

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NUMBER 7.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1856.

VOLUME VI.

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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

FEBRUARY, 1843.

Feb.—Thursday, 2.—Spent the day at home; the weather extremely cold.

Towards evening I rode on to the hill to inquire about the caucus which was there held the previous evening, Davidson Hibbard presiding; and br. Benjamin L. Clapp, chief speaker, reporting that Joseph and Hyrum had attempted to take away the rights of the citizens, referring to the election of the last city council. I corrected the error and returned home.

"The Spirit maketh intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered." It would be better thus, "The Spirit maketh intercession for us with striving which cannot be expressed."

Friday, 3.—This morning read German; at 11 walked out in the city, returned at a 1/4 past 12; read proof Doctrine and Covenants, which is now being stereotyped.

Br. John Mayberry sent me a cow to assist in bearing my expenses to Springfield.

Saturday, 4.—At home till one o'clock in the afternoon, when I attended the general city election caucus at the Temple, where all things were amicably settled and mutual good feelings restored to all parties. Br. Clapp made a public confession for the speech which he made at a former caucus.

I returned home about 4 o'clock and was visited by Amasa Lyman. I told him that I had restored Orson Pratt to his former standing in the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and that I had concluded to make br. Amasa a counselor to the First Presidency.

In the evening presided in the municipal court.

Sunday, 5.—At home reading German.

Monday, 6.—Spent the forenoon at the election of mayor, aldermen and councilors for the city, to serve during the next two years, at br. Hyrum Smith's office. Dined at home. One o'clock, afternoon, Thomas Moore came in and inquired about a home. I blessed him, and said God bless you for ever and ever, may the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob rest upon you for ever and ever, and may you sit on thrones high and lifted up, in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

When I returned to the election, Joseph Smith was elected mayor by unanimous vote. Orson Spencer, Daniel H. Wells, George A. Smith and Stephen Markham were elected aldermen. Hyrum Smith, John Taylor, Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, Sylvester Emmons, Heber C. Kimball, Benjamin Warrington, Daniel Spencer and Brigham Young were elected councilors.

Tuesday, 7.—This forenoon attended a council of the Twelve Apostles, at the house of President Brigham Young. This afternoon I sent a search warrant to Hiram Kimball's for the purpose of obtaining a book of patriarchal blessings given by Father Joseph Smith, which was stolen from Far West. The warrant was issued on the affidavit of Jonathan H. Holmes and the book obtained. In the evening Hiram Kimball came to my house for an explanation, and I informed him that the book was the property of the church, that it had been stolen, and after passing through various hands, had been secured by Oliver Granger while acting as agent for the church at Kirtland, and should have been given up by him. I have since been informed that sister Sarah, Hiram Kimball's wife, had procured the book of her brother, son of Oliver Granger, for the purpose of returning it to the church, but being under a pledge to her brother not to give up the book until he had seen her again, she had neglected to mention it to me.

Elder Parley P. Pratt arrived home from England this evening.

Wednesday, 8.—This morning I read German, and visited with a brother and sister from Michigan, who thought that "a prophet is always a prophet," but I told them that a prophet was a prophet only when he was acting as such. After dinner br. Parley P. Pratt came in; we had conversation on various subjects. At 4 in the afternoon I went out with my little Frederick to exercise myself by sliding on the ice.

The public papers say that Point Petre in Guadeloupe, was totally destroyed, and 10,000 persons supposed to have been killed, by an earthquake.

Thursday, 9.—Part of the forenoon I spent at the Masonic Hall, conversing with Mr. Rennie of Keokuk, and trying to effect a settlement with him. He promised to let me have some notes on a paper maker in Louisville towards paying me, and then went off contrary to promise. I also had conversation with Master Nye and read several letters, one from Judge Young, and directed the following in reply:—

"Hon. R. M. Young, City of Washington:

Dear Sir:—I have this day received your favor of the 17th ult., covering one from John C. Walsh, and barely state in this that I shall dispatch a messenger immediately to Quincy to deposit the \$500 in the hands of General Leach, according to your instructions; but seeing that I had little time to lose, I concluded to send this by the first mail to inform you of my intentions. My next, in which I shall enclose General Leach's receipt, together with my obligations, will be mailed at Quincy, and may be expected three days after you receive this.

