TESTIMONY OF MARGARET WEST.

IN PRESENCE OF JESSE N. SMITH, SAMUEL H. ROGERS, SMITH D. ROGERS AND OTHERS.

We were living in Nauvoo when I first heard that it was right for men to have two wives. I never thought then of their having more than two; it looked an awful thing to me, and I said that I would not believe it was right, if an angel from heaven should tell me so. And again, I said that if I should hear the Almighty tell an angel to come and tell me it was right, I would not believe it. I thought very well what I thought. I thought it would only be to try my virtue, as Abraham's faith was tried, when he was told to offer his son as a sacrifice, and I thought the Lord would love me better if I refused to believe in such a heinous thing, for the Lord loves virtuous women.

I was very busy at that time, for we were preparing to go to the mountain (which is what we called it then). I do not think I had at that time heard of the valleys of the mountains, but we termed it going to the wilderness. My daughters and I were very busy, parching corn, stewing squash for drying, and weaving cloth. In all my preparations I did not have time to go beyond and get the news of the day, but Sister Thompson and Sister Cowgan used to come and tell me what the folks were talking about, and who of the brethren had taken another wife. I told them not to believe a word of it, for I knew the authorities of the Church would put it down. They would say, "You may look out, for your husband is sure to get it." C. B. Thompson said, "If it is, I know William (her husband) will take another wife, for he will do anything the authorities tell him is right." "But," she added, "I will go down and talk with Sister Murray about it." Sister Murray was Bro. Young's sister. In a few days she came again, having in the meantime seen Sister Murray, and asked if it was true that the brethren were taking more wives, as which Sister Murray had told her that it was too true. When I heard this, I was perplexed; I did not have much to say. I felt very serious over it, and made it a matter of prayer.

On the Sunday morning following, after my husband and I were ready to go to meeting, we walked out through our gate, and he said, "Let us call in at John's (his brother); perhaps he will come and meet us."

As we passed through the gate, all creation was opened in vision to my view, as it seemed to me; we were as the grass of the field. I can see now how it looked as it ran off in the distance. Then I saw plurality of wives, the celestial order of marriage, open to my view, and knew it was right, and a virtuous principle, and pertaining to the overweight of judgment.

Then I saw the authorities of the Church, and what they had erred to establish this peculiar doctrine. It was a grand point in the Gospel, and had to be established in this generation; there was no getting around it, it had to come forth. When I saw the labors of the brethren, and their toils and sufferings, my heart was pained for them, and I rejoiced that I was an expositor of the two-wife system. I did not speak of these things, but pondered them in my heart. I realized the beauty and glory and exaltation connected with this heavenly principle; it was grand and glorious, and I felt rapt in joy. I repented of my former unfilial behavior, and went forth and was baptized for the remission of sins in that respect. And at this time, I did not confess to any person what the sin was, for the remission of which I was baptized.