

that priesthood the same as governors or judges of England have power from the king to transact business; but that does not make them kings of England. A person may be anointed king and priest long before he receives his kingdom.

Evening, Elders O. Pratt and Geo. A. Smith preached.

— 8.—In company with the Twelve and about 150 Saints, I left Philadelphia on an excursion on the Delaware River to Gloucester Point. We partook of a pic-nic dinner, and the day was spent in harmonious recreation. The following subject was taken up for discussion, "Is the prosperity of any religious denomination a positive evidence that they are right?" Elder J. E. Page contended for the affirmative, and Elder J. M. Grant the negative. Elder Page contended for his position very sharply and warmly; Elder Grant, in meeting his arguments, also manifested great earnestness in sustaining his position, and it appeared to the Saints like contention, and caused a dampness of feeling to rest upon the company.

At the end of the discussion I was called upon to decide the question, and perceiving the feeling among the Saints, I told them I was reminded of the anecdote of the Negro's attempt at shooting a squirrel. His master having occasion to be absent from home, charged him to be sure and not meddle with his guns and ammunition; but no sooner had the master got fairly out of the way, when the negro's curiosity prompted him to try one of his master's guns; he accordingly took one down which had been loaded for some time, and went into the woods. He soon saw a squirrel and crept up a hill behind a log and fired, but the gun being heavily charged, it knocked the negro over and he rolled down the hill.

Upon gaining his equilibrium and realizing his defeat, he looked up from the ground where he lay, and seeing the squirrel jumping from tree to tree as if conscious of victory, he cried, "Well, well, cuffy, if you had been at the other end of the gun you would have known more about it." This excited laughter, in which all the company joined, and I then gave my decision, which was, that the prosperity of any people was not positive evidence of their being right.

After supper we returned by the steamer to Philadelphia.

— 10.—In company with Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff and George A. Smith, I visited the State House, and the Independence Hall, where the patriots signed the Declaration of Independence; we sat in the chair which John Hancock occupied when he signed that instrument; we saw a statue of Washington, the portraits of La Fayette and others, and the painting presented by Benjamin West to the city corporation, representing the situation of Paul and Barnabas, when they were set apart to the ministry: this building was erected in 1733.

— 11.—We visited Peel's museum and the mint. After finishing our walk the quorum separated and attended meetings in various parts of the city.

— 12.—We dined at sister Poulter's; she gave us \$12. In the evening we had an interesting meeting with the Elders; all of the Apostles present spoke.

— 13 (Sunday).—In the morning we divided and preached in various parts of the city. In the afternoon, Elder O. Pratt preached in the church on the subject of Zion, from the Psalms of David. Evening, Elders Kimball, Woodruff and I preached.

— 18.—Br. Kimball accompanied me to Burlington by steamer, and from thence by coach to Mount Holley, New Jersey, where we staid with Judge Wm. Richards and preached.

— 19.—We rode with Judge Richards in his carriage to the Rising Sun, near Bordentown, where we attended a woods meeting and met with brs. Wm. Smith, J. E. Page, George A. Smith and W. I. Appleby. Br. George A. and I staid over night with br. Atkinson, who lived in a very large framehouse, said to have stood 150 years, which was so infested with bed bugs that we could not sleep. Br. George A. Smith gave it as his legal opinion that there were bed bugs there which had danced to the music at the battle of Trenton, as their heads were perfectly grey. We took our blankets and retreated to the further end of the room, and as the bugs followed us, I lit a candle, and as they approached, caught them and burnt them in the candle and thus spent the night.

— 20 (Sunday).—Continued our woods meeting, which was numerously attended.

— 26.—The Twelve Apostles met with the Saints in New York, in conference, in the Columbian Hall, Grand street. I addressed the meeting upon the importance of building the Nauvoo House and Temple; also on the subject of the Priesthood, showing it was a perfect system of government. In the afternoon, Elders H. C. Kimball and Geo. A. Smith preached and I made a few closing remarks, and said:

The Scriptures had been mystified to that degree, that the greatest divines of the day are as ignorant as the dumb ass concerning the things of God; comparatively they don't know their right hand from their left. We are trying to revere the Scriptures, and to make them so simple that the people can understand them. Place a man in this room who is ignorant of science, and take every thing out that we can see, and then ask him if there is anything in the room. He will say no, only we two. I tell him that there are millions of live animals in the room, that we even breathe them, and I will shew him, by the aid of the microscope, that there are live animals in a drop of water, which appear to be eight feet long, but he won't believe it until he sees it through the magnifying glass. So with the unbeliever in revelation, he does not believe in God, in angels, or in spirits, because he cannot see them; but let him have spiritual glasses, or obey the commandments of God, get the Spirit of God, and then he can see the truth.

A hymn was then sung.

Then several questions were asked, as follows:

1. Can any officer in any branch of the church say that his word is law; and shall be obeyed?

Answer: He can say that his word is law, but does that make it so? Yes, if he has the law of God, and delivers it; otherwise, it is not.