I shall not be able to obtain George Miller's name as security, he being at this time several hundred miles north of Nauvoo, and is not expected back until spring. I can, however, obtain the signature of Mr. Edward Hunter, late from Chester county, Pennsylvania, who owns about twenty thousand dollars worth of property in this vicinity, and probably as much more in the east, which I presume will be entirely satisfactory to Mr. Walsh, instead of Mr. Miller. Judge Higbee's name will be on the obligations.

When you receive this, you may expect the other three days later. All the difference will be the time required to go from here to Quincy and do the business.

Some time ago a petition signed by the principal inhabitants of this city, praying the postmaster general to remove the present Nauvoo postmaster, and appoint another in his stead, was put into the hands of C. A. Warren, Esq., of Quincy, with a request that he would hand it to you about the time you left for Washington. We have not yet heard anything whether Mr. Warren handed it to you or neglected to do so, but we feel extremely anxious to learn something on the subject as the citizens generally are suffering severely from the impositions and dishonest conduct of the postmaster and those connected with the post office in this city. The petition was accompanied by some affidavits proving that letters had frequently been broken open, money detained, and letters charged twice over, &c., &c., at this office, the repeated occurrence of which circumstances caused the people to be anxious for an immediate change. It will be seen by the petition that I was nominated for the office. I can only say that if I receive the appointment, I shall do my utmost to give general satisfaction. Whoever may be appointed, it is necessary in my estimation to have it done as soon as circumstances will possibly admit.

Accept, sir, of my sincere acknowledgments for past favors, which are not forgotten, and accept of the best wishes and sincere thanks of yours, respectfully.

JOSEPH SMITH,

By WM. CLAYTON, h's agent."

Spent most of the day in conversation with Parley P. Pratt and others.

There are two kinds of beings in heaven, viz: angels who are resurrected personages, having bodies of flesh and bones; for instance, Jesus said, "Handle me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." 2nd. The spirits of just men made perfect; they who are not resurrected, but inherit the same glory. When a messenger comes, saying he has a message from God, offer him your hand, and request him to shake hands with you. If he be an angel, he will do so, and you will feel his hand. If he be the spirit of a just man made perfect, he will come in his glory, for that is the only way he can appear. Ask him to shake hands with you, but he will not move, because it is contrary to the order of heaven for a just man to deceive, but he will still deliver his message. If it be the devil as an angel of light, when you ask him to shake hands, he will offer you his hand, and you will not feel anything; you may therefore detect him. These are three grand keys whereby you may know whether any administration is from God.

A man came to me in Kirtland and told me he had seen an angel, and described his dress. I told him he had seen no angel and that there was no such dress in heaven. He grew mad and went into the street, and commanded fire to come down out of heaven to consume me. I laughed at him and said, you are one of Baul's prophets; your God does not hear you, jump up and cut yourself; and he commanded fire from heaven to consume my house.

When I was preaching in Philadelphia, a Quaker called out for a sign. I told him to be still. After sermon he again asked for a sign. I told the congregation the man was an adulterer, that a wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, and that the Lord had said to me, in a revelation, that any man who wanted a sign was an adulterous person. "It is true," cried one, "for I caught him in the very act," which the man afterwards confessed when he was baptized.

A conference was held at Boylston Hall, Boston, where fourteen branches of the church in Boston and the vicinity were represented, comprising 793 members, 33 elders, 43 lesser officers, most of whom had been raised up in about fifteen months. Elders G. J. Adams, E. P. Maginn, Erastus Snow, Erastus H. Derby, and others took active parts in the conference.

Friday, 10.—After conversation with Mr. John B. Cowan and others, I reviewed the history of the mob in Hiram, Portage county, Ohio, on the 25th of March, 1832, and my first journey to Missouri. At 3 o'clock afternoon attended a council of the Twelve Apostles at my house, viz:—Brigham Young, H. C. Kimball, O. Hyde, P. P. Pratt, O. Pratt, W. Woodruff, J. Taylor, Geo. A. Smith and W. Richards. I requested that all business be presented briefly and without comments, and told the council that I had an interview with Mr. Cowan this morning, that he was delegated by the inhabitants of Shokokuon (which is twenty miles above this on the river) to come to Nauvoo and petition that "a talented Mormon preacher take up his residence with them, and they would find him a good house and give him support, with liberty for him to invite as many Mormons to settle in that place as may please so to do." Council decided that br. John Bear go and preach to them.

