SPIRITUAL WIFERY AT NAUVOO

EXPOSED.

A TRUE ACCOUNT OF TRANSACTIONS IN AND ABOUT NAUVOO.

By O. Olney,
Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ.

ST. LOUIS:
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1845.
BRETHREN AND SISTERS,

Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints;

To you and all other lovers of honesty, peace, truth and righteousness I recommend the perusal of the following pages, in order that you may be truly informed of the corruption and iniquity of the people of Nauvoo, and also the present movements and future designs of the leaders of that community.

Having lately visited Nauvoo and spent a few days in the city, and being an Elder in the church, I have had a good opportunity to become acquainted with the secret designs and measures of the twelve and their adherents, and can vouch for the truth of the information herein given.

Were it not that I have heretofore upheld by my voice and influence the people of that place, and especially their leaders, I should consider my testimony against them at the present uncalled for, but in view of the foregoing fact, I publish to the world the few following items of truth that all who may choose to gain information, may be truly informed upon this (to many,) very important subject, and if it shall be the means of saving a few souls from the wily and practised destroyers of innocence, the writer will have gained his point.

THE AUTHOR.
SPiritual Wifery, &c.

Brethren and Sisters:—

Being an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, it is therefore my Priesthood and calling, to teach the pure principles of truth and righteousness to all ranks and conditions of the human family, and also to warn them against the multitude of errors and false doctrines that are abroad in the land, and with this view of things before me I enter with no very pleasant feelings upon the duty which now seems to devolve upon me.

It is well known to most of you at least, (who are members of the church) that upon the death of our beloved Prophet and patriarch Joseph and Hyram Smith, Sidney Rigdon, then resident at Pittsburgh, Pa., returned to Nauvoo and was excommunicated from the church, and since that time the church has been under the sole guidance and management of the Twelve.

How far their management and practice has been in accordance with the principles of Peace, Virtue and Truth, I shall leave the candid and unbiased to judge after becoming acquainted with the principles taught and practised by them at the present time.

If you have not heretofore been informed of the fact, I will now inform you that the orders of the Twelve are to every member of the church throughout the United States, who can, to make ready to leave Nauvoo as soon as grass grows sufficient to sustain teams on the way and go to California, in order that they may be free from the persecutions of the Gentiles, and also to fulfill the words of the Prophet, where he warns the people to “hide themselves in their chambers as it were, for a little moment until the indignation be overpast.” (Isa 26—20.) Thus claiming the projected move of themselves and followers into the western wilderness to be the fulfillment of the words of the Prophet.

Again, in order to stir up the lukewarm and “to confirm the weak hands and strengthen the feeble knees,” it has been proclaimed on the stand in the Temple, by Orson Hyde, one of the Twelve, that this very anticipated emigration of the church will fulfill the saying of John the Revelator: 12th chapter.

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven—a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars, (6th verse). And she brought forth a manchild, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron, and her child was caught unto God and to his throne, (6th verse). And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three-score days.”

Mr. Hyde said, “This church is the woman, Brethren and Sisters, and Joseph is the man child, and he has been caught up, and we have the testimony of Rigdon, that he is in heaven, for he says he has seen him sitting at the right hand of the Majesty on High. Thus you see brethren and sisters, that this scripture is soon to have its actual fulfillment, and the church will be nourished in the wilderness for a time, times, and a half which will be about,—but I will leave the time for your own consideration.”

Thus spake the Great Apostle Orson, upon the application of that Scripture which forms the first necessary prerequisite to the establishing of the church in 1830, viz: (the fact that it must have been in the wilderness or it could not have come out of it,) thereby fulfilling Rev. 14—6. “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, &c.”

Now those of my readers who are at all acquainted with the pure principles of Mormonism as taught by the Elders heretofore, most assuredly know, that from our martyred Brothers Joseph and Hyrum down to the weakest Elder who has ever spoken or written upon the subject, we have been taught that the woman represents the church with its officers at its head, and the manchild representing the authority of said church was taken from their midst, at which time the church went into the wilderness or in other words, descended into poverty, (570 after Christ,) since which time it has remained in the wilderness unto the consummation of the 1260 days (or years,) which brings us to the year 1830, the time of the restoration of the priesthood and establishing of the church with its attendant blessings, thus fulfilling Rev. 14—6 concerning the mission of the angel and forming a bulwark and foundation which fifteen years of the most powerful opposition has not been able to overthrow.

