

THE DESERET NEWS.

Truth and Liberty.

VOL. V.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1855.

NO. 14.

DESERET NEWS:

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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

OCTOBER, 1841.

Extract of a letter from Parley P. Pratt:—"Manchester, England. On the 20th of September, the ship 'Tyrean' sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans, under a charter of the Latter Day Saints: she had upwards of two hundred Saints on board, with Elder Joseph Fielding at their head. By chartering we saved the company at least 500 or 600 dollars. The splendid new ship 'Chaos,' 1200 tons burthen, will sail on the 5th of November, under our charter. She will have from one to two hundred Saints on board, with Patriarch Peter Melling at their head.

The Saints in this country are generally rejoicing, and filled with the testimony of Jesus. Great zeal is manifested by the officers in general, of whom there are probably more than a thousand. We are increasing in numbers, and in gifts and blessings. New branches of the Church are rising in many places, and great additions made to the old ones. Manchester and vicinity has poured forth a stream of emigration for the last eighteen months, and still we numbered at our conference, two weeks ago, near sixteen hundred members, and between one and two hundred officers; all these within one hour's journey of Manchester.

There has been a general time of pruning; we have cut off upwards of one hundred members from this conference in a few months; this causes the young and tender branches to grow with double vigor."

Thursday, 28.—Copy of a letter of attorney from Joseph Smith, "Sole Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" to Reuben McBride, of Kirtland, Ohio.

"Know all men by these presents that I, Joseph Smith, of Nauvoo, Hancock county, and State of Illinois, "Sole Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," have made, constituted and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute, and appoint, Reuben McBride, of Kirtland, Lake County, and State of Ohio, my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name, and for my use as "Sole Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" to ask, demand, sue for, recover and receive all such sum or sums of money, debts, goods, wares, and other demands which are or shall be due, owing, payable, or belonging to me, as Trustee in Trust as aforesaid, by any manner or means whatsoever; also, to dispose of in my name, to grant, bargain, sell, release, and confirm all or any part of my real estate as trustee in trust as aforesaid, in and about Kirtland, Lake County, and State of Ohio, and throughout any of the northern and eastern states, and to receive all such sum or sums of money accruing therefrom, for me and for my use as sole Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and to take up the power of attorney which I gave to Oliver Granger, and all the papers and obligations of every description specified therein, or in his possession by virtue thereof, and to settle the same in my name, for me and for my use as above described; and I, as Trustee in Trust as aforesaid, hereby give and grant unto the said Reuben McBride, my attorney, full power and authority in and about the premises, to have, use, and take all lawful ways and means in my name for the purposes aforesaid, and upon the receipt of any such debts, dues, or sums of money (as the case may be), acquittances, or other sufficient discharges, for me and in my name as aforesaid trustee, to make and give, and generally to do all other acts and things in the law whatsoever, needful and necessary to be done, in the before mentioned places, for me and in my name as aforesaid trustee, to do, execute, and perform, as fully and to all intents and purposes, as I might or could do, if personally present. Hereby ratifying all and whatsoever my said attorney shall, in the places above specified, by virtue hereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28th day of October, 1841.

JOSEPH SMITH (L.S.)"

Witness—John Taylor, John S. Fullmer.

Friday, 29.—Those of the Twelve Apostles who were in Nauvoo, met in council.

Saturday, 30.—I attended the City Council, and spoke against the council remitting a fine assessed against John Eagle by a jury of twelve men, considering that the jury might be as sensible

men as any of the city council, and I asked the council not to remit the fine.

Lyman Wight, Willard Richards, and Wilford Woodruff were elected councilors, and Hiram Kimball and George W. Harris, aldermen.

In obedience to an order from the mayor, I called out two companies of the Nauvoo Legion, and removed a grog shop kept by Pulaski S. Cahoon, which had been declared a nuisance by the city council.

The grand armory in the Tower of London destroyed by fire, and amongst the military trophies, 300,000 stand of arms.

Sunday, 31.—I was in council with the brethren at brother Hyrum's Office.

