President Geo. A. Smith wrote the following important letter to Joseph, son of the Prophet Joseph Smith:

Salt Lake City, 9 Oct. 1869.

Cousin Joseph Smith,

Your letter from Plano of the 7th inst. was received. You are no doubt aware that from the year 1833, until the time of his martyrdom, I was intimately acquainted with your father, and on such terms of friendship with him as were enjoyed by but few others.

In 1834, when on the journey to Missouri, I was his armour bearer and stood guard at the tent in which was held his Councils. I was present at the organization of the High Council at Kirtland and that of Missouri. I was ordained a member of the 3rd High Council of the church which was organized at Adam-ondi-ahman.

I visited your father in Liberty jail during his incarceration when he notified me that it was the will of God that I should be ordained one of the Twelve Apostles; after which I went on my mission to England, which occupied about two years, starting from "The foundation of the Lord's House" in Far West, Missouri, where at the hazard of our lives a few of us recommenced the foundation of the Temple; whence the brethren of the Twelve took leave of the Saints on the 26th of April, 1839. At one of the first interviews thereafter with your father I was greatly astonished at hearing from his lips that doctrine of Patriarchal marriage, which he continued to preach to me from time to time. My last conversation with him on this subject occurred just previous to my departure from Nauvoo (May 3, 1844) in company with Elder Wilford Woodruff, to attend Conference in Michigan. A duty assigned us byour father in carrying out his instructions to the Twelve to hold conferences throughout the States, on which mission they were engaged at the time of his death, with the exception of Elders Richards and Taylor, who shared his wrongs and participated with him and Hyrum in the bloody scenes enacted in Carthage Jail.

In his last conversation, he administered a little chastisement to me for not stepping forward as he had indicated in patriarchal marriage. He assured me that the man who had many virtuous wives had many great prizes, though he admitted that the man who had one virtuous wife had one great prize. He testified to me and to my father that the Lord had given him the keys of this sealing ordinance, and that he felt as liberal to others as he did to himself. He remarked that he had given Brigham Young three wives, Heber C. Kimball two, John Taylor
three, Osborn aged two, and many, a number of others, one said to be "you should not be behind your privileges." He had, all along, kept me posted as to many of his movements, in introducing the patriarchal order of marriage.

On the 5th day of April, 1841, Louisa Lott was married to your father, Joseph Smith, for time and all eternity, by Joseph B. Noble, a High Priest of the Church. She remained true and faithful to him until the day of her death. Brother Noble is still living.

June 4th, 1842, Lucy Ann Decker was sealed to Brigham Young by your father in presence of Willard Richards.

On the 29th of June, 1842, Brigham Young sealed Miss R. Snow to your father, in the presence of Mrs. D. Cleveland.

September 20, 1843, Melissa Lott was married by Eyrum Smith to your father in presence of Cornelius P. Lott and Israel Lott.

May 1st, 1843, Lucy Walker was sealed to your father by Mr. Clayton in presence of Eliza F. Partridge.

May 11, 1843, Emily B. and Eliza N. Partridge were married to your father, by James Adams, a High Priest, in the presence of your mother, Emma Smith.

June 12, 1843, Rhoda Richards was sealed by Willard Richards, to your father.

In July, 1843, Desdenia Fullmer was sealed by Brigham Young to your father, in presence of Heber C. Kimball.

24th July, 1843, Mary Ann Frost and Elizabeth Brotherton were sealed to Parley P. Pratt, by Hyrum Smith, Joseph being unwell, in presence of Mary Ann Young.

Aug. 2, 1843, Mercy J. Thompson was married for time to Hyrum Smith, by your father, in presence of Mary Smith.

In August, 1843, Hyrum Smith married to Thos. Grover, by instruction of your father, two wives, viz., Caroline Whiting and Caroline E. Hubbard.

In November, 1843, Brigham Young sealed Fanny Hurray, to your father, in presence of Mary Ann Young and Harriet Cook.

In 1844, Hyrum Smith sealed Catherine Clewson to Howard Egan. Egan had a wife at this time.

April 27, 1844, Adeline B. Andrews was sealed by President Hyrum Smith to Ezra T. Benson, in presence of Cornelia W. Benson, the first wife of Elder Benson.

Mr. Clayton, your father's business clerk, kept a daily journal.
noting every evening a synopsis of the business of the day so far as it came under his observation. On the 1st day of May, 1843, he made the following entry "...at the Temple; at ten, married Joseph Smith and Lucy Walker."

On the 12th day of July, 1843, Clayton in his journal says: "This a.m. I wrote at Joseph's dictation a Revelation consisting of ten pages on the order of the Priesthood, showing the design in Moses, Abraham, David and Solomon having many wives, etc., after it was written, Presidents Joseph and Hyrum presented it and read it to Emma, who said she did not believe a word of it, and appeared very rebellious."

A few of these casual items, I have named may explain to you why the following declaration was made by your father on the 6th of April, 1844. "You don't know me; you never knew my heart. No man knows my history. I cannot tell it; I shall never undertake it, I don't blame any one for not believing my history. If I had not experienced what I have, I could not have believed it myself."