As may well be supposed I was much astonished at such an application of Scripture as was given by Mr. Hyde, and supposed it was so applied to cheer up some, if any there were, who might hesitate about joining the general movement.

I therefore spoke to some few with whom I was acquainted, upon the subject, and was still more astonished to hear those whom I had supposed to be capable of exercising an opinion of their own declare they had never heard it applied
otherwise and that it was perfectly plain, that it would be fulfilled when the church emigrated and not before. I endeavored to reason with them and show them that, according to the Scripture, the woman brought forth the manchild, but if it be applied to the church emigration and to Joseph, it will be assuming that the manchild brought forth the woman, for Joseph brought forth and established the church in the year of our Lord, 1830.

Such plain reasoning as this had no effect and bore no weight upon them. Thus I discovered that anything so simple the twelve was exalted down without any regard to its truth or falsehood.

I remarked that the Elders who had preached heretofore had preached by the spirit of God, and I believed they had made a right application of said scripture, and I did not believe that God was so much of a lawyer as to make a portion of sacred writ apply one way one day and another ten years and then another way the morrow.

From an old lady present who had been ordained to the priesthood under the hand of Brigham Young and who had been practicing the duties of an Elder, viz: the laying on of hands, I received the following answer:

"Brother Olney, Br. Brigham says "Learn to mind your own business, to obey counsel and to hold your tongues, and you will all get along well enough.""

On the following morning, I met Mr. Hyde in the street and asked him if the saints were to receive his explanation of the said scripture as correct, or whether he so explained for the purpose of encouraging the fainthearted.

With a foppish turn of the body, a nod of the head accompanied by a wave of the hand, he replied, "That is as I understood it", good morning Brother Olney, and passed along, leaving me to wonder at his deceit which was but too apparent.

Let us now, for a moment, see whether God requires us to follow the teachings of such men and thus be led into the wilderness. They say to the people that it is the will of God for all his saints to flee into the wilderness, and to this end there has been Elders sent almost every State in the Union to proclaim to the saints that if they will obey the counsel of the twelve and go into the western wilds they will there establish a government and kingdom in which they can enjoy, unmolested, that liberty of conscience and freedom of speech which they have in vain sought at the hands of the rulers of this republic and that God will sustain them and protect them from their enemies until they are secure from them, and then the wicked will destroy the wicked and thus leave the broad lands of the continent of America to them and their posterity, at which time, they will inherit thrones, dominions, principalities and powers which will continue, through the countless ages of eternity.

The last edition Book Cov., page 400 gives Brigham Young's words.

It will show unto my servant Joseph, all things pertaining to this house (the Temple) and the priesthood thereof and the place whereon it shall be built and ye shall build it as the place where ye have commenced building it, for this is the spot which I have chosen for you to build it, if ye labor with all your mights I will consecrate that spot, that it shall be made holy, and if my people will hearken unto my voice and unto the voice of my servants whom I have appointed to lead my people, behold, verily, I say unto you, they shall not be moved out of their place.

And it shall come to pass that if you build a house unto my name and do not do the things that I say, I will not perform the oath which I make unto you, neither fulfill the promises which ye expect at my hands with the Lord, for instead of blessings, ye, by your own works bring curses, wrath, indignation and judgments upon your own heads by your follies and by all your abominations which you practice before me such as the Lord." Now behold ye and see, my friends who believe the revelations which have come forth by our Prophet Joseph "that if the saints would hearken unto the voice of God they should not be moved out of their place."

And again, even if the house should be built, if they have not observed to keep the commandments of the Lord, they should not receive their expected blessings and endowments but should bring curses, wrath, indignation and judgments upon their own heads. Now let the twelveth take which horn they please and see if they can make such removal coincide with the revelations of God in which they profess to believe.

Their removal will be proof ample that they are in transgression, if not, they shall not be moved out of their place."

And if the commandments should be to remain, they must be driven by the people of Illinois (so says P. P. Pratt) which will go conclusively to show that they have not kept the commandments, and hearkened to the counsel of the Lord; see Book Cov., page 383, given 1834, 2nd verse. "But verily, I say unto you, that I have decreed a decree which my people shall realize inasmuch as they hearken from this very hour unto the counsel which I, the Lord their God, shall give unto them. Behold, they shall, for I have decreed it begin to prevail against mine enemies from this very hour, and by hearkening to observe all the words which I, the Lord their God shall speak unto them, they shall never cease to prevail until the kingdoms of the world are subdued under my feet and the earth is given to the Saints to possess it for ever and ever. But inasmuch as they keep not my commandments and hearken not to observe all my words, the kingdoms of the world shall prevail against them, for they were set to be a light unto the world and to be the saviors of men, and inasmuch as they are not the saviors of men, they are as salt that has lost its savour, and is, therefore, good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of man."