Attended a council with the Twelve Apostles. Benjamin Winchester being present complained that he had been neglected and misrepresented by the elders, and manifested a contentious spirit. I gave him a severe reproof, telling him of his folly and vanity, and showing him that the principles which he suffered to control him would lead him to destruction. I counseled him to change his course, govern his disposition, and quit his tale-bearing and slandering his brethren.

I instructed the council on many principles pertaining to the gathering of the nations, the wickedness and downfall of this generation, &c.

After having received the following minutes:—

"A conference was held at Kirtland, Ohio, Oct. 2, 1841. Almon W. Babbitt, president, and William W. Phelps, clerk. Resolved that Thomas Burdick, bishop of Kirtland, and his counselors, be constituted a company to establish a press in Kirtland, and publish a religious paper, entitled 'The Olive Leaf,' and that the Saints adjacent be solicited to carry the above resolution into effect"—my brother Hyrum wrote to the brethren in Kirtland, of which the following is an extract:—

"All the Saints that dwell in that land are commanded to come away, for this is 'Thus saith the Lord;' therefore pay out no monies, nor properties for houses, nor lands in that country, for if you do you will lose them, for the time shall come, that you shall not possess them in peace, but shall be scourged with a sore scourge; yet your children may possess them, but not until many years shall pass away; and as to the organization of that branch of the Church, it is not according to the spirit and will of God; and as to the designs of the leading members of that branch relative to the printing press, and the ordaining of elders, and sending out elders to beg for the poor, are not according to the will of God; and in these things they shall not prosper, for they have neglected the House of the Lord, the baptismal font, in this place, wherein their dead may be redeemed, and the key of knowledge that unfolds the dispensation of the fulness of times may be turned, and the mysteries of God be unfolded, upon which their salvation, and the salvation of the world, and the redemption of their dead depends, for 'thus saith the Lord,' 'there shall not be a general assembly for a general conference assembled together until the House of the Lord shall be finished, and the baptismal font, and if we are not diligent the church shall be rejected, and their dead also, saith the Lord,' therefore, dear brethren, any proceedings otherwise than to put forth their hands with their might to do this work, is not according to the will of God, and shall not prosper; therefore, tarry not in any place whatever, but come forth unto this place from all the world, until it is filled up, and polished, and sanctified according to my word, saith the Lord, come ye forth from the ends of the earth, that I may hide you from mine indignation that shall scourge the wicked, and then I will send forth and build up Kirtland, and it shall be polished and refined according to my word; therefore, your doings and your organizations and designs in printing, or any of your councils, are not of me, saith the Lord, even so. Amen.

HYRUM SMITH.

Patriarch for the whole Church."

Monday, November 1.—I attended the city council, spoke and acted on many local matters, and contended at great length against paying the owner of a city nuisance, damages sustained by the removal of that nuisance.

Sidney Rigdon resigned his seat in the city council, on account of ill health.

Tuesday, 2.—I executed the following letters:—

"Know all men by these presents, that whereas I, Joseph Smith, of Hancock county, and State of Illinois, in and by my letter of attorney, did make and constitute, and appoint Almon W. Babbitt, of same place, my attorney, in my name and for my use, to recover and receive all debts and sums of money whatsoever due to me in and about Kirtland and elsewhere; and to bargain, sell, confirm, lease and release all my real estate in and about Kirtland, in the State of Ohio, as by the said letter may appear. Now, know ye that I, Joseph Smith, have revoked, countermanded, annulled and made void, and by these presents do revoke, countermand, annul and make void, the said letter of attorney, and all power and authority thereby given, or intended to be given to the said Almon W. Babbitt. In witness my hand and seal this second day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one.

JOSEPH SMITH (L.S.)

