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## Plural Marriage

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**Abstract:** "As a number of apostates and other opponents of the truth are continually attempting to deny certain facts connected with the introduction of plural marriage among the Latter-day Saints by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, it has been deemed proper, in connection with our other historical labors, to compile and republish in the Record the following statements, testimonies, affidavits, etc, from truthful and reliable parties, who have been eye and ear witnesses to the circumstances and incidents of which they speak ; and also to add new proofs and testimonies to those already made public."

His abiding testimony, and his assistance with his property to publish the Book of Mormon, have earned a name for him that will endure while time shall last. Soon after he had received his endowments and performed some work for his dead, he retired to live with his son, Martin

Harris, jun., at Smithfield, Cache Valley, where he was comfortably cared for in his declining old age. On the afternoon of his death he was bolstered up in his bed, where, with the Book of Mormon in his hand he bore his last testimony to those who were present."

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## PLURAL MARRIAGE.

As a number of apostates and other opponents of the truth are continually attempting to deny certain facts connected with the introduction of plural marriage among the Latter-day Saints by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, it has been deemed proper, in connection with our other historical labors, to compile and republish in the RECORD the following statements, testimonies, affidavits, etc., from truthful and reliable parties, who have been eye and ear witnesses to the circumstances and incidents of which they speak; and also to add new proofs and testimonies to those already made public. By way of introducing the subject we quote the following from a communication written by Pres. Jos. F. Smith and published in the *Deseret News* of May 20, 1886:

"The great and glorious principle of plural marriage was first revealed to Joseph Smith in 1831, but being forbidden to make it public, or to teach it as a doctrine of the Gospel, at that time, he confided the facts to only a very few of his intimate associates. Among them were Oliver Cowdery and Lyman E. Johnson, the latter confiding the fact to his traveling companion, Elder Orson Pratt, in the year 1832. (See Orson Pratt's testimony.) And this great principle remained concealed in the bosom of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the few to whom he revealed it, until he

was commanded, about 1842, to instruct the leading members of the Priesthood, and those who were most faithful and intelligent, and best prepared to receive it, in relation thereto, at which time, and subsequently until his martyrdom, the subject, in connection with the great principles of baptism, redemption and sealings for the dead, became the great themes of his life, and, as the late Pres. Geo. A. Smith repeatedly said to me and others, 'The Prophet seemed irresistibly moved by the power of God to establish that principle, not only in theory, in the hearts and minds of his brethren, but in practice also!' he himself having led the way. While this doctrine was thus being taught by the Prophet to those whom he could trust—those who had faith, righteousness and integrity, to believe and accept it, with all its consequences (which are no trifling things), it remained an 'unwritten law' and commandment of the Almighty to the faithful *only* of His Saints, designed to be enlarged as intelligence and fidelity to the laws of God increased, until the 12th day of July, 1843, when a *portion* of the revelation was written in the manner, and (at that time) for the purpose set forth in the statement of Elder Clayton, now submitted to the world, and as indicated in the revelation itself, as follows: 'And now, as pertaining to this law, verily, verily I say unto you, *I will reveal more unto you hereafter*, therefore let this suffice for the present.' (Verse 66.)

"Let all the Latter-day Saints *know*

that Joseph Smith, the martyred Prophet, is responsible to God and the world for this doctrine, and let every soul know that he and his brother Hyrum did practice the doctrine in their lifetime, and until their death, notwithstanding their *seeming* denials as published in the *Times and Seasons*, and which are so fervently relied upon as evidence against the fact by a certain class of anti-polygamists. Those denials can be explained, and have been, and while they are true in the sense, and for the purpose for which they were designed, they are not denials of plural or celestial marriage as taught by Joseph and Hyrum Smith and practiced at the time by both of them, and many others in prominent standing in the Church. These seeming denials themselves are specific proofs of the existence of the *true coin*, the counterfeit of which they denounced.

“Let every Saint *know* by unimpeachable testimony, as well as by the spirit of inspiration, to which each *Saint* is entitled, that God Almighty revealed this doctrine to Joseph the martyr, and that under God *he* was and is the founder, by precept and example, of the same in the Church.

“Praying God to bless this testimony to the comforting of the Saints and the confusion of their enemies, I have the heartfelt pleasure to remain eternally yours for the truth, ‘if it wake the dead.’

JOSEPH F. SMITH.”

Emma Bidamon, widow of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, died in Nauvoo, Ill., April 30, 1879. Shortly afterwards an article was published in the *Saints' Advocate*, a monthly periodical published by the reorganized Church, at Plano, Ill., under the heading “Last Testimony of Sister Emma.” in which that lady is made responsible for a statement to the effect that Joseph Smith, the Prophet, never in his lifetime taught nor practiced the principle of plural mar-

riage. This statement, given in the shape of a dialogue or colloquy, which was said to have taken place between Emma Bidamon and her son (Joseph), brought forth the following from the pen of Apostle Joseph F. Smith:

“SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 17, 1879.

“*Editor Deseret News:*

“Dear Sir.—While I am aware of your disinclination to publish the many foolish fabrications of backsliders from the faith, and your general reticence on this subject, yet some statements contained in a paper lately forwarded me, being of no ordinary kind, demand the publication of certain facts which I have in my possession, which must be my apology for presenting this matter.

“No one can regret more than myself the necessity of presenting to the numerous readers of the *News*, certain facts relative to Joseph Smith (the Prophet) in connection with the revelation on celestial or plural marriage and the inauguration of that doctrine in the Church; and were it not for the cause of truth in which I and my children and the Church are deeply interested, and in which the whole world should feel vitally concerned, I would seek to avoid this unpleasant task.

(Here follows the dialogue above referred to.)

“In reply to the foregoing, I will give you the sworn statements and affidavits of a few reliable persons—among whom are two of the wives of the Prophet Joseph Smith, which I think, will assert quite as strong claims for belief and present a much better appearance of veracity than the published dialogue between Joseph Smith and his mother, for this reason, if no other, these people, well known to this community, are mostly still living and can be cross-examined, while ‘Sister Emma,’ whose lips are sealed in death, is represented as denying facts which, it can

be abundantly proven, were well known to her, and to many now living in these mountains, besides those whose affidavits and statements accompany this communication. It is but fair to note that these affidavits were given many years ago, in view of the denials then being made by the representatives of that faction known as the 'Reorganized Church,' and before 'Sister Emma,' it is hoped, ever dreamed of denying facts which no one knew better than she did herself, and as I have good reason to believe, from admissions made to me by Alexander H. Smith, in 1866, and subsequently by Joseph Smith himself, before even Joseph could muster the courage or dared to venture upon the hazardous and untenable ground his mother, now she is dead, is made to assume; which ground, if her memory of facts had failed, she should have assumed, herself, years ago. But to the proof.

'JOSEPH BATES NOBLE'S TESTIMONY.

"Territory of Utah. }  
County of Salt Lake. } ss.

