

Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory
August 8th, 1852

Dear Sir:

Your favor from Kashmeir of July 15th, 1851, enclosing brother Khan's Letter of Dec 22nd, 1850, was handed to me by Professor Pratt, (he being, since his return to America, busily engaged in Church business) with a request that I would answer it,--which I now shall endeavor to do in part.

It must strike the true believers of the gospel, in every nation, with wonder, what will become of the "laws and creeds of men," as the kingdom of God, spoken of by Daniel, supersedes and breaks in pieces all others! but with the God of heaven, as a patriarch to dispense blessings--and his son Jesus Christ, as a redeemer and Lawgiver to whisper--"peace be still"--I believe truth will harmonize and virtue unionize all things perfect into one. Brother Khan may therefore wisely inform the Asians, which are so fortunate as to believe Mormonism, whether they reside in India China, Tartary, Turkey, Siberia, Arabia, Japan, or Khampschatka, that they can safely gather to Zion in the full hope of worshipping God according to the dictates of conscience, and Eternal Truth: For as it were by inspiration, the Constitution of the United States, grants the privilege free to all, as a part of religion to believe in twenty Gods, or none, and to have twenty wives, or none. Congress as a lawmaking power, having never transcended the bounds of the Constitution, ^{to force a law upon the people against it. The Constitution} of the United States is a precious gem for the saints, ordained by Jehovah.

If there is any prohibition, or law against such blessings, privileges, and promises, as were enjoyed by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon, and others, whose glorious record appears in the Bible, as a pattern of holiness for the righteous of all ages, it must be the little minded, narrow contracted, petty state statutes, which as "common law," may be, by the great westerns of many generations, termed "Christian laws"--but which were got up by hot headed fools, and politicians, and practiced by religious fanatics, or bigots, in high party times of self sanctity--then continued through ignorance, lawcraft, and priestcraft: but which every honest man on earth knows are unconstitutional.

At this time it is not my purpose to prove the greatness of the Lords command "to multiply and replenish the earth." One of the strongest evidences of that

"great first cause, least understood," is found among the heathen and pagan nations; (christianly so called) in the sacred continuance of the custom of--and devout maintainance of "many wives" by the nobility of the land, almost in strict accordance with the patterns set by the fathers of the faithful, and nobility of the Lord, as revealed for the salvation of man, in the Bible. The philosophy of generation to people the world, in the early ages, is not so plainly written, but Lamech had two wives, and if the 4th verse of the 6th Chapter of Genesis was truly rendered into English, I think it would read that "the apostates in those days took wives like the sons of God and raised up men of renown" etc. and so the custom continues as good for the virtue of creation, as the Catholic celibacy does for evil against the command to multiply and replenish the earth.

I can say, come on brother Khan, with your nine wives, and forty children, for the Psalmist says, children are the heritage of God! and the broad folds of our Constitution gracefully give equal rights, and equal privileges to all, Christian, Pagan, Jew, and Turk, the mormons, and the "rest of mankind" inasmuch as they trespass not on the rights of others. And while Utah or Zion, holds sacred the promises, ordinances, priesthood, and blessing of Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith, and Brigham Young, or any of the "Anointed Ones," according to the principles of "Eternal Truth," life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, will be respected: for the Everlasting Father, and the Everlasting gospel, are the same yesterday, today, and for ever. It is only men, and the laws of men, that vary. If God shall give in this "enlightened age," as he did to David and Solomon, "an hundred fold of houses, lands, brothers, sisters, mothers, and children," will he withhold the wives or Queens? Will he? Let every soul that believes in the promises of the Savior, study upon the answer, and let Bro Khan with his wives and sons, and daughters and attendants, with all his substance come up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and try the humanity and clemency of that nation which prohibits not the free exercise of religion, Come brother Khan, God reigns in Zion.

In the bonds of the new and everlasting covenant, I have the pleasure to be your friend and brother

W. W. Phelps.

Elder James Morgan, Kashmeir Asia