And further know ye that I, the said Joseph Smith do by these presents, make, constitute, and appoint Reuben McBride, of Kirtland, and State

of Ohio, my true and lawful attorney, in the place of Almon W. Babbitt superseded, for me and in my name, and for my use, to ask, demand, sue for, recover, and receive all such sum or sums of money, debts, goods, wares, and other demands whatsoever, and to bargain, sell, convey and confirm, lease and release any part or all of my real estate in and about Kirtland or elsewhere, within the State of Ohio, giving and granting unto my said attorney by these presents full power and authority in and about the premises, to have, use, and take all lawful means, in my name, for the purposes aforesaid, and upon the receipt of any such debts, dues, or sums of money (as the case may be), acquittances, or other sufficient discharges, for me, and in my name, to make and give. And generally to do all other acts and things in the law whatsoever, needful and necessary to be done in and about the premises for me and in my name, to do, execute, and perform, as fully, and to all intents and purposes, as I might or could do, if personally present. Hereby ratifying and confirming all and whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do in and about the premises by virtue hereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this second day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one.

JOSEPH SMITH. (L.S.)

In presence of (Jno. S. Fullmer,

Wm. Backinstos.

Saturday, 6.—Wilford Woodruff took the oath as a councilor in the City Council.

Sunday, 7.—Elder William O. Clark preached about two hours, reproving the Saints for a lack of sanctity and a want of holy living, enjoining sanctity, solemnity, and temperance in the extreme, in the rigid sectarian style.

I reproved him as Pharisaical and hypocritical, and not edifying the people; and shewed the Saints what temperance, faith, virtue, charity and truth were. I charged the Saints not to follow the example of the adversary in accusing the brethren, and said, "If you do not accuse each other, God will not accuse you. If you have no accuser you will enter heaven, and if you will follow the revelations and instructions which God gives you through me, I will take you into heaven as my back load. If you will not accuse me, I will not accuse you. If you will throw a cloak of charity over my sins, I will over yours—for charity covereth a multitude of sins. What many people call sin is not sin; I do many things to break down superstition, and I will break it down." I referred to the curse of Ham for laughing at Noah, while in his wine, but doing no harm. Noah was a righteous man, and yet he drank wine and became intoxicated; the Lord did not forsake him in consequence thereof, for he retained all the power of his Priesthood, and when he was accused by Cainaan, he cursed him by the priesthood which he held, and the Lord had respect to his word, and the Priesthood which he held, notwithstanding he was drunk, and the curse remains upon the posterity of Cainaan until the present day.

In the p.m., I attended a council of the elders at my council room, relative to some affairs in which my brother William was interested.

Monday, 8.—At five o'clock, p.m., I attended the dedication of the baptismal font in the Lord's house. President Brigham Young was spokesman.

The baptismal font is situated in the centre of the basement room, under the main hall of the Temple; it is constructed of pine timber, and put together of staves tongued and grooved, oval shaped, sixteen feet long east and west, and twelve feet wide, seven feet high from the foundation, the basin four feet deep, the moulding of the cap and base are formed of beautiful carved work in antique style. The sides are finished with panel work. A flight of stairs in the north and south sides leading up and down into the basin, guarded by side railing.

The font stands upon twelve oxen, four on each side, and two at each end, their heads, shoulders and fore legs projecting out from under the font; they are carved out of pine plank glued together, and copied after the most beautiful five year old steer that could be found in the country, and they are an excellent striking likeness of the original; the horns were geometrically formed after the most perfect horn that could be procured.

The oxen and ornamental mouldings of the font were carved by Elder Elijah Fordham, from the city of New York, which occupied eight months of time. The font was enclosed by a temporary frame building sided up with split oak clapboards, with a roof of the same material, and was so low that the timbers of the first story were laid above it. The water was supplied from a well thirty feet deep in the east end of the basement.

This font was built for the baptisms for the dead until the temple shall be finished, when a more durable one will supply its place.

I received a letter from N. K. Whitney, stating that he had purchased \$5000 worth of goods for me; and that he should visit Kirtland before his return home.

Up to this period a series of storms and earthquakes have desolated parts of the two Sicilies and Calabria.

A second English edition of the Saint's Hymn Book issued by Elder Parley P. Pratt.

A great part of Vicksburgh, Mississippi, consumed by fire.

Saturday, 13.—I attended the City Council, and moved that the Mayor and Recorder of the City receive each one hundred dollars per annum for their services, which became a law.