"Be it remembered, that on this twenty-sixth day of June, A. D. 1869, personally appeared before me, James Jack, a notary public in and for said county, Joseph Bates Noble, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon his oath saith, that in the fall of 1840, Joseph Smith taught him the principle of celestial or plural marriage, or a plurality of wives; and that the said Joseph Smith declared that he had received a revelation from God on the subject, and that the angel of the Lord had commanded him (Joseph Smith) to move forward in the said order of marriage; and further, that the said Joseph Smith requested him (Joseph B. Noble) to step forward and assist him in carrying out the said principle, saying, 'In revealing this to you, I have placed my life in your hands, therefore do not in an evil hour betray me to my enemies.'

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said Joseph B. Noble, the day and year first above written.

JOSEPH B. NOBLE.

[SEAL.]

JAMES JACK,  
Notary Public."

"Elder Noble is still living at Bountiful, Davis County, Utah, and can be examined again on this and other points connected with this

subject, with which he is familiar. I will here further state that Elder Joseph B. Noble swears (the affidavit I have on hand) before a notary public, on June 6, 1869, that he did on April 5, 1841, seal to Joseph Smith, the Prophet, Miss Louisa Beaman, according to the revelation on plural marriage."

"BENJAMIN F. JOHNSON'S TESTIMONY.

"The following affidavit was sworn to before James Jack, a notary public, in Salt Lake City, March 4, 1870:

"On the first day of April, A. D. 1843, President Joseph Smith, Orson Hyde and William Cla ton, and others, came from Nauvoo to my residence in Macedonia or Ramms, in Hancock County, Ill., and were joyfully welcomed by myself and family as our guests.

"On the following morning, Pres. Smith took me by the arm for a walk, leading the way to a secluded spot within an adjacent grove, where, to my great surprise, he commenced to open up to me the principle of plural or celestial marriage; but I was more astonished by his asking me for my sister Almera to be his wife. I sincerely believed him to be a Prophet of God, and I loved him as such and also for the many evidences of his kindness to me, yet such was the force of my education, and the scorn that I felt towards anything unvirtuous, that under the first impulse of my feelings, I looked him calmly, but firmly in the face and told him that 'I had always believed him to be a good man and wished to believe it still and would try to; and that I would take for him a message to my sister, and if the doctrine was true, all would be well, but if I should afterwards learn that it was offered to insult or prostitute my sister, I would take his life.' With a smile he replied, 'Benjamin, you will never see that day, but you shall live to know that it is true and rejoice in it.'

"He wished me to see my sister and talk to her. I told him I did not know what I could say to convince her. He replied, 'When you open your mouth you shall be able to comprehend, and you shall not want for evidence nor words.' He also told me that he would preach a sermon that day for me which I would understand, while the rest of the congregation would not comprehend his meaning. His subject was the ten talents, 'unto him that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundantly, but from him

that hath not (*or will not receive*), shall be taken away that which he hath (or might have had).’ Plainly giving me to understand that the talents represented wives and children, as the principle of enlargement throughout the great future to those who were heirs of salvation.

“I called my sister to private audience, and with fear and trembling and feelings I cannot express, commenced to open the subject to her, when, just as he had promised, the light of the Lord shone upon my understanding and my tongue was loosed, and I, at least, was convinced of the truth of what I was attempting to teach.

“My sister received my testimony, and in a short time afterwards consented to become the wife of President Smith.

“Subsequent to this I took her to the city of Nauvoo, where she was married, or sealed for time and eternity, to President Joseph Smith, by his brother Hyrum Smith, in the presence of myself and Louisa Beaman, who told me she had also been sealed or married to the Prophet Joseph. This was at the residence of my sister, the widow of Lyman R. Sherman, who also was a witness.

“After a short period, President Smith and company, viz., George Miller, Wm. Clayton, J. M. Smith, and Eliza and Emily Partridge (who were the wives of the Prophet) came again to Macedonia (Ramus), where he remained two days, lodging at my house with my sister as man and wife (and to my certain knowledge he occupied the same bed with her). This visit was on the 16th and 17th of May, 1843, returning to Nauvoo on the 18th.

“Again, on the 19th of October, the same year, President Smith made us another visit at Macedonia and remained till the 21st. He was accompanied by Wm. Clayton. At this time (Oct. 20th, 1843), he sealed my first wife to me for time and all eternity. \* \* \*

“He also visited my mother at her residence in Macedonia and taught her in my hearing the doctrine of celestial marriage, declaring that an angel appeared unto him with a drawn sword, threatening to slay him if he did not proceed to fulfill the law that had been given to him. And counseled my mother to be sealed to his uncle, Father John Smith (father of Geo. A. Smith), to which she consented, and to my certain knowledge was subsequently sealed to him by the Prophet. \* \*

“After the death of the Prophet, I told President Brigham Young what he (Joseph Smith) had said to me relative to my taking Mary Ann Hale to wife. Pres. Young said it was right and authorized Father John

Smith to seal her to me, which he did on the 14th of November, 1844.

(Signed)

B. F. JOHNSON.

“APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW’S TESTIMONY.

“The following affidavit was made before J. C. Wright, clerk of Box Elder County, Utah, Aug. 28, 1869:

“In the month of April, 1843, I returned from my European mission. A few days after my arrival at Nauvoo, when at President Joseph Smith’s house, he said he wished to have some private talk with me, and requested me to walk out with him. It was toward evening, we walked a little distance and sat down on a large log that lay near the bank of the river; he there and then explained to me the doctrine of plurality of wives.

“He said that the Lord had revealed it unto him and commanded him to have women sealed to him as wives, that he foresaw the trouble that would follow and sought to turn away from the commandment, that an angel from heaven appeared before him with a drawn sword, threatening him with destruction unless he went forward and obeyed the commandment.

“He further said that my sister Eliza R. Snow had been sealed to him as his wife for time and eternity.

“He told me that the Lord would open the way, and I should have women sealed to me as wives. This conversation was prolonged, I think, one hour or more, in which he told me many important things.

“I solemnly declare before God and holy angels, and as I hope to come forth in the morning of the resurrection, that the above statement is true.

(Signed)

LORENZO SNOW.

“JOHN BENBOW’S AFFIDAVIT.

“Territory of Utah,  
County of Salt Lake. } ss.

“Be it remembered that on this twenty-eighth day of August, A. D. 1869, personally appeared before me, James Jack, a notary public in and for said county, John Benbow, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon his oath said that in the spring or forepart of the summer of 1843, at his house, four miles from Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, President Joseph Smith taught him and his wife, Jane Benbow, the doctrine of celestial marriage, or plurality of wives, Hyrum Smith being present.

“And further, that Hannah Ells Smith, a wife of the Prophet, boarded at his house two months during the summer of the same

year; and the said Hannah E. Smith also lived at his house several months in 1844, after the Prophet's death. And further, that President Smith frequently visited his wife Hannah at his (J. B's.) house.

(Signed) JOHN BENBOW.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said John Benbow, the day and year first written.

[SEAL.] JAMES JACK,  
Notary Public.

"I might continue to multiply those statements and testimonies both of the living and the dead until your paper could not contain them, but the foregoing is sufficient to prove that Joseph Smith did teach the doctrine of plural marriage several years before his death, and not only so, but that he did also practice what he taught. Further, the fact is established that Joseph Smith received the revelation on celestial or plural marriage, and the eternity of the marriage covenant, prior to July 12th, 1843, the time when a portion of said revelation was written. \* \* \*

"ELIZA M. PARTRIDGE'S AFFIDAVIT.

