AFFIDAVITS AND CERTIFICATES,

DISPROVING THE STATEMENTS AND AFFIDAVITS CONTAINED IN JOHN C. BENNETT'S LETTERS, NAUVOO, &c. &c.

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

We the Undersigned, members of the city council of the City of Nauvoo, testify, that he (said John C. Bennett) was not under duress at the interview with the committee of the council, before the city council May 10th 1842 concerning Joseph Smith, but would forgive him, and dealt from my intercourse, virtue, and pure teaching—his intentions, if he could obtain their forgiveness; the generality of the citizens of this matter are false,—there was no excitement at the interview. I granted him that privilege, and was to meet a committee at the house of Brother Joseph and said, we will not forget which you will see published in the Times and Seasons, June 15th, 1842, I was also present when Dr. Bennett on the way he stuck out his hand, and said Mr. Joseph, I never taught you that fornication and adultery was right, or polygamy or any such practices! He said you never did. Did I ever authorize you any thing that was not virtuous—any thing unrighteous or unrighteous in the church. I publicly know that any one who has said that General Joseph Smith has authority to publicly or in private! He said, I did not give me authority to hold illicit intercourse with women in a dark place, and any person who has said it is a scoundrel and a liar. I have heard it said that I would become a second Arvid by withdrawing from the church, and that I was at variance with the church, and should use an influence against me, because I resigned the office of Mayor; I have no office in the church, and I intend to continue in the church, and that I was at variance with the heads of the church, and I intend to continue with you, and he at the time may come when I may be restored to full confidence, and fellowship, and my former standing in the church; and that my conduct may be one not to warrant censure—and should this not be the case, I will come that I may have an opportunity to test my faith it will then be known who her I am a traitor, or a true man."

Joseph Smith then asked: "Will you please state distinctly what you know any thing against my character either in public or private?"

Gen. Bennett answered: "I do not; in all my intercourse with Gen. Smith, in public and in private, he has been a gentleman."

All present,

WILSON LAW,	N. K. WHITNEY,
JOHN TAYLOR,	HIRAM K. MIALL,
BRIGHAM YOUNG,	ORSON SPENCER,
JOHN P. GREEN,	GUST. HILLS,
H. G. KIMBALL,	G. W. HARRIS,
W. WOODRUFF,	*Councillors,*
GEO. A. SMITH.	WILLARD RICHARDS.

JAMES SLOAN, *Recorder.*

May 10th, 1842.

I know he was not under duress at the time for his testimony was given free and voluntarily, after requesting the privilege of the council to speak (which was granted him) on matters pertaining to the city ordinances, which was required by the Mayor of the City, Joseph Smith, to state to the council if he knew any thing against him; and he replied according to the above.

I also know that he had no private intercourse with Joseph in the prosecution to be tried by the High Council, for the 17th inst., as he stated in his letter or principal, and I had the keys of the doors in my possession from 7 o'clock P. M. till 6 o'clock A. M., and it was while the council was transacting business, during which time that I had the interview with him, at which time he wrote the affidavit and subscribed it in my presence, and I was with him during the whole time from his first coming to me, until he signed it and left the lodge room again at 6 o'clock.

HYRUM SMITH.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me July 1st, 1842.

GEO. W. HARRIS,
Clerk of the City of Nauvoo.

AFFIDAVIT OF WM. LAW.

As John C. Bennett has become our open enemy, and is engaged to destroy the character of the innocent, and to destroy the confidence of the church in the Twelve, was a letter he had withdrawn from the church. I presume the notice of our withdrawal was not published before he withdrew. But that does not prove his statement true, for I hereby testify that I signed the article to quash several days before he withdrew. I believe it was on the evening of the 11th day of May, some four or five days afterwards I had some conversation with J. C. Bennett and intimated to him that such a thing was concluded upon, which information I presume led him to withdraw immediately. I told him we could not bear with his conduct any longer—that there were many witnesses against him, and that they stated that he drove Joseph Smith as authority for his illicit intercourse with females. J. C. Bennett declared to me before God that Joseph Smith had never taught him such doctrines, and that he never told any one that he (Joseph Smith) had taught any such things, and that any one who said so told base lies; nevertheless, he said he had done wrong, that he would not deny, but he would deny that he had used Joseph Smith's name to accomplish his designs on any one, stating that he had resorted to that, for that he could succeed without telling them that Joseph approbated such conduct.

