

"NAVVOO, July 5, 1842.

"GENERAL JOHN C. BENNETT:

"Dear Sir,—

"Joseph Smith is yet thrashing about, tearing up the D****, and slandering every body. He has not lit on Rigdon and Robinson very severely as yet, but touched them slightly on Sunday, also myself; and we must keep things right side up. Mrs. Schindle's affidavit is a good one, and Mrs. G** I have understood, was going to give hers. Mrs. Pratt, I think, will also give hers—also, Miss Nancy Rigdon. Joe is operating with Mrs. White, and it is reported, that he is to settle upon her a fine sum soon, or return the money he and Sherman took from Bill White some time ago. You ought to see Mrs. White, and labor with her, as soon as possible, and secure her testimony, *because it would be great*. As it respects my affidavit, sir, for God's sake, my sake, and the sake of my people, do not show it to any one on earth, *as yet*, never, until I give you liberty. Stiles has seen it, and you must swear him that he will keep dark as h***. I am yet true as death, and intend to stick or die, but you must keep my name back, because I am not ready as yet to leave; *and as soon as you bring my name out, they are certain to take my life*—they go it like h***, yet. I am likely to sell my property here, and as soon as I do, I will emigrate like lightning. Scorch them with the Missouri writ—that is what scares them like the d****, Porter not excepted.

"Your dear friend,

FRANCIS M. HIGBEE.

"P. S. I think I will be out to Carthage to see you soon: come in as soon as you can, but do not stay here long, or over night. Pratt is true—Rigdon is good.

"NAVVOO, July 5, 1842.

"DOCTOR BENNETT:

"Dear Friend,—

"Orissa's health is yet in a very critical situation, and we are very anxious to have your professional advice, *for we do not know what to do without it*. I will give you as accurate a description of the case as possible. * * * * * We wish you to write your prescription in full, and send it to Sarah's, [Prof. Orson Pratt's, Sarah M. Pratt being the sister of Mrs. Orissa A. Allred,] where we shall remain until Orissa recovers. *We all, with one accord, send you our best respects*. Mr. Pratt would write, but he is *afraid to*. He wishes to be *perfectly still*, until your second letter comes out—then you may hear.

"Yours, respectfully,

"WILLIAM M. ALKRED."

"From W. F. Parrish, Esq., Attorney at Law,

"MASHILLON, July 31, 1842.

"DEAR SIR,—

"Prof. Wm. M. Smith, M. D., informed me, that you passed through this place on Friday last, on your way to New York, to make

an exposition of that infamous scoundrel, *Joe Smith*, and others connected with him, in their piracy upon the human family. I am exceedingly sorry, sir, that I could not have had an interview with you upon this subject, for, be assured, I consider any means which can be adopted to bring such a ruthless ruffian to justice, as most laudable, and not only worthy the attention, but imperatively demanded at the hands of him who may be in possession of facts that will enable him to accomplish that object. I am, however, aware, that the man who attempts it, puts his life in competition with a secret influence of the most dangerous, dark, and damning kind, that may be brought to bear upon him, at times and places, and under circumstances least anticipated,—an influence that can be known only by those who have had the means of knowing that we have, and which it is hard to make others believe exists in an enlightened community.

"I have known you by reputation for some time, but have not the pleasure of your acquaintance personally; have said but little upon the subject of your connection with the *Prophet*, but have thought much, and am not disappointed in the issue.

"You, no doubt, have learned, in your close connection with Joe, the position I occupied in his cabinet; and let me inquire what his present feelings are toward me? My life was sought for a time; how is it now? I was once a peculiar favorite of the Prophet and rulers in Israel, called to be his scribe by revelation, wrote his early history, kept his daily journal, superintended his mercantile, land, and banking speculations, under his directions.

"I joined the Church in 1833, and withdrew in 1837, at the head of some forty others, and shortly after was excommunicated by a *Bull* from his *Holiness*; and not long after that, I made Kirtland, the stake of Zion, so exceedingly unpleasant to him, that he got a revelation to leave between two days, and has not been there since.

"I lectured against them in the Temple, twice a week, during the season; once his *locks* attempted to expel me by force from the *sanctum sanctorum*, but did not succeed. At about that time, their printing-office fell into our hands, which, if they had not consumed by fire, would soon have been speaking the truth as an atonement for an ill-spent life. Before I left them, those that were disaffected, met frequently, and consulted upon the matter, and many of the first in official stations of the Church, were convinced of the abominations of our leader, as well as myself, and so expressed themselves in our private councils, to wit, Bishop Whitney, Orson Hyde, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Doctor Williams, Cahoon, and others, but had not the moral courage to come out publicly. By the by, have Orson Pratt and Rigdon left them, as you intimated in your communications? Please write me who among the leaders have left, and what the prospects are for breaking them up. Can it be done? Be assured, sir, I would most cheerfully assist you in this laudable undertaking, were I situated so that I could. But I do not see how I can possibly, at this time, come to New York.

"My professional business, I suppose, I might leave, as I have a partner in Canton; but I am concerned in a mercantile establishment in this place also, and my partner is absent, and will be for a month at least.