"Territory of Utah, }  
County of Millard. } ss.

"Be it remembered that on the first day of July, A. D. 1869, personally appeared before me, Edward Partridge, probate judge in and for said county, Eliza M. (Partridge) Lyman, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon her oath saith, that on the 11th day of May, 1843, at the City of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, she was married or sealed to Joseph Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by James Adams, a High Priest in said Church, \* \* \* in the presence of Emma (Hale) Smith and Emily D. Partridge.

(Signed) ELIZA M. (P.) LYMAN.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said Eliza Maria Lyman, the day and year first above written.

[SEAL.] EDWARD PARTRIDGE,  
Probate Judge.

"EMILY DOW PARTRIDGE'S TESTIMONY.

"Territory of Utah, }  
County of Salt Lake. } ss.

"Be it remembered that on this the first day of May, A. D. 1869, personally appeared before me, Elias Smith, probate judge for said county, Emily Dow (P.) Young, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and

upon her oath said, that on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1843, at the City of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, she was married or sealed to Joseph Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by James Adams, a High Priest in said Church, \* \* \* in presence of Emma (Hale) Smith, (now Emma Bidamon) and Eliza M. Partridge Smith, (now Eliza M. Lyman.)

(Signed) EMILY D. P. YOUNG.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said Emily D. P. Young, the day and year first above written.

[SEAL.] ELIAS SMITH,  
Probate Judge.

(Sister Young, in her autobiography, published in the *Woman's Exponent*, Vol. 14, page 38, says: "The first intimation I had from Brother Joseph that there was a pure and holy order of plural marriage, was in the spring of 1842, but I was not married until 1843. I was married to him on the 11th of May, 1843, by Elder James Adams. Emma was present. She gave her free and full consent. She had always, up to this time, been very kind to me and my sister Eliza, who was also married to the Prophet Joseph with Emma's consent. Emma, about this time, gave her husband two other wives—Maria and Sarah Lawrence.")

"One more statement will suffice for the present, although, if necessary, many more sworn statements of reliable individuals could be furnished upon the subject, besides the testimonies of scores of living witnesses in absolute denial of the alleged 'last testimony of Sister Emma.'

"LOVINA WALKER'S CERTIFICATE.

"I Lovina Walker (eldest daughter of Hyrum Smith), hereby certify, that while I was living with Aunt Emma Smith, in Fulton City, Fulton County, Illinois, in the year 1846, she told me that she, Emma Smith, was present and witnessed the marrying or sealing of Eliza Partridge, Emily Partridge, Maria Lawrence and Sarah Lawrence to her husband, Joseph Smith, and that she gave her consent thereto.

(Signed) LOVINA WALKER.

"We hereby witness that Lovina Walker, made and signed the above statement, on this 16th day of June, A. D. 1869, at Salt

Lake City, Salt Lake Co., U. T., of her own free will and accord.

(Signed)           HYRUM S. WALKER,  
SARAH E. SMITH,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

“Again, the foregoing is but a small part of the testimony that can be brought forward in relation to Sister Emma’s knowledge of this principle. But is not this sufficient to convince any honest inquirer that the alleged ‘Last testimony of Sister Emma,’ is incorrect? That Joseph did, not only teach, but practice this doctrine, and that too, with the full knowledge and consent of his first wife, Emma Smith. Indeed, if there is anything wanting to establish this fact, the ladies (except Lovina Walker, who is now dead) whose testimonies are given above are still living, one in this city and the others in Fillmore, Millard Co., Utah, and can testify that Emma Smith (late Emma Bidamon) did herself teach them the principle, and with her own hand gave them to wife to her husband.           Respectfully,

JOSEPH F. SMITH.”

#### ELIZA R. SNOW’S TESTIMONY.

The following was also published in the *Deseret News* (weekly) of Oct. 22, 1879:

“Recently, to my great astonishment, I read an article headed ‘Last Testimony of Sister Emma,’ published in the *Saints’ Advocate*, a pamphlet issued in Plano, Ill.

“In the article referred to, her son Joseph reports himself as interviewing his mother on the subject of polygamy, asking questions concerning his father. Did his father teach the principle? Did he practice or approve of it? Did his father have other wives than herself? To all of these and similar inquiries, Sister Emma is represented as answering in the negative, positively affirming that Joseph, the Prophet, had no other wife or wives than her; that he neither taught the principle of plurality of wives, publicly or privately.

“I once dearly loved ‘Sister Emma,’ and now, for me to believe that she, a once highly honored woman, should have sunk so low, even in her own estimation, as to deny what she *knew* to be true, seems a palpable absurdity. If what purports to be her ‘last testimony’ was really her testimony, she

died with a libel on her lips—a libel against her husband—against his wives—against the truth, and a libel against God; and in publishing that libel, her son has fastened a stigma on the character of his mother, that can never be erased. It is a *fact* that Sister Emma, of her own free will and choice, gave her husband four wives, two of whom are now living, and ready to testify that she, not only gave them to her husband, but that she taught them the doctrine of plural marriage and urged them to accept it. And, if her son wished to degrade his mother in the estimation of her former associates, those familiar with the incidents of the period referred to, he could not do it more effectually than by proving her denial of any knowledge of polygamy (celestial marriage), and its practice by her husband. Even if her son ignored his mother’s reputation for veracity, he better had waited until his father’s wives were silent in death, for now they are here living witnesses of the divinity of plural marriage, as revealed by the Almighty, through Joseph Smith, who was commanded to introduce it by taking other wives.

“So far as Sister Emma personally is concerned, I would gladly have been silent and let her memory rest in peace, had not her misguided son, through a sinister policy, branded her name with gross wickedness—charging her with the denial of a sacred principle which she had heretofore not only acknowledged but had acted upon—a principle than which there is none more important comprised in the Gospel of the Son of God.

“It may be asked, Why defend plurality of wives, since the United States government forbids its practice? The action of the executors of this government can neither change nor annihilate a fundamental truth; and this nation, in preventing the practice of plural marriage, shoulders a heavier responsibility than any nation has ever assumed, with one exception—that of the ancient Jews. If the government can afford it, we can. The controversy is with God—not us.

ELIZA R. SNOW.

A wife of Joseph Smith, the Prophet.

#### WILLIAM CLAYTON’S TESTIMONY.

The following statement was sworn to before John T. Caine, a notary public, in Salt Lake City, Feb. 16, 1874:

“Inasmuch as it may be interesting to future generations of the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to learn something of the first teachings of

the principle of plural marriage by President Joseph Smith, the Prophet, Seer, Revelator and Translator of said Church, I will give a short relation of facts which occurred within my personal knowledge, and also matters related to me by President Joseph Smith.

"I was employed as a clerk in President Joseph Smith's office, under Elder Willard Richards, and commenced to labor in the office on the 10th day of February, 1842. I continued to labor with Elder Richards until he went east to fetch his wife to Nauvoo.

