

Journal of John Mills Whitaker

(Vol II p 578) January 16th, 1905

He is summoned to appear in Washington for the Reed Smoot case.

(Vol II p 580)

"While in Washington" he was sustained as Bishop of Sugar House Ward. He came home and found he was Bishop.

(Vol II p 598-599) October 17th 1905

Oct 17th, We did the unusual thing in promoting friendship and fellowship especially among the sisters. After talking with the Presidency of the Church and getting their approval, we called together the Relief Society Presidency and selected a few faithful and devoted sisters and set them apart to go among the sick and women in their period of maternity to wash and annoint and bless their sisters and gave counsel to be wise and use these gifts to inspire faith and greater cohesion among the sisters of the ward and hope it may be a blessing to those desirous of such ministrations.

(Vol II p 599)

On the 18th of October about 10 A.M. I took Nichol Hood to the Presidents Office and as I entered the north door in to the private office of President Smith, there was the president, brother Penrose and John R. Winder, his counselors and ten of the apostles. And by the way, Nichol Hood loved Brother Penrose and held him as a perfect democrat, and brother Penrose had done many things for Nichol Hood, I said, "President Smith, this is Nichol Hood, the man who has made the charge against you that you gave your consent for his brother John Hood, to take a plural wife." What a surprise to most of the brethren and what a spirit it at once aroused. President Smith was calm and very gracious to Nichol Hood and said, "Brother Hood, bring your chair close to me and let me talk with you. Who and where is your brother John Hood, and tell me just what he said." Nichol Hood said, "My brother John Hood told me that you personally told him you had no objection for him to take a plural wife." And then President Smith said, "Nichol I don't know your brother, I never remember of ever having seen him and if he said such a thing to you, he is a liar and the truth is not in him. The man is not living, or the man is not dead that could say I ever gave my consent for any one to take a plural wife since the Manifesto." He then spent over an hour going over the history of cases in the church and then said: "We learned from reliable sources that John W. Taylor and Mathias F. Cowley and others were writing and making appointments and were performing polygamous marriages in secret places and intercepted two letters written by John W. Taylor and Mathias F. Cowley and I had them come here to my office and asked: "John W. Taylor, did you write this letter," (handing it to him, in which people were instructed to meet him in a certain secret place and he would marry them in polygamy). He said, "yes President Smith, that is my letter." the president then said, "if you wrote that letter, then sit down right here and write out your resignation as an Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, right now." And John W. Taylor said, "I have the right to perform such marriages and I will not do anything of the kind." "All right then we will try you, and we tried him for overstepping his authority after the church said such things could not be done and we disfellowshipped him from the church." Then continuing to speak to Nichol Hood, President Smith said, "Brother Mathias F. Cowley did you write this letter," handing it to him, and he said, "Yes President Smith, that is my letter. (in it also were arrangements for certain people to meet him in a certain secret place and he would marry

such people in polygamy.) "Then Brother Cowley, sit right down here and write your resignation as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Brother Cowley was tried and DISFELLOWSHIPED from the church, and that is what we are doing to all who take the law in their own hands."

(Vol II p 620)

On the 23rd Feb. (1909), my neighbor on the north, Mr. C.S. Dallas came running to me and said, "Bishop, come quickly, Kenneth is dying." and as I went in found him writhing in pain and blue. The doctor had just left and told Mr. Dallas he had done all he could and now Mr. and Mrs. Dallas, who left the church years ago, both said, "Bishop, won't you administer to Kenneth?" I anointed his bowels, never did such a thing before, and blest him, and no sooner had I finished, than he got up and said he was better. It was a remarkable thing, and for weeks after, he and family became interested again in the gospel as their parents were both faithful latter-day saints.

(Vol II p 623 - 624) About August 15th 1909

I have had serious time lately with some brethren who are determined to privately take plural wives, against the solemn pledge the church has made, and I have met with them and done all I could, to get them to be true to their first wife, and under instructions from the President of the church, had finally told them if they took another wife while their wife was living, we would have to handle them for their fellowship; but even this is not sufficient in some cases. The Presidency said many times this must stop. During the balance of the summer was extremely busy in ward, stake and social affairs. I had several talks with the Stake Presidency over my attitude toward some who are in polygamy, stating that all who took wives since the manifesto were living in Adultry, and some of the leading men in the Stake, who had done so protested and in the High Council, I explained my position and the President of the Stake asked me why I took such a stand, he and J.M. Cannon had been advised by one of the General Authorities to do so, explaining that they did so and that the matter had been taken up by the council of the twelve and in as much as they did so immediately after the manifesto and had made all arrangements in good faith to do so when the manifesto was passed: that unless some one made complaint against them, so far as the council was concerned, no action would be taken. We have had many meetings on the matter, and I was told by President Joseph F. Smith, no matter who they were, to handle all who had taken a wife after the manifesto, or he would handle me. This thing must stop. and later, one of the members of the ward, Willard Richards, came and asked me why I favored my brother-in-law, who was a member of my ward, ((and also Stake President)) and not make fish of one and foul of another. He said he knew that F.Y. Taylor had taken one since, and I said to him, "are you sure? Yes, I am sure." Then I said, "if you will file a complaint against President F.Y. Taylor, or anyone else in my ward, I would at once try the case." "I'll do nothing of the kind," said he, then said I, "then keep your mouth shut and don't go and try to destroy the character of anyone if you will not take your part in stopping such things. It is such men as you and others who talk and slander others, but unwilling to help put a stop to such things, and you and all such, are bringing the church in disrepute and give sicense for the stranger to find fault and say the church is not keeping its oath." President Smith told me personally when I took Nichol Hood before the Presidency and Twelve some time ago, "The man is not living and the man is not dead who can ever say that I have ever approved of a single plural marriage since the manifesto,"