

sisters express their astonishment at the things they had heard that day.

This affair weighed so heavily upon Joseph's mind that he longed for the time to come when he could have the Twelve Apostles with him to deliver this message to them; and after he had rolled off the load or delivered into their hands the keys of the kingdom, he jumped and clapped his hands like a young school boy let out to play. This is the testimony of my father. It seems that the revelation received by him in 1843, was given in answer to an inquiry to know wherein the Lord justified certain ones anciently in having so many wives and concubines. This is his testimony, and he further affirms that he was commanded to teach and enter upon the practice of it. In the revelation he was told that he was of the loins of Abraham, who received great promises concerning the continuation of his seed and the fruit of his loins forever. These are the words of the Lord on that occasion: "This promise is yours, also because ye are of Abraham; and by this law" (celestial marriage) "are the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein He glorifieth Himself. Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law, and ye shall be saved. But if ye enter not into my law ye cannot receive the promise of my Father, which He made unto Abraham. God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife. And why did she do it? Because this was the law, and from Hagar sprang many people. This, therefore, was fulfilling, among other things, the promises. Was Abraham, therefore, under condemnation? Verily, I say unto you, Nay; for I, the Lord, commanded it. Abraham was commanded to offer his son Isaac; nevertheless, it was written, thou shalt not kill. Abraham, however, did not refuse, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness."

He also said that because Abraham, Isaac and Jacob "did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels, but are Gods. David also received many wives and concubines, as also Solomon and Moses my servants; as also many others of my servants, from the beginning of the creation until this time,

and in nothing did they sin, save in those things which they received not of me. David's wives and concubines were given unto him, of me, by the hand of Nathan, my servant, and others of the prophets who had the keys of this power; and in none of these things did he sin against me, save in the case of Uriah and his wife; and, therefore he hath fallen from his exaltation, and receiveth his portion; and he shall not inherit them out of the world; for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord."

This is but a small portion of the revelation, and Joseph's own testimony was, that an angel was sent to command him to teach and to enter into this order. This angel, he states, stood over him with a drawn sword prepared to inflict the penalty of death if he should be disobedient.

I never doubted that young Joseph was exemplary, for he always had the reputation of being strictly moral, and I know that he was taught, as were many others, the first principles of the faith, which were all good and necessary for a foundation; but because we believe the precepts taught us in youth it does not excuse us for refusing to accept more revelation when given as the majority of the world have done—rejecting all revealed principles without investigation.

We might upon the same principle, and with quite as much propriety say that the first simple rudiments of learning are all that is necessary to complete our education. When we have understood and thoroughly digested one lesson or principle we are to go on unto perfection. But how can we receive light from those who show such palpable ignorance of the Prophet and the principles which I testify before God and His angels that I heard him teach! I know, as well as I know that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, that he commanded my father and other men to enter into this order of matrimony, and that he bestowed the holy Priesthood with all its keys and ordinances upon the Twelve Apostles, and told them to stand in their place and "bear off the kingdom of God." He frequently declared that he was rolling off the kingdom from his own shoulders to those of the Twelve, and I know that he maintained this feeling to the day of his death.