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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

AUGUST, 1842.

Aug.—Tuesday, 16.—Wrote as follows:—
“Nauvoo, August 16, 1842.

My dear Emma:—I embrace this opportunity to express to you some of my feelings this morning. First of all I take the liberty to tender you my sincere thanks for the two interesting and consoling visits that you have made me during my almost exiled situation. Tongue cannot express the gratitude of my heart, for the warm and true friendship you have manifested in these things toward me. The time has passed away since you left me very agreeably, thus far; my mind being perfectly reconciled to my fate, let it be what it may. I have been kept from melancholy and dumps, by the kind heartedness of brother Derby, and his interesting chit-chat from time to time, which has called my mind from the more strong contemplation of things and subjects, that would have preyed more earnestly upon my feelings.

Last night brother Hyrum, Miller, Law and others came to see us. They seemed much agitated and expressed some fears in consequence of some manœuvres and some flying reports which they had heard in relation to our safety; but after relating what it was, I was able to comprehend the whole matter to my entire satisfaction, and did not feel at all alarmed or uneasy. They think, however, that the militia will be called out to search the city, and if this should be the case, I would be much safer for the time being at a little distance off, until Governor Carlin could get weary, and be made ashamed of his corrupt and unhallowed proceedings. I had supposed, however, that if there were any serious operations taken by the governor, that Judge Ralston or brother Hollister would have notified us; and cannot believe that any thing very serious is to be apprehended, until we obtain information from a source that can be relied upon.

I have consulted whether it is best for you to go to Quincy and see the Governor; but on the whole, he is a fool; and the impressions that are suggested to my mind, are, that it will be of no use; and the more we notice him, and flatter him, the more eager he will be for our destruction. You may write to him, whatever you see proper, but to go and see him, I do not give my consent at present.

Brother Miller again suggested to me the propriety of my accompanying him to the Pine Woods, and then he return, and bring you and the children. My mind will eternally revolt at every suggestion of that kind, more especially since the dream and vision that was manifested to me on the last night. My safety is with you, if you want to have it so. Any thing more or less than this cometh of evil. My feelings and counsel I think ought to be abided. If I go to the Pine country, you shall go along with me, and the children; and if you and the children go not with me, I don't go. I do not wish to exile myself for the sake of my own life, I would rather fight it out. It is for your sakes therefore, that I would do such a thing: I will go with you then in the same carriage, and on horseback from time to time as occasion may require; for I am not willing to trust you in the hands of those who cannot feel the same interest for you that I feel; to be subject to the caprice, temptations or notions of anybody whatever. And I must say that I am prepossessed somewhat with the notion of going to the Pine country any how; for I am tired of the mean, low, and unhallowed vulgarity of some portions of the society in which we live; and I think if I could have a respite of about six months with my family, it would be a savor of life unto life, with my house. Nevertheless if it were possible I would like to live here in peace and wind up my business; but if it should be ascertained to a dead certainty that there is no other remedy, then we will round up our shoulders and cheerfully endure it; and this will be the plan. Let my horse, saddle, saddle bags, and valise to put some shirts and clothing in, be sent to me. Let brothers Derby and Miller take a horse and put it into my buggy, with a trunk containing my heavier clothes, shoes, boots, &c., and let brother Taylor accompany us to his Father's, and there we will tarry, taking every precaution to keep out of the hands of the enemy, until you can arrive with the children. Let brother Hyrum bring you. Let Lorin and brother Clayton come along and bring all the writings, and papers, books and histories, for we shall want a scribe in order that we may pour upon the world, the truth, like the lava from Mount Vesuvius. Then, let all the goods, household furniture, clothes, and store goods that can be procured be put on the boat, and let twenty or thirty of the best men that we can find be put on board to man it, and let them meet us at Prairie-du-Chien; and from thence we will wend our way like larks up the Mississippi, until the towering mountains and rocks, shall remind us of the places of our nativity, and shall look like safety and home; and then we will bid defiance to the world, to Carlin, Boggs, Bennett, and all their whorish whores and motly clan, that follow in their wake, Missouri not excepted, and until the damnation of hell rolls upon them, by the voice

and dread thunders and trump of the Eternal God, then in that day will we not shout in the victory? and be crowned with eternal joys, for the battles we have fought, having kept the faith and overcome the world.