Thus you see that if they are moved out of their place, it is in consequence of their transgression, and if they remain and are prevailed against, it is a proof of transgression, and the twelve say they must be driven unless they leave of their own will. But remember God decreed that if they hearkened to his counsel and obeyed his precepts they shall not be prevailed against but should prevail against all the kingdoms of the world. Thus I have in my heart abundant evidence to show that the saints are not required to go into the wilderness but may remain where they choose at present, and with an eye single to
would be fulfilled when the church was established.

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On the following morning, I met Mr. Hyde in the street and asked him if the saints were to receive his explanation of the said Scripture as correct, or whether he could explain for the purpose of encouraging the fainthearted.

With a soft and mellow tone of voice, he said: "That is as I understood it, good morning Brother Olney," and passed along, leaving me to wonder at the deceit which was but too apparent.

The time is a precious time and there is a great need of another gospel. There is a great need of the words of the Lord, which are given by the living prophets. There is a great need of the words of the Lord, which are given by the living prophets. There is a great need of the words of the Lord, which are given by the living prophets.

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the glory of God, wait until you can see the disorganized and headless body of the church reorganized and established by having its proper authority and priesthood at its head. See Book Cov, page 129, 3d verse.

TherefoT, thus saith the Lord, unto you with whom the priesthood hath continued through the lineage of your fathers, ye are lawful heirs according the flesh and have been hid from the world with Christ in God, therefore, your life and the priesthood hath remained and must needs remain through you and your lineage until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began. Now as much as it is plain that the church as well as the leaders, are in transgression, we must come to the conclusion that the head and body both being corrupt, the purity and chastity of the whole organization has fled to parts unknown. Therefore, let us, as servants of God, be watchful and prayerful—watchful that we be not caught in the snares of the evil one, and prayerful that the Lord will specially call to the work one of that lineage with which the priesthood must needs remain that then may be fulfilled. The words found on page 357, Book Cov: "Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power, therefore, I will raise up unto my people a man who shall lead them like as (not where) Moses led the children of Israel, for ye are the children of Israel and of the seed of Abraham." This was given in the year 1831 before which time the Prophet Joseph was raised up, yet here is a positive declaration to have its fulfillment in the future from that time, thereby showing that another prophet must be raised up, and according to page 129 which I have heretofore quoted, he must be of that lineage with whom the priesthood has remained, and must still remain—Therefore Brethren and Sisters let us in view of this important subject, know no man or set of men, until we can see who will next rise up at the call of God, and show forth a true authority and a pure priesthood. I freely acknowledge that the twelve should have stood in their office and held the keys of the priesthood, and guided the affairs of the church, (unless they were found in transgression,) in connection with the other authorities of the church, until God should raise up a head to the quorum of first Presidency, or in other words until such times as one of that lineage should stand up to claim and exercise the authority of his priesthood. But, the twelve having gone into measures not compatible with the pure principles of righteousness have fallen from high and exalted station to which God has raised them to a level with the brute beast that yields every motion to the promptings of that passion, which at the time may chance to have the ascendant. Perhaps some of my readers may think this to be the overflows of a heart full of prejudice, but I assure you I visited Nauvoo with the intention and expectation of making it my winter's residence, and for the purpose of receiving blessings and endowments in the Temple. Yes, I expected to realize the truth of what I had read in the "Times and Seasons," and "Nauvoo Neighbor," and bad on my way to that place, used my utmost ability to free the twelve from what I considered foul calumny and vile aspersions against their character, but judge my surprise and disappointment when I came to see with my own eyes, and hear with my own ears, I found Nauvoo a sink of iniquity inhabited by a people whose leaders are wholesale murderers instead of those who I fondly thought were among the first to condemn vice and foster the germ of virtue and truth, that thereby the saints might be brought into the bonds of perfectness. Our prophet Joseph said to the people that he did not want any to leave Nauvoo till the Temple was finished, and then after receiving their endowments they might scatter abroad upon the face of the land and preach the Gospel, raise up branches, establish stakes and build Temples on all the land of Zion, which he said was the stovetop of America knowing as he did that if they kept the commandments of God, they should never cease to prevail. Thus the important question is, will the people of Nauvoo prevail or are they in transgression in consequence of which they are to be moved out of their place.

