

Sister Emeline B. Wells

Jan. 20th 1886

city -
My Dear "Aunt Em":

I found your letter of the 13th inst. with two letters from Aunt Mary E. Rollins, addressed to you, on my table, among piles of other letters and papers, (as usual) a few days ago, and have read them with interest. I am sorry Aunt Mary feels "neglected" or "slighted" by the family. "Spiritually" or otherwise. And so far as I am personally concerned I cannot feel that she has just cause to think so. I have always felt a kindly sympathy for her, and we have sought to meet her wants (or rather necessities) temporarily the best we knew how. I have met her many times and have talked with her, but, as you may well know, have never had time to make protracted visits with her. I knew her brother Henry, have served with him in the Utah Territorial Legislature in the early days, and am in possession of the "Evening and Morning Star" which he presented to me a short time before he died.

There are somethings in her letters, which I

think would be very interesting to publish, and there are others which would be unwise to make public. I think her memory is remarkable for one of her age, but sometimes the memory grows a little with age. Receiving her endowments while the Prophet was living in P. P. Pratt's house in Nauvoo, is of course, new to me. but do you think she is correct in saying she "received them the second time in the Nauvoo Temple? If so it is the first case of the kind I have heard of. And was no doubt done without knowledge of having had them. However, not knowing the facts, I will not presume to judge.

She may be mistaken about endowments, one time or the other. I would not like the idea to go out that she received them twice. at least for herself.

I have no doubt she could tell me many things I have never known. There are many people who could do likewise. But we ourselves know of some things which would be hard for even Aunt Mary to explain. And those things, altho in themselves right and proper under the circumstances and conditions existing, would hardly be proper to expound to the world. I would not, for the world intentionally "ignore", or hurt the feelings of one of my Uncle Joseph's wives. I hope to meet him some day, and would like to be able to give a good account of myself. I would be most true to him and to his. Affectionately yours, Jos. F. Smith