Tell the children it is well with their father, as yet; and that he remains in fervent prayer to Almighty God for the safety of himself, and for you, and for them.

Tell mother Smith that it shall be well with her son, whether in life or in death, for thus saith the Lord God; tell her that I remember her all the while, as well as Lucy, and all the rest, they all must be of good cheer.

Tell Hyrum to be sure and not fail to carry out my instructions, but at the same time if the militia does not come, and we should get any favorable information all may be well yet.

Yours in haste, your affectionate husband until death, through all eternity, for evermore.

JOSEPH SMITH.

P.S.—I want you to write to Lorenzo D. Wason and get him to make affidavit to all he knows about Bennett and forward it. I also want you to ascertain from Hyrum whether he will con-form to what I have requested, and you must write me an answer per bearer, giving me all the news you have, and what is the appearance of things this morning. J. S.”

I also wrote General Law as follows:—

“Head Quarters, Nauvoo Legion,
August 16, 1842.”

Major General Law—Beloved brother and friend. Those few lines which I received from you, written on the 15th, were to me, like apples of gold in pictures of silver. I rejoice with exceeding great joy to be associated in the high and responsible stations which we hold, whose mind and feelings and heart are so congenial with my own. I love that soul that is so nobly enterprised in that clay of yours, may God Almighty grant that it may be satiated with seeing a fulfillment of every virtuous and manly desire that you possess, may we be able to triumph gloriously over those who seek our destruction and overthrow, which I believe we shall.

The news you wrote me was more favorable than that which was communicated by the brethren, they seemed a little agitated for my safety, and advised me for the Pine Woods, but I succeeded admirably in calming all their fears; but, nevertheless, as I said in my former letter, I was willing to exile myself for months and years, if it would be for the welfare and safety of the people, and I do not know but it would be as well for me to take a trip to the Pine countries and remain until arrangements can be made for my most perfect safety when I returned, these are therefore to confer with you on this subject, as I want to have a concert of action in every thing I do. If I know that they would oppress me alone, and let the rest of you dwell peaceably and quietly, I think it would be the wisest plan to absent myself for a little season, if by that means we could prevent the effusion of blood.

Please write and give me your mind on that subject, and all other information that has come to hand to-day, and what are the signs of the times. I have no news, for I am where I cannot get much, all is quiet and peaceable around. I therefore wait with earnest expectation for your advice. I am anxious to know your opinion on any course that I may see proper to take, for in the multitude of counsel there is safety.

I add no more but subscribe myself your faithful and most obedient servant, friend and brother.

JOSEPH SMITH,

Lieutenant General of the Nauvoo Legion
of Illinois Militia.”

The foregoing letters were delivered to brother Derby who preceded immediately to the city.

Brother Derby has taken the greatest interest in my welfare, and I feel to bless him, “Blessed is brother Erastus H. Derby and he shall be blessed of the Lord, he possesses a sober mind, and a faithful heart; the snares therefore that are subsequent to befall other men, who are treacherous and rotten hearted, shall not come nigh unto his doors, but shall be far from the path of his feet. He loveth wisdom and shall be found possessed of her. Let there be a crown of glory and a diadem upon his head. Let the light of eternal truth shine forth upon his understanding, let his name be had in everlasting remembrance, let the blessings of Jehovah be crowned upon his posterity after him, for he rendered me consolation in the lonely places of my retreat. How good and glorious it has seemed unto me, to find pure and holy friends, who are faithful, just and true, and whose hearts fail not; and whose knees are confirmed and do not falter, while they wait upon the Lord, in administering to my necessities, in the day when the wrath of mine enemies was poured out upon me.

In the name of the Lord I feel in my heart to bless them and to say in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, that these are the ones that shall inherit eternal life, I say it by virtue of the Holy Priesthood, and by the ministering of Holy Angels, and by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost.

