

--Oliver H. Olney Papers, Western Americana, Beinecke Library, Yale University

--From Dale L. Morgan, "The Olney Papers, Foreward and Calendar of the Documents,"
Olney was born in England, converted to Mormonism in 1831, a widower with seven
children at the time of writing these documents, disfellowshipped (or excommunicated)
on March 17, 1842, because he claimed to be a prophet, published his absurdities
of Humonism Portrayed in March, 1843, married Phoebe M. Wheeler in October, 1843,
tried for theft on February 10, 1843, still living in Nauvoo as late as January
24, 1844, published a pamphlet on spiritual wifery in St. Louis in 1845, extracts
of which appeared in St. Louis and Warsaw papers.

1. Document of 30 pages, comprising entries from April 6, 8, 10, and 12, 1842,
at Nauvoo, Illinois, written in a crude ~~xxxxxx~~ poetic form: NOTE: Rather
than copying the short, verse lines as written, the end of each line of the
original will be indicated by a slash, /, as is customary in quotations from
verse.

(in part):

--April 6, 1842: "As I have felt it my duty / In days past and gone / To keep
a history of the doings of the Church / From the rise untill the present time /
I have tried to be impartial / In what I have write / But I must say that I
have been partial to the saints / But as I write it a new / I will then
draw the ~~times~~ line / across the crooked stick / without feeling an affection /
I will tell the tale wright / and preserve my writings / For ages to come /
That we may have a history / Of the work of the Lord / Performed in the nineteenth
century of time / I now have feelings my mind to relate / Of things that have
come under my observation / That I think is not wright / I was called [sic] before
the Council / Of twelve men with thre [sic] to preside / Without being labourd
with / Or eaven notified / But by the by I herd of the trial / and when it was
to be / I then met with them / and answerd to my name / They soon demandd my
writings / That they could not obtain / I to well knew their minds / To trust
them with the record / That I had kept of the Church / As it spoke of their foibles /
It spoke of their works / and the un-odly doings / That I have seen amongst the
saints / Because of not writing my writings / and because of my words / they
from me withdrawd the hand of fellowship / and set me a float / I stood at
my standing / and said I will again with the Council meet / I stand not with them /
with feeling that was good / And took the liberty to address them / In behalf
of my case / but directly arose against me / That I took from their midst my
name / That did not at all hurt my feelings / Because of what I had learned /
as I have had experience / amongst those that say / To be followers of God and
the Lamb / I have looked at their works / I have at their ways / but it
disgustint to a man of the world / such more to a man of God / I look at the
door ~~I~~ then opprest / I look at the nations ~~I~~ ~~from xxxxx~~ / I look at the
orden [sic] ~~I~~ ~~him neglected~~ / I look at the actual saints / that is adding
the will of God / I see them neglected and counted of no worth / I look at the
man that is upright and good / That would deal liberally with all nations /
and will pay his debts / I look at the minds / That speaks for their welfare /
That would make councilors / so to be turned by a nod / I see all neglected
and neglected / That would honour the cause of God / If they was put in their
place / By the authorities of the Church / But I see [sic] a certain few say for
thelad / That appears to be come informd / In the thin skin of the world / they
know how to manage / To accomodate themselves / By fleecing their brethren /
As fast as they ~~zzzzzz~~ come in / They have lands in abundance / all over the
place at different prices / That of it they can dispose / ~~XXXX~~ If Uncle Sam

should speak / And land holders about I am thinking / That many habitations would
 come up missing / And many of their one hundred / ~~xxx~~ To fifteen hundred dollar
 lots / Of which is well known to be / In extortionate [sic] price / A price that
 is calculated / To take the scanty means from those / That have ben [sic] getherd /
 From the differeant quarters of the Earth / A sound has gone out for all to
 come in / Or they will be counted weak in the faith / It has not only passed over/
 The American soil / It has gone to England and ~~xxxxxxx~~ Scotland / And
 Ir Land an the Islands of the sea / That many have etherd / In the name of
 the Lord / With feelin's to do their duty / And prepare for the Coming of Christ /
 When they arive the 1st thing is to know / How much they posses [sic] / and
 what they want to do / As a company is ~~x~~ ready and ~~x~~ awaiting / As soon as they
 arrive / To assist them wait on them / In the name of the Lord / They soon set
 an understanding / Of their minds and their means / That they handle them just
 as they pleas / By it many are a suffering / all in the name of the Lord / 's
 their means are one / Or paying an extortionate prise / Or lending their
 substance / 's ~~xx~~ wisdom did direct / At this time there is many / sitting in
 rags for the want of apparel / To go out and get work / Eaven those that had
 property / And would have ben well of / If they had a ben left ~~to have~~ / To have
 taken their own course / In the City of Newoo this noted place / extol'd for
 its rightnessness / To the Nations of the Earth / I se an order of things arising /
 That must be checked in the bud / and as no other person has / This subject
 approached / I feel in duty bound my mind to relate / 's I have often been
 cherished / and nourished by the powers above / That rules in the Heavens / And
 on the Earth / ..."