The inauguration of these principles were a severe trial to your mother. At times, she received and resolved to act upon the same. She gave your father four wives with her own hands; this intelligence I had from your father's mouth. *

August 12, 1843, Hyrum Smith read the Revelation on Patriarchal marriage, given July 12th of that year, to the High Council, then convened in his private office. Several of these Councilors are living and have given their testimony to the Church.

On the return of Lorenzo Snow from England, he ascertained that his sister, Eliza, was the wife of your father. In relation to this subject, Lorenzo make the following statement. "In the month of April, 1843, I returned from my European Mission. A few days after my arrival at Nauvoo, when at President Joseph Smith's house, he said he wished to have some private talk with me and requested me to walk out with him. It was toward evening. We walked a little distance and sat down on a large log that lay near the bank of the river; he there and then explained to me the doctrine of plurality of wives. He said that the Lord had revealed it unto him and commanded him to have women sealed to him as wives— that he foresaw the trouble that would follow and sought to turn away from the commandment— that an angel from Heaven then appeared before him with a drawn sword, threatening him with destruction, unless he went forward and obeyed the commandment. He further said, that my sister Eliza R. Snow, had been sealed to him.
as a wife, for time and eternity. He told me that the Lord would open
the way, etc., I should have women sealed to me as wives. This conver-
sation was prolonged, I think, one hour or more, in which he told me
many important things.

Then I (G.L.J.) returned to Nauvoo from my mission in the fall
of 1843, I met Syrum at the landing, he accompanied me on the way to
my home, when he recited the most of the Revelation of Patriarchial
Marriage, and invited me to his house to receive further instruction.
Next day, I called on your father, who expressed his gratitude at the
conversion of brother Syrum, and gave me additional views on the
subject, and spoke of the results of the same in the eternal worlds.

Your father reasoned on these subjects in this wise. He said
the Lord denounced in the Bible every species of crime. He proclaimed
against adultery, fornication and divorce, but never against plurality
of wives; he blessed them for it. He punished King David severely for
his adultery with the wife of Uriah; and while God by the mouth of
his prophet was chastening him he says; "I gave thee thy master's house
and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Is-
raeil and Judah, and if that had been too little, I would moreover have
given unto thee such and such things."

When the passage in the Book of Mormon enjoining monogamy was
referred to your father, he replied that "God has commanded us."

Any one who will read carefully the denials, as they are
termed, of plurality of wives in connection with the circumstances
will see clearly that they denounce adultery, fornication, brutal lust
and the teaching of plurality of wives by those who were not commanded
to do so; shewing clearly that it was understood that such commandment
would be given to others.

In all kindness, Cousin Joseph, after having been many years
associated with your father, and scores of times heard him testify that
God had commanded him on pain of damnation to introduce this doctrine,
and that he had to do it as the people would bear it, you must not be
astonished that I cannot receive your testimony that God has shewn to
you that the doctrine of plurality of wives is untrue. When your father
placed the authority to bear off the Kingdom on the Twelve, he gave
them keys by which they could determine whether a revelation was from
God or from some other source. I, being one of the Twelve who received
these Keys, testify that your testimony denying plurality of wives is
not from God.
I have given you a few incidents from facts as they existed, and in distributing your addresses, I am only giving the folks who had the opportunity of hearing your father's arguments, an opportunity of comparing them with your own. The obligation which rested upon your father to establish this order of Patriarchial Marriage beyond the power of destruction seemed like a weight to crush him to the earth, but knowing the redemption and exaltation of the human race depend upon it, notwithstanding the bigotry of his friends, the opposition of his own house, the universal tradition of the christian world, and the law of Illinois against it, he felt to rejoice that he was enabled to fulfill his mission and place beyond the power of man to destroy an institution which would redeem the female sex from degradation and exalt mankind to celestial glory and increase.

Inclosed find a five dollar order on Chicago; Have the goodness to credit me with one year's subscription for the "Herald"; the balance forward me in "Addresses" as I have distributed all I had.

Affectionately, your cousin, GEO. A. SMITH.


Elder Heber Young wrote the following:

SWITZERLAND.
S.chaff, Amsteland, Zurich.
Oct. 9, 1869.
President A. Carrington.

Dear Brother,—During the past three months we have baptized seventy-seven persons into the fold of Christ here in this part of the vineyard, which lengthens our list of new members, since July 1st, 1868, to three hundred and two, making our present number five hundred and fifty, and still the work of conversion is onward. In one village in Canton Bern there have been twenty-seven persons baptized since July 1st of the present year. Such retrospective facts not only show that God accepts our labours, but richly rewards our humble endeavors to proclaim the precious truths which we, through His grace, have received, and should encourage us to greater diligence and zeal in the future; for from personal experience I have learnt that the more we do in the great cause we have espoused, proportionately are our joys enhanced.

Brother Masse is in the western part of the mission. He will hold a conference at Chana de Fondo tomorrow for the Juris district. The following Sunday he will be at Bern, where there has been a conference appointed for the 17th inst.

Brothers Grant and Snell are still very zealous in their labors. Henry has, for a month past, been speaking publicly in the German language, and bids fair to make his mark.

The local Elders, as also your correspondents, are robust, and they rejoice in the labors assigned them.

My kindest love to brothers Jaques, Roth, Carlson, and all your co-laborers, and believe me, respectfully H. YOUNG.

(Mill. Star 31:693. Doc. Hist., 1003)