"After Elder Richards started east I was necessarily thrown constantly into the company of President Smith, having to attend to his public and private business, receiving and recording tithings and donations, attending to land and other matters of business. During this period I necessarily became well acquainted with Emma Smith, the wife of the Prophet Joseph, and also with the children—Julia M. (an adopted daughter), Joseph, Frederick and Alexander, very much of the business being transacted at the residence of the Prophet.

"On the 7th of October, 1842, in the presence of Bishop Newel K. Whitney and his wife Elizabeth Ann, President Joseph Smith appointed me Temple Recorder, and also his private clerk, placing all records, books, papers, etc., in my care, and requiring me to take charge of and preserve them, his closing words being, 'When I have any revelations to write, you are the one to write them.'

"During this period the Prophet Joseph frequently visited my house in my company, and became well acquainted with my wife Ruth, to whom I had been married five years. One day in the month of February, 1843, date not remembered, the Prophet invited me to walk with him. During our walk, he said he had learned that there was a sister back in England, to whom I was very much attached. I replied there was, but nothing further than an attachment such as a brother and sister in the Church might rightfully entertain for each other. He then said, 'Why don't you send for her?' I replied, 'In the first place, I have no authority to send for her, and if I had, I have not the means to pay expenses.' To this he answered, 'I give you authority to send for her, and I will furnish you with means,' which he did. This was the first time the Prophet Joseph talked with me on the subject of plural marriage. He informed me that the doctrine and principle was right in the sight of our Heavenly Father, and that it was a doctrine which pertained to

celestial order and glory. After giving me lengthy instructions and informations concerning the doctrine of celestial or plural marriage, he concluded his remarks by the words, 'It is your privilege to have all the wives you want.' After this introduction, our conversations on the subject of plural marriage were very frequent, and he appeared to take particular pains to inform and instruct me in respect to the principle. He also informed me that he had other wives *living* besides his first wife Emma, and in particular gave me to understand that Eliza R. Snow, Louisa Beman, Desdemona W. Fullmer and others were his lawful wives in the sight of Heaven.

"On the 27th of April, 1843, the Prophet Joseph Smith married to me Margaret Moon, for time and eternity, at the residence of Elder Heber C. Kimball: and on the 22nd of July, 1843, he married to me, according to the order of the Church, my first wife Ruth.

"On the 1st day of May, 1843, I officiated in the office of an Elder by marrying Lucy Walker to the Prophet Joseph Smith, at his own residence.

"During this period the Prophet Joseph took several other wives. Amongst the number I well remember Eliza Partridge, Emily Partridge, Sarah Ann Whitney, Helen Kimball and Flora Woodworth. These all, he acknowledged to me, were his lawful, wedded wives, according to the celestial order. His wife Emma was cognizant of the fact of some, if not all, of these being his wives, and she generally treated them very kindly.

"On the morning of the 12th of July, 1843, Joseph and Hyrum Smith came into the office in the upper story of the 'brick store,' on the bank of the Mississippi River. They were talking on the subject of plural marriage. Hyrum said to Joseph, 'If you will write the revelation on celestial marriage, I will take and read it to Emma, and I believe I can convince her of its truth, and you will hereafter have peace.' Joseph smiled and remarked, 'You do not know Emma as well as I do.' Hyrum repeated his opinion and further remarked, 'The doctrine is so plain, I can convince any reasonable man or woman of its truth, purity or heavenly origin,' or words to their effect. Joseph then said, 'Well, I will write the revelation and we will see.' He then requested me to get paper and prepare to write. Hyrum very urgently requested Joseph to write the revelation by means of the Urim and Thummim, but Joseph, in reply, said he did not need to, for he knew the revelation perfectly from beginning to end.

"Joseph and Hyrum then sat down and Jo-



seph commenced to dictate the revelation on celestial marriage, and I wrote it, sentence by sentence, as he dictated. After the whole was written, Joseph asked me to read it through, slowly and carefully, which I did, and he pronounced it correct. He then remarked that there was much more that he could write, on the same subject, but what was written was sufficient for the present.

"Hyrum then took the revelation to read to Emma. Joseph remained with me in the office until Hyrum returned. When he came back, Joseph asked him how he had succeeded. Hyrum replied that he had never received a more severe talking to in his life, that Emma was very bitter and full of resentment and anger.

"Joseph quietly remarked, 'I told you you did not know Emma as well as I did' Joseph then put the revelation in his pocket, and they both left the office.

"The revelation was read to several of the authorities during the day. Towards evening Bishop Newel K. Whitney asked Joseph if he had any objections to his taking a copy of the revelation; Joseph replied that he had not, and handed it to him. It was carefully copied the following day by Joseph C. Kingsbury. Two or three days after the revelation was written Joseph related to me and several others that Emma had so teased, and urgently entreated him for the privilege of destroying it, that he became so weary of her teasing, and to get rid of her annoyance, he told her she might destroy it and she had done so, but he had consented to her wish in this matter to pacify her, realizing that he knew the revelation perfectly, and could rewrite it at any time if necessary.

"The copy made by Joseph C. Kingsbury is a true and correct copy of the original in every respect. The copy was carefully preserved by Bishop Whitney, and but few knew of its existence until the temporary location of the Camps of Israel at Winter Quarters, on the Missouri River, in 1846.

"After the revelation on celestial marriage was written Joseph continued his instructions, privately, on the doctrine, to myself and others, and during the last year of his life we were scarcely ever together, alone, but he was talking on the subject, and explaining that doctrine and principles connected with it. He appeared to enjoy great liberty and freedom in his teachings, and also to find great relief in having a few to whom he could unbosom his feelings on that great and glorious subject.

"From him I learned that the doctrine of plural and celestial marriage is the most holy and important doctrine ever revealed to man

on the earth, and that without obedience to that principle no man can ever attain to the fulness of exaltation in celestial glory.

(Signed) WILLIAM CLAYTON.  
"Salt Lake City, February 16th, 1874."

#### JOSEPH C. KINGSBURY'S TESTIMONY.

The following statement was given under oath before Charles W. Stayner, a notary public, in Salt Lake City, May 22, 1886:

"In reference to the affidavit of Elder William Clayton, on the subject of the celestial order of patriarchal marriage, published in the *Deseret Evening News* of May 20th, 1886, and particularly to the statement made therein concerning myself, as having copied the original revelation written by Brother Clayton at the dictation of the Prophet Joseph, I will say that Bishop Newel K. Whitney handed me the revelation above referred to on either the day it was written or the day following, and stating that it was asked me to take a copy of it. I did so, and then read my copy of it to Bishop Whitney, who compared it with the original which he held in his hand while I read to him. When I had finished reading, Bishop Whitney pronounced the copy correct, and Hyrum Smith coming into the room at the time to fetch the original, Bishop Whitney handed it to him. I will also state that this copy, as also the original, are identically the same as that published in the present edition of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

"I will add that I also knew that the Prophet Joseph Smith had married other women besides his first wife—Emma: I was well aware of the fact of his having married Sarah Ann Whitney, the eldest daughter of Bishop Newel K. Whitney and Elizabeth Ann Whitney, his wife. And the Prophet Joseph told me personally that he had married other women, in accordance with the revealed will of God, and spoke concerning the principle as being a command of God for holy purposes.