2. Is it right for a priest to be appointed to accompany a teacher to visit the houses of each member, when his duty is set forth in the covenants?

Answer: Yes. Any officer from a high priest to a deacon, may visit the church, or members, and be set apart for this purpose, if the church will receive it.

3. Can a branch of the church make by-laws on the principle of expediency, which are not specified in any revelation?

Answer: Yes; if they wish they may make laws to stick their fingers in their eyes; but it is like the man who habituated himself to sticking his finger into a knot hole in a board partition every morning, until custom compelled him to do it; for having omitted it one morning, he felt so curiously at the breakfast table that he could not eat, he then bethought himself, went and put his finger into the knot hole, and returned with a good appetite and eat a hearty breakfast.

I said that if elders or high priests are so situated that they cannot get word from the Prophet or the Twelve Apostles, they may get a revelation concerning themselves. The Twelve may get a revelation in any part of the world concerning the building up of the kingdom, as they have to establish it in all parts of the world; so any person can ask the Lord for a witness concerning himself, and get an answer; but not to lead the church: that belongs to the head of the church.

— 27 (Sunday).—Attended conference. The Twelve continued to occupy the time in preaching, morning, afternoon and evening. We blessed several children and administered to the sick. My health was feeble, never having wholly recovered from my last winter's illness.

— 28.—I attended a council of the Twelve this morning in relation to our future movements.

— 29.—Went to the Arlington House, Long Island, in company with br. L. R. Foster, and had a pleasant visit with General James Arlington Bennett and family, with whom I staid all night.

— 30.—Rode with General Bennett and br. Foster to Coney Island, where we bathed in the Atlantic; he requested me to baptize him, which I did, and we confirmed him and returned to his house, where we remained over night and spent a pleasant time.

Sept. 4.—Accompanied by H. C. Kimball, Orson Pratt, Geo. A. Smith and John E. Page, we crossed the Sound from New York to Providence, Rhode Island; from thence to Boston, where we arrived on the 5th and called on Mr. Tewkesbury, 82 Commercial street, who directed us to br. Dudley's; sister Dudley received us kindly. The brethren were distributed among the Saints in Boston.

— 6.—Elder Kimball and I went through Salem to Marble Head and heard br. P. P. Pratt preach in the evening.

— 7.—We returned to Salem and staid all night.

— 8.—Returned to Boston.

— 9, 10 and 11.—Attended conference at Boylston Hall, Boston; there were eight of our quorum present. Elders and members were present from most of the branches in New England; many of the citizens also attended, some of whom were very rude and unmannerly in their behavior; it was evident that either their parents had not taught them good manners or they had made bad use of their early education. I gave them several sharp reproofs for their meanness and unbecoming conduct, which I accompanied by lessons of instruction which, if heeded, would have a tendency to improve their manners materially, but I must say that I never saw more of a spirit of rowdiness manifest in any congregation where I ever preached, than was manifested in the good Christian city of Boston. I visited Lowell and instructed the Saints.

I counselled Elder Addison Pratt to engage passages for himself, Elders Noah Rogers, Knowlton F. Hanks and B. F. Grouard, to the Pacific Islands, although they had not means wherewith to pay for them.

— 20.—At the request and expense of Elder L. R. Foster, I visited Mr. O. S. Fowler, the phrenologist, at Marlborough Chapel, with Elders Kimball, Woodruff and G. A. Smith. He examined our heads and gave us charts. After giving me a very good chart for \$1, I will give him a chart gratis. My opinion of him is, that he is just as nigh being an idiot as a man can be, and have any sense left to pass through the world decently, and it appeared to me that the cause of his success was the amount of impudence and self importance he possessed and the high opinion he entertained of his own abilities.

— 22.—I visited the harbor of Boston, the State House, the Charleston navy yard, the U. S. steam ship of war "Mississippi," the "Ohio" and "Franklin" 74 gun ships, the sloop of war "Boston" lying in the dry docks, the frigates "Potomac" and "Cumberland," and also visited the "Virginia" and the "Vermont," the largest class of ships in the U. S. navy, which had been lying unfinished on the stocks since the war of 1812, enclosed in ship houses; the Bunker Hill monument on Breed's Hill, the U. S. rope walk, and passed through the State Prison at Charleston. In the evening we preached in the Boylston Hall.

I also visited Lyne, Salem, and Marble Head. I counselled br. Philip B. Lewis, of New Bedford, to supply the brethren going to the islands with what money they were deficient of to pay their passages. He expressed an anxiety to go along with the mission; I told him he would have the privilege of going on a mission to the islands at some future time.

— 29.—I left Boston for New York. Br. Woodruff and I staid at br. L. R. Foster's on the 30th.

Oct. 1.—Proceeded to Philadelphia and attended meeting in the evening.

