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 CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Monday, August 21, 1882.

JOSEPH SMITH, PRESIDENCY AND PLURAL MARRIAGE.

It is well known that Joseph Smith of Plano, Illinois, the leader of the sect commonly called Josephites, has endeavored and still endeavors to make it appear that the doctrine of celestial marriage, including a plurality of wives, was not taught or practiced by his father, Joseph Smith the Prophet, but is an invention of Brigham Young's. Yet positive proofs have been given to him, not only that his father proclaimed the fact that God revealed to him that doctrine, but that he married wives who are still living, testified to him of their marriage to his father. Of these things he cannot be in ignorance, therefore his attempts to deceive his followers and others in relation to them are despicable and hypocritical, and his open union with men who consented to the shedding of his father's blood, in order to assist in bringing trouble and destruction upon the people who show their faith in the Prophet's teachings by putting them into practice, classes him with his father's enemies, and the enemies of the truth revealed from heaven in the latter days.

We make these remarks to preface a communication on this subject from L. W. Porter, of Porterville, Morgan County, dated August 16, 1882, who in company with Elder John R. Stewart, had an interview with Isaac Sheen, which is related as follows:

"It was on the 14th day of April, 1882, that we arrived in Plano, Ill. Finding that the Smiths had not returned, (on account of the death of Joseph's wife) we then proceeded to St. Louis, Mo., where we inquired for the business manager of their printing establishment and were directed to Isaac Sheen. Finding him at home we introduced ourselves as being from Salt Lake, and that we were seeking after truth, and as we had heard different statements as to how young Joseph Smith died, we wished to know the truth. He would be glad to find some one that could give us a true statement of the facts. He said:

"I expect I know as much about it as any man in our church, as I was a member of the council and assisted in reorganizing the church. You see, after the church was broken up at Nauvoo, and scattered by our enemies, Brigham led a portion of the saints out to Salt Lake, and claimed to be the successor of Joseph the Martyr. But he had no authority, consequently the church was in a disorganized condition. Some four or five years after the church was broken up, old Father Marks, my father, came to Salt Lake, and came to the conclusion that the church ought to be reorganized, and in accordance with this view, a council was called, at which brother Marks was called to preside. After making a partial organization it was thought that young Joseph, being the son of the leadership of the reorganized church, as it was his right by lineage. A delegation was sent to Joseph, and invited him to attend a conference with us, so that we might ordain and set him apart to that office and calling, if he would accept. His answer was when the Lord wants anything of me, He will let me know as He did my father. He did not come to our meeting at that time. We, however, through urgent requests succeeded in getting him to attend one of our meetings. After some conversation in regard to the matter, he remarked that the Lord had not made it known to him that he was to take lead of the church. On being asked if the Lord would make manifest to him that he was willing to do the will of the Lord if he only knew what it was and would accept it if it was made known. Thereupon we fasted and prayed to the Lord, that He would make it manifest, and on the third day the will of the Lord was made manifest through Father Marks, to the conference, saying 'it is my will that the Lord that my servant Joseph, should be ordained and set apart to preside over my church' etc. etc. Bro. Joseph then stated if as Bro. Marks said, Bro. Joseph came forward, and Father Marks, assisted by two or three others ordained and set him apart to the Presidency, and he was upheld and sustained by vote of the conference.

This is the substance of the statement in regard to Joseph being called to preside, we then asked Father Sheen the following questions: Do the authorities of your Church believe that the Prophet Joseph Smith received the revelation on Celestial Marriage, or polygamy as it is called. He answered 'Yes, we do not believe it. We know he did and practiced it.' Why, said he, 'Bro. Marks living over there, (pointing across the block) sealed one of the first women to him that he ever had sealed to him. But said he: 'Joseph received the revelation from an angel of darkness, and was deceived, and by practicing it, he transgressed, and the Lord sealed him to be killed on account of his transgression.'

There are the exact words used by Father Sheen, as to what they know about the Prophet Joseph, and his connection with the revelation, Emma's last testimony, their publications, and positive assertions to the contrary, notwithstanding. I have conversed with several of their traveling Elders, and they invariably acknowledge that Bro. Sheen must have known where he spoke, as he knew as much about such matters as any man in their church, and could be relied upon. Now, after their publishing to the world and preaching to people as they have from the beginning of their organization as a church, that the Prophet Joseph received the revelation, and knowing as they did, and now, according to Father Sheen's statement, and other incontrovertible evidence, that he did receive the revelation, I would ask, does it not show the clearest foot of hypocrisy?

Again, when they assert that the Lord suffered him to be killed on account of transgression, it is simply saying justice was only done, (God always acting upon the principle of justice) thereby virtually condemning to the shedding of his blood.

If the Josephites, or anyone else wish to know the situation those that are in apostasy and join with the enemy, and cry transgression and every other thing against the Saints that they might bring them into bondage and death, let them read a prayer and prophecy written by Joseph the Prophet while in Liberty Jail, Clay County, Missouri, March 20th, 1839; it will be found on page 383, Sec. cxxii; also a revelation given in Kirtland, Ohio, November 27th, 1832, on page 275, Revised Edition Doctrine and Covenants. In fact they can find that God has pronounced particular judgments on that class from the days of Adam until the latest generation. And further, the claims that they set up for authority are so absurd and contradictory that it seems to me that a wayfaring man though a fool, need not be deceived thereby.