(Signed) JOSEPH C. KINGSBURY."

#### THOMAS GROVER'S TESTIMONY.

"FARMINGTON, Davis Co., Utah,  
Jan. 10, 1885.

"A. M. Musser:

"Your note is before me, and I answer with pleasure.

"Now, concerning the matter about which you ask information. I don't know of any member of that High Council living except myself. Leonard Soby may still be living.

He apostatized on the strength of that revelation.

"The High Council of Nauvoo was called together by the Prophet Joseph Smith, to know whether they would accept the revelation on celestial marriage or not.

"The Presidency of the Stake, Wm. Marks, Father Cowles and the late Apostle Charles C. Rich were there present. The following are the names of the High Council that were present, in their order, viz: Samuel Bent, William Huntington, Alpheus Cutler, Thos. Grover, Lewis D. Wilson, David Fullmer, Aaron Johnson, Newel Knight, Leonard Soby, James Allred, Henry G. Sherwood and, I think, Samuel H. Smith.

"Brother Hyrum was called upon to read the revelation. He did so, and after the reading said, 'Now, you that believe this revelation and go forth and obey the same shall be saved, and you that reject it shall be damned.'

"We saw this prediction verified in less than one week. Of the Presidency of the Stake, Wm. Marks and Father Cowles rejected the revelation; of the Council that were present Leonard Soby rejected it. From that time forward there was a very strong division in the High Council. These three men greatly diminished in spirit day after day, so that there was a great difference in the line of their conduct, which was perceivable to every member that kept the faith.

"From that time forward we often received instructions from the Prophet as to what was the will of the Lord and how to proceed.

"After this the Prophet's life was constantly in danger. Being one of his life guard, I watched his interests and safety up to the time of his death.

"Wm. Marks died in Illinois. C. C. Rich died in Paris, Bear Lake County, Idaho, in full faith. Samuel Bent died in Garden Grove, Iowa, in full faith. Wm. Huntington died in Pisgah, Iowa, in full faith. Alpheus Cutler apostatized, and died in Iowa. Lewis D. Wilson died at Ogden, in full faith. David Fullmer died in Salt Lake City, in full faith. Aaron Johnson died at Springville, in full faith. Newel Knight died at Ponca, Nebraska. Leonard Soby went with Sidney Rigdon from Nauvoo. James Allred died in Sanpete, in full faith. Henry G. Sherwood came here with the Pioneers and died in San Bernardino, Cal., out of the Church, I understand. Samuel H. Smith died at Nauvoo, in full faith.

THOMAS GROVER."

#### DAVID FULLMER'S TESTIMONY.

"Territory of Utah,  
County of Salt Lake. } ss.

"Be it remembered that on this fifteenth day of June, A. D. 1869, personally appeared before me, James Jack, a notary public in and for said county, David Fullmer, who was by me sworn in due form of law, and upon his oath saith, that on or about the twelfth day of Aug., A. D. 1843, while in meeting with the High Council (he being a member thereof), in Hyrum Smith's brick office, in the city of Nauvoo, County of Hancock, State of Illinois, Dunbar Wilson made enquiry in relation to the subject of a plurality of wives, as there were rumors about respecting it, and he was satisfied there was something in those remarks, and he wanted to know what it was, upon which Hyrum Smith stepped across the road to his residence, and soon returned bringing with him a copy of the revelation on celestial marriage, given to Joseph Smith, July 12th, A. D. 1843, and read the same to the High Council, and bore testimony to its truth. The said David Fullmer further saith that, to the best of his memory and belief, the following named persons were present: Wm. Marks, Austin A. Cowles, Samuel Bent, Geo. W. Harris, Dunbar Wilson, Wm. Huntington, Levi Jackman, Aaron Johnson, Thos. Grover, David Fullmer, Phineas Richards, James Allred and Leonard Soby. And the said David Fullmer further saith that Wm. Marks, Austin A. Cowles and Leonard Soby were the only persons present who did not receive the testimony of Hyrum Smith, and that all the others did receive it from the teaching and testimony of the said Hyrum Smith. And further, that the copy of said revelation on celestial marriage, published in the *Deseret News* extra of September 14th, A. D. 1852, is a true copy of the same.

(Signed)

DAVID FULLMER.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said David Fullmer the day and year first above written.

[SEAL]

JAMES JACK,  
Notary Public."

#### LEONARD SOBY'S TESTIMONY.

The following was published in the *Ogden Herald*, in January, 1886:

"Our readers will remember, that in the correspondence which passed between Elder Littlefield and Joseph Smith, jun., of the reorganized church, some time since, Mr. Smith challenged Elder Littlefield to give the names of parties who were present and heard the revelation on celestial marriage

read before the High Council at Nauvoo. Among the names given by Elder Littlefield was that of Leonard Soby. The prophet of the reorganized church knew where Mr. Soby resided, and instructed a member of his church in high standing to draw up an affidavit, stating that Mr. Soby was not present at such meeting, and never heard the revelation read.

"The affidavit was drawn up under the instructions of Joseph Smith, jun., and Mr. Gurley, who was something of a lawyer, called on Mr. Soby at his home in Beverly, New Jersey, and requested him to sign it. The affidavit stated that Mr. Soby was present at the High Council meeting referred to, but did not hear the revelation read. When Mr. Gurley requested Mr. Soby to sign the document, Soby objected, saying he was present at the meeting, and *did* hear the revelation read, and could not sign an affidavit to the contrary. This considerably disconcerted his interlocutor, and Mr. Soby added: 'If you will draw up an affidavit setting forth that I was there and did hear the revelation read, I will sign it for you.' Mr. Gurley, however, did not want that kind of testimony, and retired rather crestfallen, but wiser, and has since apostatized from the reorganized church.

"Mr. Soby, quite recently, had business in the State of Pennsylvania, and while there related the occurrence to a gentleman named Samuel Harrison.

"Leonard Soby is about the only person now living who was present at the High Council meeting at which the revelation on celestial marriage was read. His home is at Beverly, New Jersey."

We annex the following extracts from a communication written to the *Deseret News* by James S. Brooks, of San Bernardino, Cal., and dated March 26, 1886.

"I saw an account in January last, in the *Ogden Herald*, wherein Mr. Leonard Soby, of New Jersey, is made to testify that he was present at the High Council in Nauvoo, and that he heard the revelation upon celestial marriage there read; also that an affidavit had been represented to him by Mr. Gurley, dictated by Mr. Joseph Smith, the leader of the Josephite faction, which he, Mr. Soby, was requested to sign, stating that he was not present at that council, and did not hear the revelation read, which he refused to do, but offered to sign one to the contrary. Knowing that to be one of the props upon which the Josephites build their excuse for rejecting the revelation, I showed

the article to one of their members in this place. He said: 'Mr. Gurley will say anything now that he has left our church.'