Methinks every honest lover of truth must agree with me that the church is now 같은 such men as are not led by the spirit of the living God; but are speedily forsaking every principle of truth and honesty, and are now living on the ill-gotten spoils of their corrupted authority, while thousands of the honest hearted scattered abroad in the world are (by paying tithing) supporting them in their luxury and extravagance. Although as I have written that I found Nauvoo a sink of iniquity, I do not mean to be understood that all are so practising upon their own judgment, but hundreds are so bound up in the belief that the twelve are pure, paying no regard to the reasonableness of their requirements that it is often said: "If we obey counsel and commit sin in so doing it will not lie at our doors but will be answered upon the heads of the twelve for so teaching us." This is the confidence which people have in the twelve, to the exclusion of all honor, truth, justice, peace, mercy and righteousness.

The building of the Nauvoo House is wholly abandoned, its bare walls and large piles of brick near by exposed to the weather, presenting a striking contrast to the view which would be presented if the measures of the martyred Prophet were to be carried out as he designed. A desperate effort is being made to finish the Temple, although hundreds of thousands of dollars of the tithing is appropriated to the subsistence of the twelve, the bishops and their prostitutes, thereby requiring an extra amount of tithing to what would be necessary for the use to which it should be applied. In view of such a state of things, my heart bleeds and my feelings burst forth in sorrow to think of the many who must be as I am badly disappointed, when they learn that they have been led by such men utterly destitute of every principle that ever was a man in the scale of being, or make him noble eyes of his Creator, in consequence of which, our nates which have been joyfully engaged in the building of the House of the Lord, are supplied to the subsistence and adornment of themselves and their prostitutes; and the honest hearted left no relief or consolation but move over the depravity of fallen man, and strive to
shun the vortex of ruin into which others are daily plunging. And such are the men influenced by such passions, who have only to speak the word, and no crime is too horrible, no act however mean and degrading, too low for their police, (as they are called,) to perform in order to carry out the designs of their superiors.

Having given a few testimonies from the Book of Covenants, and also from my own personal observation, I shall leave this part of the subject matter of my little work, trusting that the honest heart will treasure up the truth, which will enable them to judge between good and evil, that they may practice the good all the day long; that when the night cometh they may be called upon to enter into the joy of their Lord.

Since writing the foregoing I have perused a pamphlet written by Wm. Smith, Brother of the Prophet, and formerly one of the twelve, and patriarch in which he has (as far as my knowledge extends) set forth plainly and clearly the corruptions of Nauvoo and its leaders, and I can recommend the perusal of it to all honest hearted saints to whom it may come, by which it will be seen that he renounces all their secret designs and unhallowed measures, and still stands forth as a herald of the pure Gospel of Christ.

[From the Times & Seasons.]

TUNE—INDIAN STUDENT'S LAMENT.

O give me back my Prophet dear,
And Patriarch, O give them back;
The Saints of latter days I love;
And lead them in the gospel track.
But ah! they're gone from my embrace;
From earth they scenes their spirits fled;
Those two, the best of Adam's race,
Now lie entombed among the dead.

Ye men of wisdom tell me why,
When guilt nor crime in them were found,
Why now their blood doth loudly cry,
From prison walls, and Carthage ground.
Your tongues are mute, but pray attend,
The secret I will now relate,
Why those whom God to earth did bring,
Have met the suffering martyr's fate.

It is because they strove to gain,
Beyond the grave a heaven of bliss;
Because they made the gospel plain,
And led the saints in righteousness. It is because God called them forth,
And led them by his own right hand,
Christ's coming to proclaim on earth,
And gather Israel to their land.

It is because the Priests of Baal
Were desperate a craft to save;
And when they saw it doomed to fail,
They sent the Priests to the grave.
Like scenes the ancient Priests saw,
Like these, the ancient Priests fell;
And till the resurrection dawn,
Prophet and Patriarch—Pare well.

A brief outline of the transactions in and about Nauvoo may be found in the remainder of this work. As I before stated I visited Nauvoo with the strongest assurance that I should find it a place of piety and virtue, but I found it a place where profane language is in common use with all classes, yes I have heard God's name profaned in the presence and hearing of the twelve, and instead of reprimanding the swearer one of them excused the matter to me by saying that "the person used to be an infidel, but is a fast rite fellow now."
The twelve often meet in council, to give advice to any who may choose to ask it, and also to give orders to those in authority under them, and one such occasion I have witnessed where three shooters (revolving Pistols) were laid on the centre table and one fifteen shooter (ride) stood in the corner to protect the persons of the twelve, although an armed guard are posted every night around the city and every street guarded by police, armed with (some of them) large heavy canes with an iron or steel point, also pistols and bowie knives, and others around the houses of the twelve thus shielding them from any intrusion in the night time, and in the daytime they are (unless they are secreted for fear of being arrested for some of their misdemeanors) walking the streets in their Broadcloths while their followers are toiling to support them in their luxury and extravagance.