L. W. PORTER.
 The claim that the Church was disorganized because the Prophet Joseph, its President, was slain, is as absurd as the ordination of his son by men having not the slightest vestige of authority. Even supposing they retained their Priesthood after being cut off the Church—it is an impossibility—neither of them ever held the Apostleship and consequently could not confer it on another.

Every one who has read the order of the Priesthood in the Doctrine and Covenants with common understanding, can see that the Twelve Apostles are a traveling high council, a presiding quorum with power to set in order all the quorums of the Priesthood, their decisions as a quorum having equal authority with those of the quorum of the First Presidency. The Lord thus provided for the emergency likely to arise through the disorganization of the First Presidency, so that His word might be fulfilled, that His Church and Kingdom should not be prevailed against nor "given to another people," but that it might "stand for ever." The Quorum of the Twelve, of which Brigham Young was President, being appointed by revelation during the lifetime of the Prophet Joseph and sustained by the vote of the Church, naturally, by virtue of their calling, became the presiding quorum or council, and thus the Church continued unaffected, as an organization, by the death of Joseph Smith because it does not depend upon the life of any man. The same order was followed at the demise of President Brigham Young, and the Church has been established by the Almighty with a view to its perpetuity, being established on earth for the last time, to be thrown down no more for ever.

The statements of Mr. Sheen, although they convey nothing new, are here placed on record for the information of those who are unacquainted with the incidents relating to the organization of the bogus church popularly called The Josephites. And any child, familiar with the revelations on the organization and government of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, can see the fallacy of the claims set up for the Plano leader, who has "not come in at the gate" in the way appointed, but has "climbed up some other way," and is joined with the enemies of truth to fight against the work which his father lived and died to establish.

THE DISPATCH FIEND AGAIN.

The Salt Lake dispatch fiend is at it again. Here is what he has telegraphed to the coast papers: "Governor Murray to day received a certified copy of the law empowering him to appoint county officials in twenty-four counties and a territorial auditor and treasurer. The Mormon Church has signified its intention of fighting this law and disputing the right of the Governor."

This is the style in which Utah news (?) is frequently made up for the deception of the public. Two points made in this dispatch—there are only two—are each of them untrue and purposely intended to mislead. The certified copy of the law does not specify any officials, county or otherwise, which the Governor is authorized to appoint. It makes no vacancies, but merely authorizes him to fill such vacancies as may have been caused by failure of the August election. If the failure of the election caused no vacancies he has no appointments to make. If the local laws already provide for a failure to elect, the law of Congress is superfluous. If there are any vacancies in consequence of the lapses of election, then the Governor is authorized to fill them and under only. The press dispatcher has undertaken to decide what offices are vacant and blundered in the effort, and has credited the law of Congress with his nonsense.

The "Mormon Church" has not signified its intention to do anything of the kind mentioned by the dispatch fiend, and he cannot point to an utterance of the Church of any kind on the subject. It is not a Church matter. If any dispute arises over the question of appointments, it will be one for the courts to settle, and the fight will not be with the "Mormon Church," but between the claimants and incumbents of the office in question.

Further, if any litigation should arise over this matter, the incumbents of the offices will not be fighting the law any more than the claimants. It is a willful falsehood to say that any one is fighting the law of Congress in relation to this dispute. It makes a provision which is construed by different persons in two different ways. Neither party can be justly charged with fighting a law whose provisions all are endeavoring to have carried out according to its letter and intent as they understand it. If men who are allowed to send messages for the press would relate the facts and leave out their own vain imaginations and absurd comments, the country would be better for it, and newspapers would not be so much under the odium of unreliability. And if the Salt Lake dispatch fiend would quit trying when he hears about tidings of Utah affairs, he might save himself considerable suffering in the great hereafter.

ONE-SIDED INFORMATION.

The Illinois editors who visited us recently seem to be delighted with Salt Lake and give descriptions of its appearance in language that looks as if it had flowed from one pair of lips. From their own acknowledgments it appears that they gained their information (?) about the "Mormons" from violent anti-"Mormons," which is an unreasonable but very common way with travelers. Some of them, no doubt, will think themselves capable, after spending forty-eight hours in Utah, of telling the whole world all about the "Mormon problem."

It is not remarkable that persons of reflection when seeking for knowledge concerning a peculiar people, their doctrines and doings, should eagerly receive the reports of avowed enemies to that people and their system, and take little or no pains to find out what they have to say for themselves. If you judge of Catholics by what some Catholics say of them, and of Catholics by what fanatical Protestant sectarians declare, you will gain but little authentic information concerning either. And if there is any fanatic in the world more one-sided and thoroughly unreliable than another it is a violent anti-"Mormon" when talking about his pet bugbear. He that judgeth a matter of a people from one-sided representations is exceedingly unwise.

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WIRELESS TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

LATEST DISPATCHES.

A Jealous Shooter.
 Chicago, 21.—A special from Warren, Kansas, dated August 20, 1882, says that James Bird, a jealous cooly, who had quarreled with his wife, yesterday sought her out at her sister's house at Gratiot, Wis., and after a few minutes' talk and feeling that if he could not live happily together they ought at least to be friends, he drew a revolver and shot her twice, inflicting possibly fatal injury. He then fled, and is being sought by the authorities. The doctors say he cannot recover.

Mysterious Triple Murder.
 A Mount Pleasant, Ill., special says: Charles McMahon, who lived five miles east of this city, and who had been missing three days, was discovered yesterday with two young men who had been working for him, all three blindfolded and their throats cut from ear to ear.

FOREIGN.

AN ENGLISH VICTORY.

The British fleet has defeated the Russian fleet in the Baltic.

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