These statements he made to me of his own free will, in a private conversation which we had on the subject, there was no compulsion or threats used on my part; we had always been on good terms, and I regretted exceedingly that he had taken such a course. I was pleased with excuses intended for him, assuring me that he would turn from his iniquity, and never would be guilty of such crimes again.—He said that if he were exposed it would break his mother's heart—that she was old, and if such things reached her ears it would bring her down with sorrow to the grave. I accordingly went to Joseph Smith and plead with him to spare Bennett from public exposure, on account of his mother. On many occasions I pleaded with him acknowledge his guilt, and beg not to be destroyed in the eyes of the public and that he would never act so again, "So help him God." From such promises, and oaths I was induced to bear with him longer than I should have done.

On one occasion I heard him state before the city Council that Joseph Smith had never taught him any unrighteous principles, of any kind, and that if any one says that he ever said that Joseph taught such things they are base liars or counsel to speak (which was granted him) on would do that act. This statement he made voluntarily; he came into the council room about an hour after the council was opened, and made the statement, and unto Joseph Smith, to state to the council if he knew any thing against him; and he replied according to the above, many witnesses can testify.

On a former occasion he came to me and told me that a friend of his was about to be tried by the High Council, for that a long time the personal friend of Joseph Smith would be brought into question.—He entreated me to go to the council and withdraw the name of fellowship from him, and to Texas, and would have me go with him if he would behave well and reform. He said he had his money with him, and myself to Texas, and still indebted to Brother Joseph and myself.

WM. LAW.

Sworn and subscribed before me, Justice of the Peace, within and for the county of Hancock, State of Illinois, July 20th, 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS.

State of Illinois, }
county of Hancock, } ss.

I hereby certify that on the 17th day of July I John C. Bennett subscribed and swore to the affidavit with my signature of that date, published in the Wasp, after writing the same in my presence. I will say where I was employed in taking depositions of witnesses. The whole of the room was open and free for a large crowd to pass or repass. After signing and the council to the affidavit aforesaid, he requested to speak with me at the door; I followed him out—he told me some persons had been talking about him and showed me a writing given him the privilege to withdraw from the church and remarked that the matter was perfectly understood between five and the heads of the church, and that he had resigned the office of Mayor and should resign the office he held in the Legion, but as there was a court Martial to be held in a few days Joseph Smith desired that he would wait until that was over.

I was in the City Council on the 10th day of May last—I there heard him not what he published concerning the teachings of Joseph Smith and of his own course. I afterwards met him in company with Co. Francis M. Higbee, when he then stated that he was going to be the candidate, (meaning candidate for the Legislature) and Joseph and Hyrum Smith were going to help him; now you know it will be better for me to be bothered with prayer-meetings, &c. &c., more, or any thing else.' During all of this time if he was under duress, or fear, he must have had a good faculty for concealing it, for he appeared at liberty to go and come when and where he pleased, so far as I am capable of judging. I know that I saw him in different parts of the city, even after he had made the statement, transacting business on his own account, and was going to complete some business pertaining to the Mayor's office; and I think did attend to work on the streets.

I was always personally friendly with him after I became acquainted with him. I never heard him say anything derogatory to the character of Joseph Smith, until after he had been exposed by said Smith, on the public stand.

DANIEL H. WELLS.

July 22, A. D. 1842.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22d day of July, 1842.

GUSTAVUS HILLS, (Clerk)
J. P. & Alderman.

AFFIDAVIT OF HYRUM SMITH.

On the seventeenth day of May, 1842, the following witness acquainted with some of the conduct of John C. Bennett, which was given in writing, under oath before Alderman W. Harris, by several females, who testified that John C. Bennett endeavored to accomplish his designs by saying that it was one of the mysteries of God, which was to be revealed when the people was strong enough in the faith to receive mysteries—that it was perfectly right for him illicit intercourse with females, provided no one should know it but themselves, whom they from day to day, to hold to persons, bringing witnesses of his own to testify that there was such revelation made by or indirectly, in word or deed, by Joseph Smith; and that he never knew the said Smith to countenance any improper conduct whatever, either in public or private; and that he never did teach to me in private that an illicit intercourse with females was, under any circumstances, justifiable, and that I never knew him so to teach others.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me, this 17th day of May, 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS,
Alderman.

