

or have built in Utah, is in accordance with a standing commandment of God to the Church, as neither you, nor any other person claiming a belief in the divinity of the work and mission of Joseph the Seer, can consistently refuse to accept. What I have written is respectfully submitted to your candid and honest consideration.

Believe me to be, most respectfully, your well wisher,

L. O. LITTLEFIELD.

PLURAL MARRIAGE.

At a recent conference of the Davis Stake of Zion, held at Centerville, Davis Co., Utah, some interesting remarks were made upon the subject of plural marriage, of which we append the following account from the *Deseret News*:

"In the afternoon 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 a 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.

"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 declaring 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.

"Elder Charles W. Penrose spoke a short time. He advised the young people especially who were present to store the facts that had been elucidated in their minds, that they might be able to refute the baseless stories afloat, the object of which was to show that the Prophet did not receive the revelation, and did not practice plural marriage. He showed that the revelation that had been the subject of attention was only one published on Celestial Marriage, and if the doctrine of plural marriage was repudiated so must be the glorious principle of marriage for eternity, the two being indissolubly interwoven with each other. He also showed that the most severe troubles of the Church had been before the introduction of that doctrine, comparatively no success having attended the efforts of opposition since, its practice having been accompanied by 'blessing and not cursing.'

"Elder George Reynolds spoke a short time, alluding to his incarceration in prison for the sake of that doctrine. Alluding to the 'tender mercy' of the world, he stated that notwithstanding his case was a test one, a request for pardon had been denied, and he served out his full term, with the exception of the allowance made on account of good conduct under the laws; he received no clemency whatever from the powers that be.

"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."

A CONTINENTAL TOUR.—President John Henry Smith left Liverpool on Saturday for a trip on the Continent, expecting to be absent from a month to six weeks. He will visit throughout the Scandinavian and Swiss and German Missions, and perhaps also go to Italy and France before his return. Our readers will, we hope, be posted in regard to his progress and observations by occasional communications from him. He is accompanied by Elder James Wrathall.

A GOOD BOOK.—We have received another volume—the tenth book—of the "Faith-Promoting Series," issued from the *Juvenile Instructor* Office, Salt Lake. Like its predecessors, it is full of interest to old and young alike. Its distinctive title is **SCRAPS OF BIOGRAPHY**. The first two chapters are entitled "Sketch of an Elder's Life," and relate the experience of Elder John Tanner, which bristles with interesting scenes, such as cases of miraculous healing, etc. Then we have five chapters entitled "Incidents of Experience," by Daniel Tyler, in which a great many facts of thrilling interest are related and morals portrayed. The latter and principal part of the volume is composed of "Newel Knight Journal," which is divided into twelve chapters, and contains many items of interest, some of them never before published, connected with the early history of the Church. It will be remembered that Newel Knight figured rather prominently in the Church in early days. He was the man from whom Joseph Smith cast the devil at Colesville, Broome Co., N.Y., which is mentioned in the Church History as the first miracle performed in this dispensation.

The book is written in a simple, unaffected, but withal rather attractive style throughout, contains much that is well worth perusing and remembering, and is a very creditable addition to the literature of the Latter-day Saints.

You will not be sorry for hearing before judging, for thinking before speaking, for holding an angry tongue, for stopping the ear of a tale-bearer, for disbelieving most of the ill-reports, for being kind to the distressed, for being patient towards every body, for doing good to all men, for asking pardon for all wrongs, for speaking evil of no one, for being courteous to all.