As it respects the late troubles in the county I am prepared to say in truth as follows:
The twelve by their unbounded influence over their subjects, and by teaching that the people round about them are gentiles and that the saints are to "suck the milk of the gentiles," have created such a state of feeling that the breasts of their followers that they think it is no sin for them to "suck a little," just now, and in fact I have heard prominent men such as high Priests and Presidings Officers say that if a gentile comes in their way the best way to do is to put him "out of the way," as quick as possible. Such sentiments thrown out by the people at Nauvoo have not failed to cause a reaction on the part of the settlers, and the feeling has been fanned into a flame that will be springing (I hope) burnt too hot for mormons. Yes even to their expulsion from the state, and for this reason.

A stipulation has been mutually agreed to by both mormons and anties, that hostile operations and manoeuvres shall cease on both sides, and also that the mormons should leave Nauvoo as soon as grass grows sufficient for teams to subsist upon.

Yet still the mormons have been visited by writs to bring some offenders (of which class there are many) to justice; which serves as a pretext for the mormons to send out armed forces numbering from 50 up to 200, who on horseback scour the prairie between Nauvoo and Carthage, (as they say) in search of "Prairie Chickens," and latterly as if this was not enough a body of these men have been to Carthage, and entirely broken up the court which was in session at that place, (so I heard one of the men engaged in the transaction declare,) so that none of the brethren could be tried at that court if arrested, but probably there will be none arrested for Brigham says to the people "give them what is in their guns first and then use them to the best advantage before they submit to an arrest."

The judge of the court in company with some of the lawyers of the county, visited Nauvoo to inquire the reason of the breaking up of the court in such a manner, but received nothing satisfactory, except a tirade of abuse from John Taylor (one of the twelve,) which, be the judge carried away rankling and festering in his own bosom.

Another evidence of their purity and holiness, may be gathered from the fact that at the houses of some of the twelve, I have seen from three to five years' old rural kit warrs in big been t be many they no mention it is an answer to some the tea and help them largely by you have no loved whom garb of weep, s and de light the And right Edan is a preparer established when the given inight.

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five young females, whose prolific appearance indicates a great increase of posterity in the temporal kingdom, to any of a great number of married women who are sealed to different ones in high standing in the kingdom, and (as I have been taught from their own mouths,) believe it to be their privilege before God to raise up as many children here in the flesh as they can, that they may have a greater kingdom to rule over in eternity; and on being asked how many women one of their men has, it is one's privilege to begot children with, the answer was, "As many as he can maintain." Thus making an object among themselves, (except the twelve, the bishops, the Temple committee and some other privileged characters,) who help themselves out of Temple funds; to enter largely into speculations and engagements, that thereby upon their income they may support (if they have no husbands to support them) those unhallowed and polluted vestiges of humanity, with whom they practise such abominations under the garb of righteousness; as must make the heavens weep, and the earth mourn, to witness the fallen and degraded state of those who are to be "a light unto the world and also the saviors of men." And whose privilege it was to "bring in everlasting righteousness, to make the earth bloom as Eden and to gather Israel from the dispersion, preparatory to the coming of the Messiah and establishing of the celestial kingdom of God, when the earth and the fulness thereof shall be given into the hands of the saints of the most High." 

Another important item in the present teachings of the twelve, is that "At the time of receiving their washings and anointings or their endowments, all marriages will be declared void, and every person have the privilege of choosing for him or herself, by a mutual agreement, that is, if two choose to remain together it is their privilege to do so, but neither one can retain the other, if he or she chooses to depart and live with another. Oh shall there be this blot? Furthermore, it is said by the redoubtable Brigham, that "when the church once gets away from Nauvoo, if any finds any fault with the twelve, their heads shall come off, and none shall ever return to tell their tales!"