During all this intercourse, I was present to give him medicine, but he would not talk with him, and there was no private conversation between us, only in the presence of about sixty or seventy persons, besides myself. He knelt and begged the privilege of speaking for some time on the city affairs. He immediately came to the stand and Mr. Joseph Smith asked him if he knew any thing against the public or private character, but acknowledging his public or private character, he then delivered the statement contained above, voluntarily, and of his own accord as free as any member of the council.

We do further testify that there is no such thing as a Danite Society in this city nor any combination, other than the Masonic Lodge, of which we have any knowledge.

WILSON LAW,	GEO. A. SMITH,
JOHN TAYLOR,	GEO. W. HARRIS,
W. WOODRUFF,	N. K. WHITNEY,
WILSON KNOLT,	BRIGHAM YOUNG,
H. C. KIMBALL,	CHARLES C. RICH,
JOHN P. GREEN,	ORSON SPENCER,
WILLIAM MARKS.	

Subscribed, and sworn to, by the persons whose names appear to the foregoing affidavit, this 16th day of July, A. D. 1842; except N. K. Whitney, who subscribed and affirmed to the foregoing this day, before me.

DANIEL H. WELLS,
Justice of the Peace, Within and for Hancock County, Illinois.

Daniel H. Wells, Esq. is an old resident of this place, and is not a Mormon.

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Alderman.

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DANIEL H. WELLS,
Justice of the Peace, Within and for Hancock County, Illinois.

Daniel H. Wells, Esq. is an old resident of this place, and is not a Mormon.

...n Dr. Bennett very well known) as to ... nothing at all, when summed up, as a ... person worthy of death or bonds.

...Higbee's knowledge concerning the ... of a prisoner in Missouri, I am authorized by F. M. Higbee that he knows of no thing—that no prisoner was ever killed ... to the best of his knowledge. And I ... the same testimony, that I ever gave ... prisoner hid out there, neither was we charged with any such thing according to ... as they have known.

ELIAS HIGBEE.

...1842.

...hereby certify that I do not know of the ... of any prisoner in Adams county above ...

F. M. HIGBEE.

...2, 1841.

LETTER TO ORSON PRATT.

July 2/1842.

...Orson Pratt, Sir:—Understanding ... duty upon me I now communicate ... some things relative to Dr. Bennett and your wife that came under the ... vation of myself and we, which I ... would be satisfactory to the mind of ... man could be but realig the conduct ... the two individuals who under my ... ce. I would have been glad to have ... forever in silence if it could have ... so and been just. I took your wife ... my house because she was destitute ... house, Oct. 6, 1840, and from the ... night, until the last, with the excep... of night it being nearly a month, the ... was there as sure as the night came, ... generally two or three times a day—the first two or three nights he left ... 9 o'clock—after that he remained ... sometimes till after midnight; what ... conversation was I could not tell, as ... not close together, he leaning on her ... whispering continually or talking ... low—we generally went to bed and ... one or two naps before he left. After ... being at my house nearly a month ... was furnished with a house by Dr. ... ster, which she lived in until sometime ... the first of June, when she was ... ved out of the house and came to my ... se again, and the Dr. came also as ... fore. One night they took their chairs ... d room and remained there as we ... posed until 12 o'clock or after; at ... er time they went over to the house ... ere you now live and came back after ... t, or about that time. We went over ... veral times late in the evening while ... lived in the house of Dr. Foster, and ... was sure to find Dr. Bennett and ... wife together, as it were, man and ... e. Two or three times we found little ... Orson lying on the floor and the bed ... priately reserved for the Dr. and her—she observing that since a certain ... he had rather sleep on the floor than ... her.

I am surprised to hear of her crying ... how Br. Joseph attempted to kiss her ... she stated, even if he did do it; for she ... not a certain man struck upon her ... ck and face half a dozen times or ... in my house without making up ... t her face. I will not mention ... ames at present.

There are many more things which ... has stated herself to my wife, which ... ld go to show more strongly the feel... concerns, and the conduct of the ... individuals. I shall not testify of ... things at present for certain reasons, but can let you know them if you ... desired to hear them.

As to the lamb which Dr. Bennett ... spoke of, I killed it, and kept a quarter ... it for my own use, and saw the Dr. ... Mrs. Pratt eat of the balance; the ... against them. She has also stooped to ... and me he would like to have me ... enough hard to make a French pud... which I believe Mrs. Pratt spoke of ... ...ards ran and said it looked so that she ... not eat it.

I had no instructions to save the en... and the Dr. was not present to ... e mess himself, consequently his state... that he burned them on twelve ... as a falsehood, for the best of ...

