

# The Mormon Church War.

## The Brothers Smith vs. Brigham and His Polygamous Practices.

More Meetings—Criminations and Recriminations—The Saints Excited.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SALT LAKE CITY, August 26, 1869.

In my previous letter I left Joseph F. Smith, the son of "Hyrum the Martyr," and cousin to David and Alexander Smith, engaged in proving that his father and Joe Smith (the "prophet") were liars. Judging from the testimony produced by Joseph F. at the 14th Ward meeting house on Sunday evening, August 8th, he succeeded admirably. He sought to prove that Joe Smith actually received a revelation establishing polygamy, and that both he and Hyrum his brother, practised polygamy secretly, and there in the face of their positive denials contained in the *Times and Seasons*, a Mormon paper published at Nauvoo.

### Elder Coray's Testimony.

The first witness introduced to the congregation by Joseph F. Smith was "Elder Howard Coray." All who have read Mary Ettie V. Smith's book, *Fifteen Years Among the Mormons*, will at once recognize this name as that of the "older brother Howard," often mentioned by her. His narrative was somewhat amazing, but it ended in leaving no other impressions upon the mind than that of disgust at its slipperiness and pity for the weakness of mind which it betrayed. By way of introduction, he stated that he was Joseph Smith's clerk for many years and very familiar with him. He continued; "in fact I *rested* with him—no, I didn't exactly *rest* with him, for he was a big man and I am a very little man; but he played with me and threw me and broke my leg." But wonderful to relate, the "prophet" set Coray's leg, laid hands on him, blessed him and the leg became well and strong in three weeks. In reference to polygamy, he stated that about the time his leg was broken and prophetically healed, his wife had a dream, in which "Brother Thompson sealed her on the five points of fellowship;" that she told part of her dream to Hyrum Smith, but felt a delicacy about telling it all; and that Hyrum Smith then explained to Coray and his wife the entire revelation authorizing polygamy, received but a few days before. He further said that Hyrum Smith's sister-in-law soon after moved to Hyrum's house, and another sister had her a house built alongside of Hyrum's, so there was a passage to his bedroom—and anybody might see what that was for. It must have occurred to the congregation that there was hardly need of a revelation to enable them to see what that was for.

### Joseph F. Smith's Speech.

Joseph F. Smith was the next speaker and manifested great nervousness and excitement throughout. He commenced by stating that many would run after David and Alexander Smith simply because they were the sons of Joseph, who would treat with contempt any other person who preached the same doctrine. In view of this fact, it had been determined to hold a series of meetings to answer the statements of David Hyrum, and before they were through they purposed to present testimony to convince any honest mind who heard it, and damn any who rejected it. He stated that he would present the affidavits of twelve women now living that they were the spiritual wives of Joseph Smith, and so continued to the time of his death; that he had the evidence of hundreds of men who had been taught the doctrine by Joseph and Hyrum, and that he knew to a certainty that his father, Hyrum Smith, had two other women while his mother was still alive. As an excuse for the denials of his father and Joe Smith, he said:

"I cannot help the position this places my father and Joseph in as to their denials. I only know these facts. But everybody knows the people then were not prepared for these things and they had to be cautious. They were in the midst of their enemies, in a State where this doctrine would have sent them to the penitentiary. There were traitors on every hand; the right hand man of the Prophet, one Marks, was a traitor of the blackest dye. When Joseph and Hyrum left Nauvoo, intending to come to the Rocky Mountains and pick out a refuge for the people, when the mob were after them, that man Marks and Emma Smith joined in writing them a letter urging them to come back. They came back, delivered themselves up, and were murdered. And the blame rests upon that woman, their mother, Emma Smith. And I say the blood of Joseph and Hyrum is upon the souls of Marks and Emma Smith, and there it will remain until burned out by the fires of hell."

### An Excited Audience.

During this recital the audience were gradually worked up to a high pitch of excitement, and their suppressed breathing and fixed gaze manifested to the observer the intensity of the excitement. Whenever the Brighamite leaders wish to carry a point or accomplish a purpose they seek to arouse the passions of the people by a recital of harrowing details—false, it is true, but nevertheless fully calculated to effectually accomplish the purpose designed. So the details concerning the death of the "prophet" were artfully contrived to excite the passions of the people and overcome the cooler judgment.

