into his new brick house.

A court martial was detailed as follows:

"Head Quarters, Nauvoo Legion,
May 4th, 1844.

To Alanson Ripley, sergeant major, 2nd Cohort, Nauvoo Legion:

You are hereby forthwith commanded to notify the following named officers of the Nauvoo

Legion to assemble at the office of Lieut. Gen. Joseph Smith on Friday the 10th inst., at nine o'clock a. m., as members of a court martial detailed for the trial of R. D. Foster, surgeon in chief, and brevet Brigadier General of the Nauvoo Legion, on the complaint of Lieut. Aaron Johnson, for unofficer-like and unbecoming conduct; and hereof fail not and make returns of your proceeding to the president of the court on the first day of its sitting, viz:

Brig. Gen. George Miller as president,
Brevet Brig. Gen. Hugh McFall,
" " Daniel H. Wells,
" " John S. Fulmer,
Colonel Jonathan Dunham,
" Stephen Markham,
" Hosea Stout,
" John Scott,
Lieut. Col. John D. Parker,
" Jonathan H. Hale,
" Theodore Turley,

as members, and Colonel John Taylor as judge advocate; also to summons Willard Richards and Aaron Johnson to appear at the same time and place as witnesses.

Given under my hand the day and year above written,
CHARLES C. RICH.

Major General N. L. Commanding." Dr. Richards wrote a letter at Prest. B. Young's request to Reuben Hedlock.

Sunday, 5.—At home. Rainy day. Elder Jedediah M. Grant preached at the Mansion at 2 p. m. A large company of friends at my house afternoon and evening, whom I addressed on the true policy of this people in our intercourse with the national government.

A conference was held at Marsh Hill, (formerly Froom's Hill,) England, comprising 681 members, 22 Elders, 43 Priests, 15 Teachers, 7 Deacons.

Monday, 6.—Attended general council all day; Elder J. M. Grant was added to the council. Voted to send Almon W. Babbitt on a mission to France and Lucien Woodworth to Texas. Sidney Rigdon was nominated as a candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States.

I had a warrant served on me by John D. Parker, issued by the clerk of the circuit court at Carthage on the complaint of Francis M. Higbee, who had laid his damages at \$5,000, but for what the writ does not state! I petitioned the municipal court for a writ of habeas corpus, which I obtained.

At 6 p. m., I was in conversation with Jeremiah Smith and a number of gentlemen in my office on the subject of Emma's correspondence with Governor Carlin.

Beautiful day. West wind.

Tuesday, 7.—Rode out on the prairie at 9 a. m. with some gentlemen to sell them some land. A tremendous thunder shower in the afternoon with strong wind and rain, which abated about sunset, and I staid at my farm all night.

Esquire Daniel H. Wells issued a writ of ejectment against all persons who had bought land of Dr. R. D. Foster on the block east of the Temple, Foster having given them warranty deeds, but not having paid for the land himself.

An opposition printing press arrived at Dr. Foster's.

The following notice was issued by the recorder:

"State of Illinois, }
City of Nauvoo. }

To the Marshal of said city, greeting: You are hereby required to notify Phineas Richards, Edward Hunter, and Levi Richards, that they have been elected members of the city council of said city; and Elias Smith that he has been elected alderman of said city by said city council; and the said councilors and alderman, and Gustavus Hills, are required to appear, receive their oath of office, and take seats in said council on Saturday the 8th June, 1844, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the council chamber.—By order of the council.

Witness my hand and corporation
{ L. S. } seal this 7th May, 1844,
W. RICHARDS,
Recorder.

POWER OF THE HUMAN EYE.—George Pitt, afterwards Lord Rivers, declared that he could tame the most furious animal by looking at it steadily. Lord Spencer said, 'Well, there is a mastiff in the court-yard here which is the terror of the neighborhood; will you try your power on him?' Pitt agreed to do so, and the company descended to the court-yard. A servant held the mastiff by a chain. Pitt knelt down a short distance from the animal and stared him sternly in the face.—They all shuddered. At a signal given the mastiff was let loose, and rushed furiously towards Pitt; then suddenly checked his pace, and seemed confounded, and leaping over Pitt's head, ran away, and was not seen for many hours after. During one of my visits to Italy, while I was walking a little before my carriage, on the road near Vienna, I perceived two huge dogs bounding towards me. I recollected what Pitt had done, and, trembling from head to foot, I yet had resolution enough to stand quite still and eye them with a fixed look. They gradually relaxed their speed from a gallop to a trot, came up to me, stopped for a moment and went back again.—[Rogers' Table Talk.

Don't weary the Lord with long prayers.