--April 6, 1842: "Then whr not a sympathy of feelin's / Between the rich and
 the p or / That have made a covenant / By being baptised for remission of sins /
 I think this Covenant is broken / By some in this as the poor is ~~xxx~~ oprest /
 And ent rely neglected by the rich / The poor is a ~~w~~ wailing / Because of hard
 times / The rich are arrayed in ~~xxxxxxx~~ apparel / Of the best kind / They have
 horses and Chariots / To move in good style / They speak of the wails ~~of~~ looking /
 of looking ~~xxx~~ to the saints / As they take from them their titling / That is
 every tenth / That they say is the word of the Lord / That I all together doubt/..."

--April 6, 1842: "I have of late had an institution / amongst or set up /
 By a man from a distance / Said to be Masonry in its best state / as I do not
 a Mason / I know not of it Charms / But they say throw it to obtain / the Culness
 of the ~~h~~ yard / That I say they have lost / because of their unfruitful works /
 's it is ~~w~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ mason / That came from the East / In ~~the name of the Lord~~ /
 To establish a lodge / In the name of the Lord / as he called late the artilents
 Prophets / That long since lived as ~~w~~ masons / That has such understand the
 secrets / They think soon to arise to perfection / 's some few secrets / They
 have obtained / That doth much encourage them / In the way to meet the Coming / ~~of~~
 of the son of man / As he ~~x~~ is soon a coming / with the saile in the air /
 They now for his second advent / are wishin to be prepared / That and any
 ever be with him / The Father and son / This master mason instructed them /
 In many good things / He said there was certin degrees / For the fair sex of
 the land / They soon met in union / a lodge to form but changed its name /
 That they might be distinguished / From the lodge of the men/..."

Referring to a society he had of followers calling forth in nets;

--April 6, 1842: "I see in the City of Newoo, / a society formed amongst
 the ~~xxx~~ Ladys / That said to be temperate; / and benevolent to the poor / This
 society was formed under the Charge / of the Lady of Elect. and she ruled /
 By the influence of the heads of the Church / I see the Chords tightenend from

time to time / That ~~excite~~ Excited feelings of no ordinary kind / But because
of the secrets / That they had sworn to keep / They had to keep their minds to
themselves / As this was the first degree / The second and third degrees /
Soon came rolling on / As the nett gathered to shore / By the wisdom of those
that over it had power / I then see the second degree; / It was that those of
high renown / Went in to the water and ~~axaxaxaxax~~ apetherd / A plurality of
wives / I then see a contention soon take place / As all pick for the handsome
and young / But they soon cast lots for them / And decided to make another hunt /
The old they let go to take others in / That caused many of them to mourn / To
think that they was left / As my convenience to write / Is not very Good And
much to do / That takes my time. I think: / The third and fourth degrees /
I shall not expostulate on / 'till an other time."

April 8, 1842, written in prose form: "I feel in duty bound to take my pen
to defend the innocent that cannot speak for themselves as there is an order
of things peculiar to it self in the City of Nauvoo. As they have a Corporation
they make their own Laws. To suit their minds. If a man is inclined ~~and~~ an
fool to slip a word derogatory to the Character of any of the privileged few is
liable to imprisonment and a fine as the case may be. With in a few days a
man was put under bonds for speaking lightly of the veracity of one of the
twelve of three hundred dollars for an assurance that in future he might hold
his peace. Instead of the Law of God being the theme it is the Law of the City
~~and~~ and scarcely a man dares to express his feelings to come in contact with
those that lead ask a man expression and in his answer will denote more fear
of coming in contact with the prophet than God but there is good reason for
that a combined set will move in him that he will have to submit to their
terms on the spot."

April 10, 1842, concerning the conference activities of April 9: "It will be
well for the sisters / To have their eyes on the / First and second degrees
of Masonry / As the society is now being organized / They may possibly come
in ~~to~~ / amongst the first / Again there has many ben / Baptized at the Conference /
beside the River / Others at the font / That, I am satisfied did them no hurt /
~~xxxxxxx~~ As I was to the River / I see many by b [sic] Joseph ~~xxxxxx~~ dunked /
I said by the Obhority of the F ther and son / But I said in my heart he lied / ..."

April 11, 1842: "The I was of the 1st Conference / As of not such account /
as there did not seem to be / Much business to be don / ^{trilling} ~~trilling~~ their spoils of
lies [lying] and tattling / and some of the twelve a ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{trilling} to be / Merry
fools to with' words / but if it was so I thought as they had wives / That
they might a wanted / 'till the women takes / The second degree of Masonry / ..."

2. Document of 3 pages, comprising entries from April 6 to August 13, 1842:
-- Similar to the first document.

April 6, 1842: "By it many are suffering / All in the name of the Lord / As
their names is gone / By giving an scorbittant wife / Or lending their substance /
To those that say Thus saith the Lord. / At this time their is many / Sittin' ..."