### Joe and Hyrum Smith's Denial of Polygamy.

The denials of Joseph and Hyrum Smith referred to above were contained in a card published in the *Times and Seasons* in February, 1844, denying that they had received any revelation authorizing polygamy, and also in a published address of Hyrum to the Elders starting on a mission in April, 1844 in which he denied the doctrine and forbade its being preached. About the same time Hyrum wrote a letter to the Mission in La Pierre county, Michigan, denying that polygamy was a doctrine of the Church, and these denials were all published in the church paper, and, of course, are not denied by the Brighamites. If Joseph F. Smith proved that polygamy did exist—and I think he did—he thus proves his father and Joseph Smith to have been deliberate liars.

### David Smith Preaches Another Sermon—His Attack on Brigham.

Last Sunday afternoon David Smith preached against the errors which he says have been grafted on the doctrines of Joseph Smith since his death. He said the spirit of man was like a ring, without beginning or ending. Brigham's doctrine is that the spirit is begotten in the same manner that the body is; the spirit by God (meaning Adam) in the eternal worlds, the body by the earthly parents. The congregation was larger than any heretofore assembled to hear the Smiths preach, and great interest was manifested by most of those present. I am informed that Brigham has adopted the plan of calling upon 20 polygamists out of each ward to go and fill up the house in order to exclude those who would probably become converts. I know not how true this is, but I certainly saw occupying the best seats, some of the most hardened and inveterate polygamists in the city, among whom was the notorious Bishop Wooley, who stated in his meeting house last evening that the Smith boys were idiots and fools, and would only convert thieves, murderers and scoundrels. The Brighamite leaders seem to be employing against the Josephite Mormons the same weapons of ridicule and scandal which they complain so bitterly have been used against themselves by the world at large.

### The Last Meeting—J. F. Smith's Speech.

Sunday evening your correspondent presented himself at the Fourteenth Ward meeting, to hear the opposite side of the question. Joseph F. Smith, the avowed and recently constituted champion of Brighamism, occupied the stand, and undertook a defense of polygamy. He made no quotations from the Book of Mormon, that authority being against him; nor from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, that being equally so; but he quoted from the Bible such passages as to his mind were "proofs, confirmations strong as Holy writ." Many passages in the singular number referring to marriages, were construed by him to mean the plural also, without even the warrant of express Legislative enactment. He said: "The Smith boys quote the language of Parley P. Pratt, to prove that he denied polygamy. To my mind that language is proof that he knew that polygamy was practiced at the time. It is this: I 'do not believe in spiritual wives, but in wives of real flesh and blood who belong body and soul to their husbands.'"

He also said: "It has been said that I have proved that Joseph Smith had a revelation on polygamy, and that he practiced it; and also that I have proved my father a liar. I will show that he has not lied. There is a difference between telling a lie and not telling the truth. Webster says: 'Polygamy, a man having several wives, or a woman having several husbands.' It is the latter part my father meant to deny, and not the former; therefore he did not lie." Was anything ever heard more nonsensical? To what straits must a man be reduced who uses such an argument as this? Unfortunately, however, for Joseph F. Smith's argument, it has been proved by a great many witnesses, some of whom, now leading men in the Brighamite church, made affidavits to the fact, which were placed on file in the archives of the State of Illinois, and therefore could not be destroyed by them when they fell into the arms of Brigham Young, that a promiscuous intercourse of the sexes was carried on at Nauvoo by Joseph Smith and his leading men, and that a woman had several husbands as well as a husband several wives.

### Progress of the War—Brigham Uneasy.

Meanwhile the interesting war between Josephism and Brighamism continues, and it is thought by many "Brighamites," as well as "Gentiles," that it will lead to important results. Notwithstanding the misrepresentation of one Mormon journal, and one only—the *Telegraph*, which would have the outside world believe in the very face of facts that the Smiths are creating no excitement, receiving no sympathy and support from any respectable numbers—Brigham fears them or he would not denounce and Joseph F. Smith would not argue against them. The Brighamites believe the time is at hand when the great split, long prophesied, will take place in this branch of the Mormon Church.