"I saw immediately that they were no more ready to accept that evidence than any other; indeed they do not want the truth; it is not facts that they are seeking after. In order to do away with that quibble I wrote to Mr. Soby myself, informing him of the statement of the interview between himself and Mr. Gurley, as published in the *Ogden Herald*, asking him if it was correct, and below is a copy of the letter I received from him. It is well to have such evidence on record, as Mr. Soby is now the only living witness that was present at the council, as I see by the *Deseret News* that Mr. Thomas Grover died last month, he too having left his testimony as to being present and hearing it read.

"LEONARD SOBY'S LETTER.

"BEVERLY, N. J., Feb. 26, 1886.

"James S. Brooks:

"DEAR SIR—Yours of 12th at hand, and would state the facts given in the *Herald* in regard to myself and Mr. Gurley are true. I was present at the High Council in Nauvoo when that revelation was read, and know it to be *true*, and I hope the Lord will bless you to see the *truth* as I do.

Respectfully, your humble servant,  
LEONARD SOBY, (a witness)."

HOWARD CORAY'S TESTIMONY.

"Territory of Utah, }  
County of Salt Lake. } ss.

"As many false statements have been made in relation to the authorship of the revelation on celestial marriage, I deem it but justice to all lovers of truth for me to express what I know concerning this very important matter.

"On the 22nd day of July, A. D. 1843, Hyrum Smith, the martyred Patriarch, came in a carriage to my house in Nauvoo; he invited me and my wife to take a ride with him; accordingly, as soon as we could make ourselves ready, we got into the carriage and he set off in the direction of Carthage. Having gone a short distance, he observed to us that his brother, Joseph Smith, the Prophet, had received a revelation on marriage, that was not for the public yet, which he would rehearse to us, as he had taken pains to commit it to memory. He then commenced rehearsing the revelation on celestial marriage, not stopping till he had gone quite through with the matter. After which he reviewed that part pertaining to plurality of wives, dwelling at some length

upon the same in order that we might clearly understand the principle. And on the same day (July 22nd, 1843) he sealed my wife, formerly Martha Jane Knowlton, to me; and when I heard the revelation on celestial marriage read on the stand in Salt Lake City in 1852, I recognized it, as the same as that repeated to me by Brother Hyrum Smith. Not long after this I was present when Brother David Fullmer and wife were sealed by Brother Hyrum Smith, the martyred Patriarch, according to the law of celestial marriage. And, besides the foregoing, there was quite enough came within the compass of my observation to have fully satisfied my mind that plural marriage was practiced in the city of Nauvoo.

(Signed) HOWARD CORAY.

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of June, A. D. 1882.

[SEAL.] JAMES JACK,  
"Notary Public for Salt Lake County, Utah."

MERCY R. THOMPSON'S TESTIMONY.

"SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 31, 1886.

"A. M. Musser:

"DEAR BROTHER—Having noticed in the *Deseret News* an enquiry for testimony concerning the revelation on plural marriage, and having read the testimony of Brother Grover, it came to my mind that perhaps it would be right for me to add my testimony to his on the subject of Brother Hyrum reading it to the High Council. I well remember the circumstance. I remember he told me he had read it to the brethren in his office. He put it into my hands and left it with me for several days. I had been sealed to him by Brother Joseph a few weeks previously, and was well acquainted with almost every member of the High Council, and know Brother Grover's testimony to be correct. Now if this testimony would be of any use to such as are weak in the faith or tempted to doubt, I should be very thankful. Please make use of this in any way you think best, as well as the copy of the letter addressed to Joseph Smith, at Lamoni. Your Sister in the Gospel. MERCY R. THOMPSON."

"SALT LAKE CITY, Sept. 5, 1883.

"Mr. Joseph Smith, Lamoni, Ill.:

"DEAR SIR—After having asked my Father in heaven to aid me, I sit down to write a few lines as dictated by the Holy Spirit.

"After reading the correspondence between you and L. O. Littlefield I concluded it was the duty of some one to bear a testimony which could not be disputed. Finding from your letters to Littlefield that no

one of your father's friends had performed this duty while you were here, now I will begin at once and tell you my experience.

"My beloved husband, R. B. Thompson, your father's private secretary to the end of his mortal life, died August 27th, 1841, (I presume you will remember him.) Nearly two years after his death your father told me that my husband had appeared to him several times, telling him that he did not wish me to live such a lonely life, and wished him to request your uncle Hyrum to have me sealed to him for time. Hyrum communicated this to his wife (my sister) who, by request, opened the subject to me, when everything within me rose in opposition to such a step, but when your father called and explained the subject to me, I dared not refuse to obey the counsel, lest peradventure I should be found fighting against God; and especially when he told me the last time my husband appeared to him he came with such power that it made him tremble. He then enquired of the Lord what he should do; the answer was, 'Go and do as my servant hath required.' He then took an opportunity of communicating this to your uncle Hyrum who told me that the Holy Spirit rested upon him from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet. The time was appointed, with the consent of all parties, and your father sealed me to your uncle Hyrum for time, in my sister's room, with a covenant to deliver me up in the morning of the resurrection to Robert Blaskel Thompson, with whatever offspring should be the result of that union, at the same time counseling your uncle to build a room for me and move me over as soon as convenient, which he did, and I remained there as a wife the same as my sister to the day of his death. All this I am ready to testify to in the presence of God, angels and men. \* \* \*

MERCY R. THOMPSON."

LUCY W. KIMBALL'S TESTIMONY.

"When the Prophet Joseph Smith first mentioned the principle of plural marriage to me I became very indignant, and told him emphatically that I did not wish him ever to mention it to me again, as my feelings and education revolted against any thing of such a nature. He counseled me, however, to pray to the Lord for light and understanding in relation thereto, and promised me if I would do so sincerely, I should receive a testimony of the correctness of the principle. At length I concluded to follow this advice, and the consequence was that the Prophet's promise unto me was fulfilled to the very letter. Before praying I felt gloomy and

downcast; in fact, I was so intirely given up to dispair that I felt tired of life; but after I had poured out my heart's contents before God, I at once became calm and composed; a feeling of happiness took possession of me, and at the same time I received a powerful and irresistible testimony of the truth of plural marriage, which testimony has abided with me ever since. Shortly afterwards I consented to become the Prophet's wife, and was married to him May 1, 1843, Elder William Clayton officiating. I am also able to testify that Emma Smith, the Prophet's first wife, gave her consent to the marriage of at least four other girls to her husband, and that she was well aware that he associated with them as wives within the meaning of all that word implies. This is proven by the fact that she herself, on several occasions, kept guard at the door to prevent disinterested persons from intruding, when these ladies were in the house.

LUCY W. KIMBALL."

ORSON PRATT'S TESTIMONY.

"At a meeting held in Plano, Illinois, Sept. 12, 1878, Apostle Orson Pratt explained the circumstances connected with the coming forth of the revelation on plural marriage. He refuted the statement and belief of those present that Brigham Young was the author of that revelation; showed that Joseph Smith, the Prophet, had not only commenced the practice of that principle himself, and further taught it to others, before President Young and the Twelve had returned from their missions in Europe, in 1841, but that Joseph actually received revelation upon that principle as early as 1831. He said, 'Lyman Johnson, who was very familiar with Joseph at this early date, Joseph living at his father's house, and who was also very intimate with me, we having traveled on several missions together, told me himself that Joseph had made known to him as early as 1831, that plural marriage was a correct principle. Joseph declared to Lyman that God had revealed it to him, but that the time had not come to teach or practice it in the Church, but that the time would come.' To this statement Elder Pratt bore his testimony. He cited several instances of Joseph

having had wives sealed to him, one at least as early as April 5, 1841, which was some time prior to the return of the Twelve from England. Referred to his own trial in regard to this matter in Nauvoo, and said it was because he got his information from a wicked source, from those disaffected, but as soon as he learned the truth he was satisfied."