Your Friend,

STEPHEN H. GODDARD.

I certify that the above statement of ... ...rstand is true according to the best ... and knowledge.

ZERUIAH N. GODDARD.

...worn to before me July 23d 1842.

...

TESTIMONY OF MRS. GODDARD.

Dr. Bennett came to my house one night about 12 o'clock, and sat on or beside the bed where Mrs. Pratt was and she told me next day that the Dr. was quick tempered and was mad at her, but gave no other reason. I concluded from circumstances that she had promised to meet him somewhere and had disappointed him; on another night I remonstrated with the Dr. and asked him what Orson Pratt would think, if he should know that you were so fond of his wife, and holding her hand so much; the Dr. replied that he could pull the wool over Orson's eyes.

Mrs. Pratt stated to me that Dr. Bennett told her, that he could cause abortion with perfect safety to the mother, at any stage of pregnancy, and that he had frequently destroyed and removed infants before their time to prevent exposure of the parties, and that he had instruments for that purpose, &c.

My husband and I were frequently at Mrs. Pratt's and stayed till after 10 o'clock in the night, and Dr. Bennett still remained there with her and her little child alone at that late hour.

On one occasion I came suddenly into the room where Mrs. Pratt and the Dr. were; she was lying on the bed and the Dr. was taking his hands out of her bosom; he was in the habit of sitting on the bed where Mrs. Pratt was lying, and lying down over her.

I would further state that from my own observation, I am satisfied that their conduct was anything but virtuous, and I know Mrs. Pratt is not a woman of truth, and I believe the statements which Dr. Bennett made concerning Joseph Smith are false, and fabricated for the purpose of covering his own iniquities, and enabling him to practise his base designs on the innocent.

ZERUIAH N. GODDARD.

Subscribed before me one of the aldermen of the City of Nauvoo, and sworn to this 28th day of August 1842.

GEO. W. HARRIS,
Alderman of the City of Nauvoo.

AFFIDAVIT OF J. B. BACKENSTOS.

State of Illinois } ss.
Hancock County. }

Personally appeared before me Ebenezer Robinson an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said county, J. B. Backenstos, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that some time during last winter, he accused Doctor John C. Bennett, with having an illicit intercourse with Mrs. Orson Pratt, and some others, when said Bennett replied that she made a fair rate go, and from personal observations I should have taken said Doctor Bennett and Mrs Pratt as man and wife, had I not known to the contrary, and further this deponent saith not.

J. B. BACKENSTOS.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me this 28th day of July, 1842

E. ROBINSON, J. P.

TESTIMONY OF J. McILWRICK

I do know that the sister of my wife, Martha Brotherton, is a deliberate liar, and also a wilful inventor of lies, and that she has also to my certain knowledge at sundry times, circulated lies of a base kind, concerning those whom she knew to be innocent of what she alleged against them. She has also stooped to many actions which would be degrading to persons of common decency, such as being on the top of a young man when he was in bed, and seeking Aristotle's work from a young seaman's box.

And I further state that I am acquainted with Gen. Joseph Smith, President Brigham Young, and Elder Heber C. Kimball, having had the privilege of being intimate with the latter gentleman for several months in England. And I believe them to be men who lead holy and virtuous lives, and men who exhibit a philanthropic spirit to all the human family without respect of persons; and I also know that the statements which the Brotherton has wickedly endeavored to injure the character of these gentlemen, and more besides myself can testify, are quite contrary to those who related here.

JOHN McILWRICK.

We Elizabeth Brotherton, and Mary McIlwrick, sisters of the said Martha Brotherton, concur in the above sentiments.

ELIZABETH BROTHERTON.
MARY McILWRICK.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me, this 27th day of August, A. D. 1842.

E. ROBINSON,
Justice of Peace, for Hancock Co. Ill.

AFFIDAVIT OF H. C. KIMBALL.

State of Illinois, } ss.
county of Hancock. }

Personally appeared before me, Ebenezer Robinson, a justice of the peace, for said county, Heber C. Kimball, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that the affidavit of Miss Martha Brotherton, which has been published in sundry news papers, is false and without foundation in truth, and further this deponant saith not

HEBER C. KIMBALL.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of August, A. D. 1842.

E. ROBINSON, J. P.

AFFIDAVIT OF BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Nauvoo, Aug 25, 1842.

