

Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 17, 1870.

Mr. Editor:—Sir—I have been through years of experience in polygamy, and see fit to offer a few of my reflections on the culminations of the present.

"Comparisons are odious," so are many things that humanity is forced to witness in life's experience—offensive sights, grievous sensations and painful traditions, that oft-times bow the body to faintness and utter prostration.

Our Savior entered into the fullness of a comprehension of this when the pores of His person sweat blood; and veteran men and women of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints know something of it to-day, who witness the movements respecting this people.

Men, who have talent, energy and power to command wealth, respect and honor, in any civilized portion of the globe, were, years since, convinced that there was the whole, entire truth, elements of salvation, honor, riches, life immortal, increase and dominion without limit, in the gospel of Jesus Christ, secured to man by the atonement of His blood on Calvary, and have rent asunder and forsaken all the loved and the cherished, that would not follow them to the embrace of this gospel, and have traversed seas and lands to testify of its truth; given their means, wealth, and talent, like water poured upon the ground, to gather the down-trodden and oppressed, assuming cheerfully a perpetual "pocket tax" for the accomplishment of their emigration, an emigration that is considered a model by the parliament of England and sought to be copied after in America.

For this gospel, they have abnegated self, families, property, peaceful, beautiful homes, leisure, luxuries, the companions of the little-souled, one-horse arrangements of monogamy, and stood out men, daring "free-thinkers," and actors, too, believing, if God's first commandment, "to multiply and replenish the earth," applied to one woman, it did to all. Permeated with the spirit of the gospel, inspired of God, their whole natures were shocked with the realization of the associations of the men and women of the age. "How alter this," was an inquiry which sprung spontaneously from the hearts of thousands of Saints. Humbly they sought God's word and policy, as exemplified when men and women were guided by inspiration. Who in the illustrious lines of the past, shone brightly, in the favor of the Lord? Whom has God acknowledged? Who, according to Christains, not "Mormons," verdicts, are accounted worthy as a pattern, carefully gleaned from Adam through the world's examples? Abraham, Isaac and Jacob touched the spirits of these men. Abraham, in the past ages, made alive by the spiritual telegraphy in the touching and sublime account of Lazarus' resurrection; "Abraham's bosom," a place of rest for the righteous; Christ's mortal consanguinity, running back to Obed, coming through a polygamic lineage; the honor of God to Solomon, the last son of a noted polygamic family; the purity of the past, when men, women and children, who believed in polygamy, were compelled by law to stone a person to death for adultery, compared with the status of to-day, roused these veteran Latter-day Saints to action. Action in fervent prayer and faith, revelation came; plural marriage, an outburst from the heavens as God's policy wholly as a purifier, preserver of health and virtue, an extender of life, drying up the rottenness, fast changing the years of patriarchal life to a mere unit; emancipating humanity to an extent that only a question of how far rushing this fast age of ours would go in prostitution, infanticide etc., before man—God's son would be emasculated wholly. These men, acting on the highest and most holy examples, (not against any commandment of God) espoused polygamy as religion and a religious duty, experimenting practically where others blindly experimented philosophically. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Two hundred thousand people hissed and persecuted, planted in a desert, every provocative from poverty, every temptation from outside elements, offered to their wives and daughters! The world acknowledges them the most moral people on the civilized earth, freed from the deadly leprosy of the age. These veteran men obeyed God, faced a world of obloquy, sacrificed millions of money, gave up loved homes, fruitful farms, cities, towns, and a county in Illinois, pioneered a wilderness thirteen hundred miles, marking their entire journey with the burial of their loved and cherished, by hundreds, dying, daily. Memories tender and hallowed, of old States' homes and childhood's associations, giving heart-stabs to burdens almost unendurable. They settled in Autumn, in the Sahara of America. They present to the world to-day, Utah as she is,—made from the material she has been made of,—in a great degree from the poor employees of despotic lands, ignorant, (i. e.) measurably, the science of philosophy and infidelity of the age.

Yet it is claimed that "such men have got too old to guide, and must make room for new blood." Poor respect, poor morality, poor encouragement, for a life time of faithfulness!

Does Joseph Smith, or Heber C. Kimball give countenance to such notions? If so, keep us in this world as long as possible, that the next world may wait as long as possible before it has power to make me less in status a child of God than I am here.

Most respectfully &c.,
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