LYMAN O. LITTLEFIELD'S TESTIMONY.

"The doctrine of celestial marriage, I have the best of reasons for believing, was understood and believed by him (Joseph Smith, the Prophet) away back in the days when he lived in Kirtland, when he and the Saints, in their poverty, were toiling to erect that sacred edifice (the Kirtland Temple), wherein you (referring to Joseph Smith, the son of the Prophet) now falsify him, seeking, by your unsupported declarations, to nullify his most sacred doctrines. Even there, as I believe, he was instructed of the Lord respecting the sacred ordinance of plural marriage; but he was not required to reveal it to the Church until some time during the residence of the Saints at Nauvoo, where he received a revelation from the Lord setting forth in detail the results to be obtained by keeping inviolate all the laws connected with this sacred condition of things. And in consequence of the prejudices of the Saints and the tide of persecution which he well knew he would have to encounter from the outside world, wherein his life would be endangered, he delayed, as long as possible, to make this principle known, except to a few of the most faithful and humble of the Saints."

For further information the reader is referred to Elder L.O. Littlefield's correspondance with Joseph Smith, of the reorganized church, published in the *Mill. Star*, Vol. 45, pages 385, 443, 561, etc.

ALLEN J. STOUT'S TESTIMONY.

"At a meeting held at Rockville, Washington Co., Utah, Dec. 23, 1885,

in commemoration of the Prophet Joseph Smith's birthday, Allen J. Stout, sen., testified, that while acting as one of the Prophet's body guard in the Nauvoo Mansion, only a single door separating him from the family, he listened to a conversation which took place between Joseph and Emma Smith, on the much vaunted subject of plural marriage. This impulsive woman from moments of passionate denunciation would subside into tearful repentance and acknowledge that her violent opposition to that principle was instigated by the power of darkness; that Satan was doing his utmost to destroy her, etc. And solemnly came the Prophet's inspired warning 'Yes, and he will accomplish your overthrow, if you do not heed my counsel.'" (From a letter published in the *Deseret Evening News* of Jan. 20, 1885.)

BISHOP S. A. WOOLLEY'S TESTIMONY.

"In September, 1843, at Nauvoo, Ill., I was taken very sick, so much so that most of my folks thought I could not recover. During the time of my illness the Prophet Joseph and Patriarch Hyrum Smith came and administered to me frequently. Father Joseph Smith, in a blessing previously given me, had made me a certain promise in regard to living, in which I had the most implicit confidence; and when I heard friends say (although so far gone that I did not recognize any one) that I would never get well, I would whisper 'Yes, I will, Father Smith promised that I should live to see the coming of the Son of Man.' Brother Hyrum said, because of my faith in that blessing, I would not die at that time. The house, in which we lived, was a two-story one, and on the east side was built a store, from which a door opened into the sitting room. During my sickness I occupied one of the up-stair rooms.

One afternoon in the month of October, A. D. 1843, I think on a Tuesday, about 2 o'clock (I cannot explain just how I knew it was 2 o'clock, but I knew it), I found my-

self in the sitting room down stairs, and walking to the door leading into the store, I saw my brother Edwin D. putting up the shutters of the store as though it was night. I turned around, saw Mary, his wife, putting down the blinds of the windows in the sitting room. I stood and looked and wondered what was to be done. I saw two or three other persons there; and presently some others, including Patriarch Hyrum Smith, came in. The fireplace was in the north end of the room, and Hyrum sat down at the east end of the grate with his face turned to the northwest. Presently I saw him take a paper out of his coat pocket, and I walked up to his left hand side, looked over his shoulder, and, as he opened the paper, I read 'A Revelation on Eternal Marriage and Plurality of Wives,' etc. He then commenced to read what is now known as the revelation on plural marriage. I also read it myself as fast as he did. He stopped and explained as he went along. There was a sister present by the name of German, who, when he had read to a certain point, went to the southwest window, raised the curtain, looked out, then turned around and said, 'Brother Hyrum, don't read any more, I am full up to here,' drawing her hand across her throat. It was there told me by the same power that informed me it was 2 o'clock, that that revelation was of God, and that no man could or would receive *a fulness of celestial glory and eternal life, except he obeyed that law, and had more than one living wife at the same time.* From this time I commenced to get well, and did so very speedily. In the course of a few days I was down in the sitting room, and one day, as we sat by the fire, my sister-in-law (Mary) and Sister German, who boarded there, were talking about that principle allegorically. I remarked, 'Mary, thee need not be afraid to talk right out about that principle, for I know more about it than thee does.' 'What principle?' said she. 'Why, that principle about

a man having more wives than one,' I replied. She looked with amazement and said, 'What does thee mean?' (We were raised Quakers.) 'I mean,' said I, 'that I stood right there pointing to the place) when Brother Hyrum read that revelation the other day.' 'What revelation?' said she (seeming very incredulous). 'Why, the one on plural marriage.' I answered. My brother Edwin D. testified in a public meeting in Manti, Sanpete Co., a number of years ago, that the revelation was read by Bro. Hyrum just as I said, but he (Edwin D.) did not see me there, and he could not relate it as accurately as I have done. Were I to go back on every other principle of what the world call 'Mormonism,' I would have to acknowledge that the principle of plural marriage is of God. I, like Paul of old, whether in the body or out, saw and heard things which were unlawful to utter at that time, for I understood that I was not to tell anyone, or to talk to anyone about it, except those who already knew about it."

APOSTLE ERASTUS SNOW'S TESTIMONY:

"The Prophet Joseph Smith first taught me the doctrine of celestial marriage, including a plurality of wives, in Nauvoo, Ill., in April, 1843. He also told me of those women he had taken to wives. My wife's sister, Louisa Beman, was his first plural wife, she being sealed to him by my brother-in-law, Joseph B. Noble, April 5, 1841. She was the daughter of Alva and Sarah Burt Beman. The Prophet Joseph also gave me the privilege of taking another wife, which I did in March, 1844, the Patriarch Hyrum Smith officiating under the Prophet's direction."

SARAH M. KINBALL'S TESTIMONY.

"Early in the year 1842, Joseph Smith taught me the principle of marriage for eternity, and the doctrine of plural marriage. He said that in teaching this he realized that he jeopardized his life; but God had

revealed it to him many years before as a privilege with blessings, now God had revealed it again and instructed him to teach it with commandment, as the Church could travel (progress) no further without the introduction of this principle. I asked him to teach it to some one else. He looked at me reprovingly, and said, 'Will you tell me who to teach it to? God required me to teach it to you, and leave you with the responsibility of believing or disbelieving.' He said, 'I will not cease to pray for you, and if you will seek unto God in prayer, you will not be led into temptation.'"