I suggested that a general meeting be called in the city in relation to the post office and other things; and instructed the council to call Elder Geo. J. Adams to Nauvoo with his family, and to say that he is ordered to come by the First Presidency and that he preach no more till he comes.

At 5 o'clock I opened a mayor's court at my house, when John D. Parker, deputy sheriff, presented Oliver Olney before the court for stealing goods from the store of Moses Smith, on the 23rd of January; when Olney declared before the court that he had been visited many times by the Ancient of Days; that he sat with him on the 9th, 10th and 11th of last June, and should sit in council again with him on Tuesday next; that he had had a mission from him to the four quarters of the world; that he had been and established the twelve stakes of Zion, and had visited them all except one in the south; that he had suffered much for two or three years for want of clothing; that he despised a thief except to clothe himself, that he opened the store of Moses Smith on the 23rd of January, and took out the goods then present, (several hundred pieces) hid them in the corn field, and carried them home from time to time, under the same roof with Mr. Smith, and that no one knew anything about the robbery but himself.

Olney was once a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but had been cut off a considerable time previous. He declared that the church never taught him to steal; and I have written his voluntary confession here that others may take warning and behave themselves in such a manner that they shall not be cut off the church, for if they are, the Spirit of the living God will depart from them, and they may be left to a worse spirit of delusion and wickedness than even Oliver Olney, who never saw the Ancient of Days, nor anything like him. But on the testimony presented, I bound him over to the next circuit court for trial, in the sum of five thousand dollars, and for want of bail, he was committed to Carthage jail.

Saturday, 11.—This day had an interview with Elder Rigdon and his family. They expressed a willingness to be saved. Good feelings prevailed, and we again shook hands together.

At ten o'clock attended the city council. I prophesied to James Sloan, city recorder, that it would be better for him ten years hence not to say anything more about fees; and addressed the new council, urging the necessity of their acting upon the principle of liberality, and of relieving the city from all unnecessary expenses and burdens, and not attempt to improve the city, but enact such ordinances as would promote peace and good order, and the people would improve the city. Capitalists would come in from all quarters and build mills, factories and machinery of all kinds; new buildings would arise on every hand, and Nauvoo would become a great city. I prophesied that if the council would be liberal in their proceedings they would become rich, and spoke against the principle of pay for every little service rendered, and especially of committees having extra pay for their services; reproved the judges of the late election for not holding the polls open after six o'clock, when there were many wishing to vote.

Dr. Robert D. Foster took an active part in electioneering for the opposition ticket, and obstructing the passage to the polls. The council elected James Sloan, city recorder, Henry G. Sherwood, marshal; William Clayton, treasurer; approved W. W. Phelps as mayor's clerk; Dimick B. Huntington, William D. Huntington, Lewis Robison and John D. Parker, constables; Alanson Ripley, surveyor; James Alfred, supervisor of streets; Dimick B. Huntington, coroner; James Sloan, notary public; Theodore Turley, weigher and sealer; H. G. Sherwood, market master; W. W. Phelps, fire warden; Sidney Rigdon, city attorney; and Samuel Bennett, market inspector for the city.

A board of health was established, to consist of Joseph Smith, William Law, William Marks and Samuel Bennett.

The council resolved that a market be established in the city. It was proposed to build two markets, but I told the council that if we began too large, we should do nothing; we had better build a small one at once, to be holden by the corporation, and if that would support itself, we could go on to build another on a larger scale. That the council should hold an influence over the prices of markets, so that the poor should not be oppressed, and that the mechanic should not oppress the farmer; that the upper part of

the town had no right to rival those on the river. Here on the bank of the river was where we first pitched our tents; here was where the first sickness and deaths occurred; here has been the greatest suffering in the city; we have been the making of the upper part of the town, we have located the Temple on the hill and they ought to be satisfied. We began here first, and let the market go out from this part of the city; let the upper part of the town be marketed by wagons until they can build a market, and let the first market be established on the rising ground on Main street, about a quarter of a mile north of the river. Council continued through the day.