How glorious were my feelings when I met that faithful and friendly band, on the night of the eleventh, on Thursday, on the island at the mouth of the slough, between Zarahemla and Nauvoo; with what unspeakable delight, and what

transports of joy swelled my bosom, when I took by the hand, on that night, my beloved Emma, she that was my wife, even the wife of my youth, and the choice of my heart. Many were the re-vibrations of my mind when I contemplated for a moment the many scenes we had been called to pass thro', the fatigues and the toils, the sorrows and sufferings, and the joys and consolations from time to time which had strewed our paths and crowned our board. Oh what a commingling of thought filled my mind for the moment, again she is here, even in the seventh trouble—undaunted, firm and unwavering, unchangeable affectionate Emma.

There was brother Hyrum who next took me by the hand, a natural brother, thought I to myself brother Hyrum, what a faithful heart you have got. Oh may the eternal Jehovah crown eternal blessings upon your head as a reward for the care you have had for my soul. O how many are the sorrows we have shared together, and again we find ourselves shackled with the unrelenting hand of oppression. Hyrum thy name shall be written in the book of the law of the Lord, for those who come after thee to look upon, that they may pattern after thy works.

Said I to myself here is brother Newel K. Whitney also, how many scenes of sorrow have strewed our paths together; and yet we meet once more to share again. Thou art a faithful friend in whom the afflicted sons of men can confide, with the most perfect safety. Let the blessings of the Eternal also be crowned upon his head; how warm that heart! how anxious that soul! for the welfare of one who has been cast out, and hated of almost all men. Brother Whitney thou knowest not how strong those ties are, that bind my soul and heart to thee.

My heart was overjoyed as I took the faithful band by hand, that stood upon the shore, one by one, William Law, William Clayton, Dimick B. Huntington, George Miller were there. The above names constituted the little group.

I do not think to mention the particulars of the history of that sacred night, which shall for ever be remembered by me, but the names of the faithful are what I wish to record in this place. These I have met in prosperity and they were my friends, I now meet them in adversity and they are still my warmer friends. These love the God that I serve; they love the truths that I promulge; they love those virtuous, and those holy doctrines that I cherish in my bosom with the warmest feelings of my heart, and with that zeal which cannot be denied. I love friendship and truth; I love virtue and law; I love the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, and they are my brethren, and I shall live; and because I live they shall live also. These are not the only ones who have administered to my necessity; whom the Lord will bless. There is brother John D. Parker and brother Amasa Lyman, and brother Wilson Law, and brother Henry G. Sherwood, my heart feels to reciprocate the unwearied kindnesses that have been bestowed upon me by these men. They are men of noble stature, or noble hands, and of noble deeds; possessing noble and daring, and giant hearts and souls; there is brother Joseph B. Noble's also, I would call up in remembrance before the Lord. There is brother Samuel H. Smith, a natural brother, he is even as Hyrum. There is brother Arthur Millikin also, who married my youngest Sister, Lucy, he is a faithful, an honest and an upright man.

While I call up in remembrance before the Lord these men, I would be doing injustice to those who rowed me in the skiff up the river that night, after I parted with the lovely group; who brought me to this my safe, and lonely, and private retreat, brother Jonathan Dunham, and the other whose name I do not know. Many were the thoughts that swelled my aching heart, while they were toiling faithfully with their oars. They complained not at hardship and fatigue to secure my safety, my heart would have been harder than an adamant stone, if I had not have prayed for them with anxious and fervent desire. I did so, and the still small voice whispered to my soul, these that share your toils with such faithful hearts, shall reign with you in the kingdom of their God; but I parted with them in silence, and came to my retreat. I hope I shall see them again, that I may toil for them and administer to their comfort also. They shall not want a friend while I live, my heart shall love those, and my hands shall toil for those, who love and toil for me, and shall ever be found faithful to my friends. Shall I be ungrateful? Verily no! God forbid! I design to continue this subject at a future time.

Brother Derby returned in the evening bringing the following letters:—

“Dear Husband—I am ready to go with you if you are obliged to leave, and Hyrum says he will go with me. I shall make the best arrangements I can, and be as well prepared as possible. But still I feel good confidence that you can be protected without leaving this country. There are more ways than one to take care of you, and I believe that you can still direct in your business concerns, if we are all of us prudent in the matter. If it was pleasant weather I should contrive to see you this evening, but I dare not run too much of a risk, on account of so many going to see you.