Another of his sayings is, "It is better that fifty innocent men should suffer death, than that any crime should be proven against any one of the twelve, even if he were guilty." Another is, "The Bible is no more to the people of this generation than a last year's almanac, for I am all the bible needful for the people now, if they will obey my counsel." These are a few of the sentiments of the far-famed president of the twelve, and I must acknowledge they are perfectly consonant with his principles and character. Another testimony of the purity of that people is the fact that a High Priest of that place told me that he had witnessed the deaths of five mortals at the hands of the Mormons, on the prairie, and also that the cattle in the Mississippi had escaped the bones of some who had better have kept away from Nauvoo.

The "anointing and washing," as it is jocosely called, is practiced frequently upon those off enders who are not judged worthy of death, which is covering them from head to foot with filth obtained from the vault of some necessary in the city, and then casting them into the river.

Aha! for the purity of such a people, when their renowned head is upholding them in, and warning them on to deeds of shame and degradation, no where equalled in the annals of history, but which must stand forth in bold relief, as a warning to any who may hereafter be called to stand in as high and holy a calling as were these men who have now sacrificed every honest and virtuous principle at the shrine of female corruption, and justly merited a portion with those who are left without the city, such as (see Rev. 22: 16) "Dogs and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." Another heart-rending fact in the present history of Nauvoo is that hundreds of honest hearted females are there who have no means with which to get away, and as said by many means of subsistence there, except at the expense of virtue, and who are continually subject to the importunities of those fiends in human shape who, after having gratified their passion for lust, will, straightway, upon the public stand, declare before God and the Angels, that no system of spiritual wifery is practiced or tolerated by them, when some of their victims are at the very time upon their knees in secret beseeching God to forgive them for yielding in an unguarded moment to their seducers, and to open a way for their escape from the folds of their destroyers, that, perchance, by a life of morality, virtue and piety, they may atone for the weakness of a moment, and at last gain an inheritance with the saints of God. Think not, my readers, that this is a fancy piece, or the suggestions of an over-excited imagination, for it is but a few out of thousands of the testimonies that might be brought to show that virtue and truth have died from their midst, and vice, in almost every form, has stalked forth, and holds, unchecked by any pure principle, the away over almost the entire community, while their publications—"Times and Seasons" and "Neighbor"—would soon make the people at a distance believe that Nauvoo is pure as was Eden at first, and that the people are the innocent but persecuted people which they were once. I blush for the depravity of my fellow-man, and were it not for some hopes for the future, I should be disposed to loathe the society of human intercourse, and in the deep recesses of the forest, learn that man was witted only that he might be abused, and virtue nourished only for a time that vice might the more strikingly exhibit the contrast, and cast mankind to a depth from which they might never arise, but to witness their own depravity, and weep over the lost and remain in a miserable existence.

But I yet hope for the future, and pray God that he will soon reorganize his kingdom, and preserve all the honest in heart from the hand of the spoiler until everlasting righteousness is brought in, and his saints inherit the kingdom prepared for them from before the foundation of the world, even to Amem.
Copy of a letter received from Dr. Wm. Smith, dated, St. Louis, Nov. 4th, 1845.

Elder Olney:

Dear Brother,—I understand you have arrived in this city from Nauvoo, on the steamer Boressa, and as many of the saints are leaving that place, the cause is plainly evident to every honest and discerning mind, whether their stay has been long or short there, that such is the declining state of morality, and such the departure from the old and pure principles of religion, as had been in our books and as taught by our brethren Joseph and Hyrum, that herein must be invidiously ruined by the damnable heresies that have crept into the church, whereby many are giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy, &c., unless they are redeemed by a speedy and bold exertion on the part of the honest and uncorrupted Elders of Israel.

As I understand you are about to publish your sentiments, for the purpose of exposing their works of darkness, it is to be hoped that your praiseworthy and laudable undertaking of exposing these wolves in sheep's clothing, their secret abominations, their plans of seduction, crime, cruelty, false claims, unhallowed pretensions and base subterfuges, may be blessed to the saving of souls from ruin. It is my counsel and advice that all the saints remain where they are, and not remove to Nauvoo. Let the Elders continue preaching the gospel in its original purity, and follow no spurious twelve. Let the saints continue to hold meetings, preach and pray, do good, &c., until a general conference can be held, and drawn in our books and as taught by our brethren, all things regulated according to the pattern given by the revelations of God, and if you please you may give this, entire, a place in your pamphlet for the benefit and instruction of the saints, wishing them and all mankind, in company with yourself, salvation through obedience to the requirements of the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Your friend and brother,

In the new and everlasting covenant,

Wm. Smith.

Patriarch of the Church.