Mother came to my house to live.

Elders Young and Richards wrote George J. Adams, notifying him to come to Nauvoo, according to the decision of council, and answer to charges of adultery which had been preferred against him before the First Presidency.

FIRES IN SEPTEMBER—THE LOSSES.—The New York Journal of Commerce says, during the month of September there were fifteen fires in the United States, where the loss of property, in each instance, was equal to \$10,000; and the aggregate loss resulting, amounts to \$480,000. More than half of these fires were occasioned by the burning of manufacturing establishments, and of twenty-five fires in the previous month, thirteen originated from property of the same character. The most destructive fires in September were at Carbondale, Pa., Fort Smith, Ark., and Flint, Mich. The monthly losses by fire since January 1st, are as follows:

	No. of Fires.	
January, 1855,	40	\$1,425,000
February,	31	949,000
March,	42	1,608,000
April,	27	1,200,000
May,	29	1,266,000
June,	32	1,291,000
July,	20	1,050,000
August,	25	694,000
September,	15	450,000
Total for 9 months		\$9,863,000

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN RUSSIA.—No associations for religious purposes are tolerated in Russia; no printing presses are permitted to print the Bible in the vernacular tongue of the people; no versions of scripture in the only language the masses can understand are permitted to cross the frontier. It is stated that there has not been a copy of the Bible in Russia printed in that country since 1823. Colporteurs, bible agents, tract distributors, find as little favor with the bigoted Czar as so many Red Republicans. Even to the two millions of Jews concentrated in his empire, not a copy of the Old Testament in their native Hebrew is permitted. No christian missions to the most barbarous and distant tribes under his sway are tolerated. The inoffensive and pious Moravians, permitted to pursue their charitable work everywhere else, have been driven from their labors in Russia.—[Missionary Register.]

TURKISH DOCTORS.—What a frightful revolution it would cause in America if the Turkish law were put in force with us. Nobody would be able to hear himself speak for the unceasing ringing of bells in the streets. The medical profession is subject to a singular responsibility in Turkey. When one of its followers—from ignorance—causes the death of a patient, he is compelled to carry a wooden frame round his neck, hung with bells—he appears a sort of perambulating mosque. In this state he is paraded round the town, and every time he asks remission to rest himself he has to pay a sum of money. The ringing of the bells gives notice to the passers-by how important it is to remember the features of the criminal, lest they should confide their existence to a man who would inevitably shorten it.—[Ex.]

Upon the 9th (of Jan.) the coldest day of this "cold term," the thermometer at 7 o'clock, in the morning, at Philadelphia, stood at 24 degrees below zero. At Baltimore, at the same hour, 8 deg. above zero; at Pittsburg, 12 deg. below zero; at Buffalo, 4 deg. below zero; at Cleveland, 17 to 18 deg. below zero; at Marietta, (O.) 11 deg. below zero; at Springfield, (Mass.) 14 deg. below zero; at Hartford, (Conn.) 21 deg. below zero; at Boston, 3 deg. below zero. The great fall of snow and the terrible cold accompanying it have detained the mails and travel generally throughout the country, at the South as well as the North, the storm South being a deluge of rain instead of snow.—[Ex.]

A LESSON FOR THE GIRLS.—My pretty little dears: You are no more fit for matrimony than a pullet is to look after a family of fourteen chickens. The truth is, my dear girls, you want, generally speaking, more liberty and less fashionable restraint, more kitchen and less parlor; more leg exercise and less mock modesty, more breakfast and less bustle. I like the luxuriant, bright-eyed, rosy checked, full-breasted, bouncing lass, who can darn stockings, make her own frocks, mend trousers, command a regiment of pots and kettles, milk the cows, feed the pigs, chop the wood, and shoot a wild duck as well as the Duchers of Marlborough or the Queen of Spain—and be a lady whilst in the drawing-room.—[Mrs. Ellis]

Do not utter velvety words if thou intendest to accomplish story deeds

Happiness can be made quite as well of cheap materials as dear ones.