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY.

"At a quarterly Stake conference held at Centreville, Davis Co., Utah, June 11, 1883, Elder Arthur Stayner read an affidavit made by Elder Thomas Grover. The substance of the document was that the affiant was a member of the High Council of the Church, that in 1843 Hyrum Smith, the Patriarch, appeared at the meeting of that body and presented the revelation on celestial marriage, at the same time declaring it to be from God.

"After the reading of this paper Elder Grover made a statement to the effect that Hyrum there and then asserted that those brethren who received the revelation should be blessed and preserved, while those who rejected it would go down. Nine members of the Council accepted and three took a stand against it. Those three subsequently apostatized, were excommunicated from the Church and are all now dead (except one).

"Elder Joseph B. Noble next addressed the conference. He stated that the Prophet Joseph told him that the doctrine of celestial marriage was revealed to him while he was engaged on the work of translation of the Scriptures, but when the communication was first made the Lord stated that the time for the practice of that principle had not arrived. Subsequently, he stated, the angel of the Lord appeared to

him and informed him that the time had fully come. Elder Noble sealed his wife's sister to Joseph, that being the first plural marriage consummated. The Prophet gave the form of the ceremony, Elder Noble repeating the words after him. Elder Noble bore testimony to the purity of character of his sister-in-law, who was a woman of irreproachable morality, who entered into the plural marriage relation on a deep-seated conviction that the doctrine was from God.

"President Taylor spoke briefly, stating that he was present at a meeting of the leading authorities of the Church in Nauvoo, at which the subject of the revelation on celestial marriage was laid before them and unanimously received as from God. Joseph declared that unless it was received the Church could progress no further. Soon after he met the Prophet Joseph, who, addressing the speaker, said the time had come when he must embrace the doctrine of plural marriage.

"President George Q. Cannon delivered a thrillingly powerful discourse on the subject of plural marriage, showing that while those who had entered into that relation properly had, as a rule, been greatly blessed, men who had tampered with the other sex outside of the 'marriage relation,' had wilted and gone down in every instance. Those who had embraced the doctrine were the leading men of the Church, possessing the Holy Spirit to a much more than ordinary degree. The speaker showed how the Lord had not confined His blessing to any class, or special families, but men of humble origin had been selected as his instruments to forward his purposes. It would yet transpire, he said, that God would take men out of the humbler walks of life and of them make Apostles and Prophets, who would perform mighty works in His name. The discourse was reported in full."

We could produce hundreds of other testimonies of a similar nature

to these given above, were it necessary, but what we have already given must be deemed fully sufficient to prove, beyond a shadow of doubt, that Joseph Smith, the Prophet, did teach and practice the principle of plural marriage in his lifetime. Summing up the information received from the parties already mentioned and from other sources, we find that the following named ladies, besides a few others, about whom we have been unable to get all the necessary information, were sealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith during the last three years of his life. Biographical sketches of some of these ladies are published in this number of the RECORD, and others will be published hereafter:

Louisa Beman, married to the Prophet April 5, 1841, Joseph B. Noble officiating. *See sketch, page* .

Fanny Alger, one of the first plural wives sealed to the Prophet. *See sketch, page* .

Lucinda Harris, also one of the first women sealed to the Prophet Joseph. *See sketch, page* .

Zina D. Huntington, afterwards the wife of Pres. Brigham Young, sealed to the Prophet Oct. 27, 1841, Dimick B. Huntington officiating. Her sister Fanny was present as a witness. *See sketch, page* .

Preseindia L. Huntington, afterwards the wife of Heber C. Kimball, sealed to Joseph Dec. 11, 1841, Dimick B. Huntington officiating and Fanny A. Huntington present as a witness. *See sketch, page* .

Eliza Roxcy Snow, married to the Prophet June 29, 1842, Pres. Brigham Young officiating. *See sketch, page* .

Sarah Ann Whitney, afterwards



the wife of Pres. Heber C. Kimball, married to Joseph July 27, 1842, her father Newel K. Whitney officiating. *See sketch, page* .

Desdemona W. Fullmer, married in 1842. *See sketch, page 235.*

Helen Mar Kimball, daughter of Pres. Heber C. Kimball and afterwards the wife of Horace K. Whitney, married to Joseph in May, 1843. *See sketch, page* .

Eliza M. Partridge, afterwards the wife of Amasa M. Lyman, married to Joseph May 11, 1843, Elder James Adams officiating. *See sketch, page 236.*

Emily D. Partridge, afterwards the wife of Pres. Brigham Young, married to the Prophet May 11, 1843, Elder James Adams officiating. *See sketch, page 240.*

Lucy Walker, afterwards the wife of Pres. Heber C. Kimball, married to the Prophet May 1, 1843, Elder Wm. Clayton officiating. *See sketch, page 236.*

Almera W. Johnson, married to the Prophet in August, 1843. *See sketch, page 235.*

Malissa Lott, afterwards the wife of Ira Jones Willes, married to Joseph Sept. 20, 1843. *See sketch, page 119.*

Fanny Young, a sister of Pres. Brigham Young, married to Joseph

Nov. 2, 1843. Brigham Young officiating. *See sketch, page* .

Maria Lawrence, a sister of Henry W. Lawrence, of Salt Lake City, married in 1843. *See sketch, page* .

Sarah Lawrence, a sister of Henry W. Lawrence, of Salt Lake City, married to Joseph in 1843. *See sketch, page* .

Hannah Ells, sister of Dr. Josiah Ells, of Nauvoo. *See sketch, page* .

Flora Ann Woodworth, daughter of Lucien Woodworth. *See sketch, page* .

Ruth D. Vose, known as the wife of Edward Sayers. *See sketch, page* .

Mary Elizabeth Rollins, now living in Minersville, Beaver Co., Utah. *See sketch, page* .

Olive Frost, afterwards the wife of Pres. Brigham Young. *See sketch below.*

Rhoda Richards, daughter of Joseph and Rhoda Richards. *See sketch, page* .

Sylvia Sessions, daughter of David and Patty Sessions. *See sketch.*

Maria Winchester, daughter of Benjamin Winchester, sen. *See sketch, page* .

Elvira A. Cowles, afterwards the wife of Jonathan H. Holmes. *See sketch, page* .

Sarah M. Cleveland. *See sketch, page* .

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

FROST, (OLIVE GREY,) daughter of Aaron Frost and Susan Grey, was born in the town of Bethel, Oxford Co., Maine, July 24, 1816. She possessed a happy and genial disposition, and gained many friends, whose friendship grew stronger as time advanced and they learned to appreciate her good qualities. When quite young she was religiously inclined, and would often retire to some private place, with a chosen companion, to pour out her soul in secret prayer to that

Being, who rewards openly, and frequently she incurred ridicule thereby from those who were less sober minded. When about eighteen years of age she and her particular friend, Miss Louisa Foster, learned the tailoress trade, and they went together from place to place, among their acquaintances, to work at this business, thereby being able to lighten the labors of the busy housewives. While engaged at this work in the neighboring town of Dixfield, Elder Duncan Mc-