General Adams sends the propositions concerning his land, two dollars an acre, payments as

follows, assumption of mortgage, say about fourteen hundred, interest included. Taxes due, supposed about thirty dollars. Town property, one thousand dollars. Balance, money payable in one, two, three, and four years.

Brother Derby will tell you all the information we have on hand. I think we will have news from Quincy as soon as to-morrow.

Yours affectionately, for ever.

EMMA SMITH.”

“Nauvoo City, Ill., one o'clock, afternoon.”

Aug. 16, 1842.

Lieut. Gen. J. Smith—My Dear Friend—I have just received and read yours of to-day, and hasten to reply.

There is no movement of any kind going on to-day amongst the enemy as far as I can see, which helps to strengthen me in my opinion of yesterday; but still it might be a calm before a storm, and if so we will meet it when it comes. You wish my opinion respecting your absenting yourself for some time from those friends, that are dear to you as life, and to whom you are also as dear, and from the place and station to which you are called by Him who ruleth in the armies of heaven, and amongst the inhabitants of the earth.

I must confess that I feel almost unworthy to give an opinion on the subject, knowing that your own judgment is far superior to mine, but nevertheless you shall have it freely, it is this, I think that if they cannot get you peaceably according to the forms of law, that they will not dare to attempt violence of any kind upon the inhabitants of the city, for they are well aware that they cannot insult us with impunity, neither use violence, only at the risk of their lives, and there are but few men who are willing to risk their lives in a bad cause, it is the principles and spirit of liberty, of truth, of virtue, and of religion, and equal rights, that make men courageous, and valiant, and fearless in the day of battle, and of strife; and just the contrary with the oppressor, for nine times out of ten a bad cause will make a man a coward and he will flee when no man pursueth.

Now if I am right in thinking that it is you alone they seek to destroy, as soon as they find they cannot get you, they will cease to trouble the city, except with spies; and if we knew that you were completely out of their reach, we could either laugh at their folly, or whip them for impertinence or any thing else, as the case may be, for we would feel so happy in your safety that we could meet them in any shape.

On the whole I think it would be better for you to absent yourself till the next Governor takes the chair, for I do think if you are nowhere they will not attempt any violence on the city, and if they should, they will disgrace themselves in the eyes of the world, and the world will justify us in fighting for our rights, and then you can come out like a Lion and lead your people to victory and to glory in the name of the Lord of Hosts.

I know the sacrifice you must make in taking this course. I know it will grieve your noble spirit to do so, for when I think of it myself, I feel no desire in life, but to fight, and to cut off from the earth all who oppress, and to establish that true form of government at once which would guarantee to every man equal rights. I know we have justice on our side in respect of city laws, and that the acts of the Municipal Court are legal; but the question is, are we now able to assert them, or had we better wait till we are more able. The latter course will give us peace a little while, by sacrificing your liberty, and the feelings of your family and friends, and depriving us all of your society and governing wisdom.

I will only add I am ready for either course, and may God direct us to do that, that is best. If you should conclude to go for awhile I must see you before you go, and for the present I will bid you be cheerful and make yourself as happy as you can, for the right side of the wheel will soon be up again.

And till then and ever, I remain, under every circumstance, your friend and obedient servant.

WILSON LAW.”

General Bennett wrote me from New York as follows:—

“Arlington House, Aug. 16, 1842.

Dear Sir:—Your polite and friendly note was handed to me a few days since, by Dr. Willard Richards, who I must say is a very fine specimen of the Mormon people, if they are all like him, and indeed I think him a very excellent representative of yourself, as I find he is your most devoted admirer and true disciple. He spent two days with me, and from his arguments and from his mild and gentlemanly demeanor, almost made me a Mormon.

You have another representative here (who spent a day with me some time since,) of the name of Foster, who is, I think, President of the Church in New York, and most unquestionably a most excellent and good man, and would be so if he were Turk, Jew, or Saint. He is *ab initio* a good man, and to you a most true, enthusiastic, and devoted disciple. He has no guile. Dr. Bernhisel, of New York, too, is a most excellent man and true christian. These are men with whom I could associate for ever, even if I never joined their church, or acknowledged their faith.

General John C. Bennett called on me last Friday and spent just two hours, when he left,