— 3.—In company with Elders Kimball, Hyde, Woodruff, G. A. Smith and J. M. Grant visited the Saints in Philadelphia; dined at br. J. B. Nicolson's, and in the evening partook of an oyster supper at Mr. Jeffrey's, who undertook to get us drunk, but only succeeded in intoxicating himself. We consecrated several bottles of oil.

— 4.—We left Philadelphia for Nauvoo by way of Pittsburgh, by canal and railway. While on the canal boat, which was crowded with well behaved passengers, I was attacked by a Campbellite preacher, who was very anxious for a debate, and at the request of the passengers, I delivered an address on the principles of our religion, which was very satisfactory to them, but discomfited the Campbellite preacher so much that he would not reply.

In the evening a gang of about a dozen Baptist ministers came on board, returning to Pittsburgh from a conference. The Campbellite preacher told them there were Mormons on board; they immediately surrounded br. Geo. A. Smith and challenged him to debate, which he declined on the ground that it was not a proper place to discuss on religious subjects. They accused him of pretending to have the truth and not being willing to preach it to them. He proposed to preach in their churches in Pittsburg any time they would open them; to which they would not consent. He then told them he considered that they not only refused to hear the truth themselves, but shut

the gate against their congregations, like the Scribes and Pharisees in the days of Jesus. They commenced a tirade of abuse against him, half a dozen talking at once and making use of every foul epithet their clerical learning had put them in possession of, and so crowded round him that he was prevented from going to supper, having taken theirs before coming on board.

After supper, br. Kimball went to George A's assistance, and told them that he had been a Baptist himself three weeks, but when he was a Baptist, Baptist ministers were gentlemen. Br. Kimball made several quotations knowing they were not from the Scriptures. The ministers would frequently interrupt him and say "that quotation is not in the Bible." Br. Kimball frequently turned to br. George A. and said will you find that passage. He opened his Bible as if to search, when the ministers all remembered the passages.

I came up and enquired what was the meaning of this loud talk? The ministers answered that they had challenged the Mormons to debate, but they would not debate with them; they understood there had been gambling on the boat and they wished to banish such wickedness. I told them if there had been gambling, the gamblers had minded their own business and behaved like gentlemen, for there had been no disorder on board since starting from Philadelphia except what was made by a tip-o-tail of a Campbellite minister, and if they pretended to be ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, their conduct belied their profession, for they had abused Elder Smith ridiculously for an hour, and prevented him from getting his supper by blocking up the door, while he had submitted to their abuse with commendable patience; upon which the passengers told the captain if he did not stop that gang of Baptist preachers from insulting the Mormon Elders, who had shown themselves gentlemen all the way, they would put them in the canal: the captain then dispersed them.

We arrived at Pittsburgh on the 8th at ten a.m., and at eleven, shipped on board the "Rariton" for St. Louis; we found br. Bradford W. Elliott and two sisters on board.

We arrived at Cincinnati on the 12th. The river being low, the boat lay on sand bars some time. Sister Cobb who accompanied us from Boston had a child very sick, which died in Cincinnati; she had it put in a tin coffin and took it with her. We were transferred to the steamer Nautilus, which left on the 14th and reached St. Louis on the 19th, where we re-shipped for Nauvoo and arrived on the 22d, and went into council with Joseph, Hyrum and others, when ordinances were administered to William Marks and wife.

— 23.—With Elder H. C. Kimball and Geo. A. Smith I visited the Prophet Joseph, who was glad to see us; we paid him every cent of the means we had collected for the Temple and Nauvoo House. He taught us many principles illustrating the doctrine of celestial marriage, concerning which God had given him a revelation, July 12th.

— 29.—I attended meeting and taught the Saints.

November 2.—I attended council with Presidents Joseph and Hyrum and the Twelve. We wrote a short epistle to the Elders and branches abroad, and asked the Elders to use their influence to circulate our publications.

— 7.—Met in council with the Twelve when Elders P. P. Pratt, W. Woodruff, John Taylor and myself were chosen a committee to raise \$500 to procure paper on which to print another edition of the Doctrine and Covenants.

— 21.—Met in council with the Twelve.

— 25.—Attended council with Joseph, the Twelve Apostles and the high council; we wrote a letter to John E. Page, directing him to go to Washington.

Sunday 26.—Met in council with Joseph, Hyrum, the Twelve and Col. Frierson in relation to getting up a memorial to Congress for redress of grievances. The testimony before the municipal Court of July last was read.

— 27.—I attended prayer meeting in the evening at Prest. Joseph Smith's. Bishop N. K. Whitney and wife were anointed.

— 29.—Four p.m., I was appointed chairman at a meeting of the citizens in the Assembly Room for the purpose of petitioning Congress for redress of grievances. I selected committees to get the names of memorialists in Nauvoo, La Harpe, Ramus and other places. President Joseph Smith made a few remarks, and br. Phelps read General Joseph Smith's appeal to the Green Mountain Boys.

December 2.—Met in the Assembly Room with Joseph, Hyrum and the Twelve, when