"The Memoirs of President Joseph Smith (1832-1914) Edited by his daughter Mary Andentia Smith Anderson."

A long section on John C. Bennett. "I recall my first impression of John C. Bennett. He was a small, broad-shouldered, sharp-eyed, rather good-looking man, but one who impressed both my mother and myself unfavorably. He used to be at Father's house a good deal, and often for meals. He was very particular about what he ate and how he wished it prepared. I remember a discussion that occurred at the table one day concerning the tomato, a vegetable which had but lately come into vogue as an article of diet. He seemed impressed with the idea that it possessed medicinal properties."

"Once Emma Smith was ill and he attended her. Young Joseph went back with Bennett to his office on the hill, to bring some medicine to her. Bennett was a rapid walker who kept him on the run, and scolded and fretted when he could not keep up. He seemed absorbed in his own thoughts, and the boy had to run almost the whole distance without receiving any consideration or attention except a chiding for not keeping up, which caused the boy to form a dislike for him and regard him as a very selfish and inconsiderate man. Emma would not take the medicine Bennett provided, for she mistrusted him, and since he was aware of her feeling, feared he might deal treacherously with her. While boarding with them Bennett liked a supper of browned bread and milk. He extracted a tooth for young Joseph, a double-tooth, using the old-time "turn-key" instrument--this at the Morley settlement, near Lima, a few miles above Quincy. He came near bleeding to death after the operation, but the hemorrhaging was finally stopped by applying a solution of saltpeter on leather shavings. Young Joseph again was disposed to regard Bennett as a very unsympathetic personage."

"Subsequently he saw him many times as he rode with other officers of the Legion; he made a fine appearance but Joseph could not warm to him."

"I know that he caused much trouble. I heard talk at the time about his having to appear before the Council, along with Father and Francis M. Highbee; what there occurred was published in the Times and Seasons. I recall, too, his departure from the city. I am still of the opinion I formed of him when I reached my majority, viz., that notwithstanding the fact that much of the good that was injected into the by-laws and ordinances of Nauvoo was partially due to his ability to direct civic affairs, it was ambition which had brought him there, which caused him to join the church and accept office therein, which stimulated and motivated most of his activity, and which finally led him into immorality and transgression resulting in his leaving the church in disgrace."

"...In June, 1860, shortly after I took my place at the head of the group called the Reorganization...I received a letter from John C. Bennett. He was then located in Polk City, Iowa, a few miles north of Des Moines, where he had lived for some years, following the medical profession a while and then retiring. His letter was quite a lengthy [sic] one, telling me where he was and what he was doing. He gave me to understand he was still adhering to the faith of the church and that he would like to cooperate with me in its affairs."

"He stated that he had a large tract of land which he could devote to church enterprises, successfully as he thought, and expressed an anxiety to get in touch with me concerning the projects he had in mind. He ended his epistle with a request, which I believe was his main motive, that I enter into a correspondence with him about these matters, and added the strange suggestion that I let him know to what confidential and fictitious name and address he might send his communications to me in order that they might be kept strictly private."

"I immediately wrote him that any communication addressed to Joseph Smith, Box 60, Hancock County, Illinois, would reach me and be given proper and due consideration. I added that I had but one name and one address for the communications of either friend or foe."

"After my reply I did not hear from him again, and later saw a notice of his death in the papers. I never got over my early impressions of the man and felt no more trust and confidence in him in 1860 than I had felt in 1842 when first I became acquainted with him."

"Letter in the Herald of Apr. 16, 1855, 82:495, young Joseph again refers to the Bennett letter as one of several speculative propositions by men who thought believers in Mormonism would gather at the behest of a "thus saith the Lord"; Bennett "had acquired considerable land somewhere north of Des Moines, Iowa."