

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET WEST

(In presence of Jesse N. Smith, Sam'l H. Rogers, Smith D. Rogers et al): grand and glorious and I felt great joy. I reported of my joy. We were living in Nauvoo when I first heard that it was right for men to have two wives. I never thought then of brethren having more than one. It looked an awful thing to me, and I said 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 knew very well what 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 wilderness (that was what we called it then). I do not think I had at the 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 round and get the news of the day, but Sister Thompson and Sister Carmichael 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 another." Sister Marmichael said: "If it is so, 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 Brother 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, to which Sister Murray replied 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 brothers); perhaps some of them will go to meeting." 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 everlasting Gospel of Jesus. Then I saw the authorities of the Church, and what they had suffered 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 labor of the brethren and their toils and sufferings, my heart was pained for them, and I loved and pitied them. I was no longer an opposer 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 prin-

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