

## AN IMPORTANT TESTIMONY.

A FORMER PLURALWIFE OF THE PATRIARCH HYRUM SMITH TESTIFIES CONCERNING HER MARRIAGE AND THE READING OF THE REVELATION TO THE HIGH COUNCIL IN NAUVOO.

The following communications, confirmatory of the statements so many times made by others that the doctrine of plural or celestial marriage had not only been revealed by the Almighty during the lifetime of the Prophet Joseph Smith, but that it was also practiced by the leaders of the Church, and that the revelation was read before and the doctrine taught to the High Council of Nauvoo, are so interesting that we publish them entire. Sister Thompson is now nearly seventy-nine years of age, and an invalid, but with mental faculties clear and strong:

TESTIMONY AS TO THE REVELATION

SALT LAKE CITY,

January 31st, 1886.

A. M. Musser:

DEAR BROTHER—Having noticed in the *DESERET NEWS* an enquiry for testimony concerning the revelation on plural marriage, and having read the testimony of Brother Grover, it came to my mind that perhaps it would be right for me to add my testimony to his on the subject of Brother Hyrum reading it to the High Council. I well remember the circumstance. I remember he told me he had read it to the brethren in his office. He put it into my hands and left it with me for several days. I had been sealed to him by Brother Joseph a few weeks previously, and was well acquainted with almost every member of the High Council, and know Brother Grover's testimony to be correct. Now if this testimony would be of any use to such as are weak in the faith or tempted to doubt, I should be very thankful. Please make use of this in any way you think best, as well as the copy of the letter addressed to Joseph Smith at Lamoni. Your Sister in the Gospel.

MERCY R. THOMPSON.

TESTIMONY AS TO HER MARRIAGE TO HYRUM SMITH.

SALT LAKE CITY, Sept. 5, 1883.

Mr. Joseph Smith, Lamoni, Ill.:

DEAR SIR:—After having asked my Father in heaven to aid me, I sit down to write a few lines as dictated by the Holy Spirit.

After reading the correspondence between you and L. O. Littlefield I concluded it was the duty of some one to bear a testimony which could not be disputed. Finding from your letter to Littlefield that no one of your father's friends had performed this duty while you were here, now I will begin at once and tell you my experience.

My beloved husband, R. B. Thompson, your father's private secretary to the end of his mortal life, died August 27th, 1841, (I presume you will remember him.) Nearly two years after his death your father told me that my husband had appeared to him several times, telling him that he did not wish me to live such a lonely life, and wished him to request your uncle Hyrum to have me sealed to him for time. Hyrum communicated this to his wife (my sister) who, by request, opened the subject to me, when everything within me rose in opposition to such a step, but when your father called and explained the subject to me, I dared not refuse to obey the counsel, lest peradventure I should be found fighting against God; and especially when he told me the last time my husband appeared to him became with such power that it made him tremble. He then enquired of the Lord what he should do; the answer was, "Go and do as my servant hath required. He then took an opportunity of communicating this to your uncle Hyrum who told me that the Holy Spirit rested upon him from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet. The time was appointed, with the consent of all parties, and your father sealed me to your uncle Hyrum for time, in my sister's room, with a covenant to deliver me up in the morning of the resurrection to Robert Blaskel Thompson, with whatever offspring should be the result of that union, at the same time counseling your uncle to build a room for me and move me over as soon as convenient, which he did, and I remained there as a wife the same as my sister to the day of his death. All this I am ready to testify to in the presence of God, angels and men.

Now I assure you I have not been prompted or dictated by any mortal being in writing to you; neither does a living soul know it but my invalid daughter.

God bless you, is the sincere prayer of your true friend,

MERCY R. THOMPSON.

P. S.—If you feel disposed to ask me any questions, I will be pleased to answer concerning blessings which I received under the hands of your late mother by the dictation of your father.

M. R. T.