I also presented a bill for "an Ordinance concerning vagrants and disorderly persons," which passed into an ordinance as follows: "Be it ordained by the City Council of the city of Nauvoo, that all vagrants, idle or disorderly persons; persons found drunk in or about the streets; all suspicious persons; persons who have no fixed place of residence, or visible means of support; or cannot give a good account of themselves; persons guilty of profane or indecent language or behavior; persons guilty of using indecent, impertinent, or unbecoming language towards any city officer when in the discharge of his duty, or of menacing, threatening, or otherwise obstructing said officer, shall on conviction thereof before the Mayor or Municipal Court, be required to enter into security for good behavior for a reasonable time; and indemnify the corporation against any charge, and in case of refusal or inability to give security, they shall be confined to labor for a time not exceeding ninety days, or be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not exceeding six months; or all, at the discretion of said Mayor or Court."

I also presented a bill for "an ordinance in relation to appeals," which passed unanimously.

I also argued before the Council the right of Taxation, but that the expenses of the city did not require it at present.

Sunday, 14.—I preached to a large congregation at the Temple.

Nine of the Twelve Apostles met in council, to prepare an Epistle to the Saints in Europe.

Forest fires in Texas.

The Austin State Gazette of the 10th April, says that for the three days previous, an immense conflagration was going on in the cedar forests in the neighborhood of Austin, and that property to the amount of many thousand dollars has been destroyed.

So great and extensive was this conflagration, that the whole horizon has been enveloped in smoke. It is a sad calamity, and many planters and others, who had large amount of rails ready to haul from the cedar brakes will have lost the whole amount of their labor, and must suffer great delay in making up their supply of rails in time to fence their fields for planting. The woods, which are very dry, were accidentally set on fire by the burning of a brush wood.

Mr. Campbell's sawmills and all the lumber on hand were consumed. The fences, out-houses of Mr. T. Stone, were burnt; also, one horse. Mr. Slaughter had a new wagon burnt; the team was saved with great difficulty. Capt. Grumbles lost five hundred cords of wood, twelve thousand rails, about forty head of cattle, and five or six horses. A. J. Hamilton, lost eight thousand rails. Some Mexicans living in the "brakes" lost everything, even to clothing. Between Bull and Burton's creeks, from fourteen to twenty thousand acres of first-rate cedar land were burnt over. The flames spread extremely rapidly, rising (says Capt. G.) three hundred feet above the earth. It was dangerous to be within a quarter of a mile of the fire. He and several others saved themselves by flight. Other casualties have doubtless happened. The fire is still raging. It occurred by accident.

ANONING WITH OIL.—Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, has been the means of bringing to light a curious corroboration of the sanitary value of the ancient practice of anointing with oil.—It appears that the learned professor, when visiting the manufacturing town of Galashiels, was casually informed that the workers in the wool mill in that place were exempt from the attacks of consumption and scrofula. On inquiring of the medical men in the vicinity the truth of the statement was confirmed, and it was then deemed expedient to pursue investigations on a broader scale. Communications were accordingly sent to physicians, residing in Dunfermline, Alloa, Tillicoultry, Inverness, and other districts, where wool mills are in operation; and in the case of all it was ascertained that similar immunity was enjoyed from the fatal diseases mentioned. It further appeared that in some of the localities scrofula had been added to the list; and also that employment in the mills not only preserved the health, but children of delicate constitutions were sent to the wool workers for the express purpose of acquiring strength, a result in almost every instance attained.

TERRIBLE HAIL STORM IN KENTUCKY.—The Louisville Journal thus describes a hail storm which occurred in that vicinity about 9 o'clock in the evening of March 16:—"It was, while it lasted, terrible, but beautiful to behold. For the space of near ten minutes it fell rattling, dancing, and pouring to the earth—and the streets were covered with it to the depth of half a foot. It beat a wild and rattling reveille upon the housetops and on the pave—and roared back its music to the roar of Heaven's artillery—while the red lightning blazed incessantly through the murky air. We venture to assert that the country has not been visited by so remarkable a phenomenon of nature for a score of years."