I do hereby testify that the affidavit of Miss Martha Brotherton that is going the rounds in the politics and religious papers, is a base falsehood, with regard to any private intercourse or unlawful conduct or connection with me.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of August, A. D., 1842.

E. ROBINSON, J. P.

State of Illinois, } ss.
county of Hancock }

Personally came before me Ebenezer Robinson, a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, Mrs. Vilate Kimball, wife of Heber C Kimball who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that the conversation said to have taken place between her and her husband in presence of Martha Brotherton is false that nothing of the kind is stated in the affidavit of the 13th July 1842, made by the said Martha Brotherton, at St. Louis, ever occurred but is a base fabrication, and further the deponant saith not.

VILATE KIMBALL

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of Aug 1842. E. ROBINSON, J. P.

AFFIDAVIT OF J. C. BENNETT.

State of Illinois, } ss.
City of Nauvoo }

Personally appeared before me, Daniel H. Wells, an Aldermen of said city of Nauvoo, John C. Bennett who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he never was taught anything in the least contrary to the strictest principles of the gospel of virtue, of the laws of God or man, under any circumstances or upon any occasion either directly or indirectly, in word or deed, by Joseph Smith, and that he never knew the said Smith to countenance any improper conduct whatever, either in public or private and that he never did teach to me in private that an illegal, illicit intercourse with females was under any circumstances justifiable, and that I never knew him so to teach others.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me this 17th day of May, A. D. 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS.
Alderman.

AFFIDAVIT OF WM. CLAYTON

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
City of Nauvoo. }

Personally appeared before me Daniel H. Wells, an alderman of said city, William Clayton, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he saw John C. Bennett write the affidavit signed by said Bennett, and dated 17th day of May A. D. 1842, and further that he was present and saw and heard the oath administered to said Bennett by Daniel H. Wells upon said affidavit, and that he made the affidavit of his own free will, and that no undue influence whatever from any person was used over said Bennett at the time.

WILLIAM CLAYTON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of July A. D. 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS, J. P.

AFFIDAVIT OF C. L. HIGBEE.

State of Illinois }
City of Nauvoo. }

Personally appeared before me Daniel H. Wells, an alderman of said city, C. L. Higbee, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that he never was taught any thing in the least contrary to the strictest principles of the gospel or of virtue, of the laws of God or of man, under any circumstances or upon any occasion, either directly or indirectly, in word or deed by Joseph Smith, and that he never knew said Smith to countenance any improper conduct whatever, either in public or in private, and that he never did teach me in private or public that an illicit intercourse with females was, under any circumstances justifiable and that he never knew him so to teach others.

C. L. HIGBEE.

Sworn to, and subscribed, before me this 17th day of May, 1842.

DANIEL H. WELLS.
Alderman.

AFFIDAVIT OF STEPHEN MARKHAM.

State of Illinois, } ss.
county of Hancock. }

Personally came before me, Ebenezer Robinson, a Justice of the Peace in and for said county, Stephen Markham, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith, that on the ... day of ... A. D. 1842, he was at the house of Sidney Rigdon in the city of Nauvoo, where he saw Miss Nancy Rigdon laying on a bed, and John C. Bennett was sitting by the side of the bed, near the foot, in close conversation with her, deponant also saw many vulgar, unbecoming and indecent sayings and motions passed between them, which satisfied deponant that they were guilty of unlawful and illicit intercourse, with each other.

STEPH N MARKHAM.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of August, A. D. 1842.

EBENEZER ROBINSON, J. P.

SIDNEY RIGDON'S LETTER

Nauvoo, Aug. 27th

Editor of the Wasp.

Dear Sir: I am fully informed by my daughter, Nancy, to say to the public through the medium of your paper, that the letter which has appeared in the Sangamo Journal, making part of General Bennett's letters to said paper, purporting to have been written by Mr. Joseph Smith to her, was unauthorised by her, and that she never sent to Gen. Bennett or any other person, that said letter was written by said Mr. Smith, nor in his hand writing, but by another person, and in another persons hand writing. She further wishes me to say, that she never at any time authorised Gen. Bennett to use her name in the public papers, as he has done, which has been greatly to the wounding of her feelings, and she considers that the obtruding of her name before the public in the manner in which it has been done, to say the best of it, is a flagrant violation of the rules of gallantry, and cannot avoid to insult her feelings, which she wishes the public to know. I would further state that Mr. Smith denied to me the authorship of that letter.

SIDNEY RIGDON.

CERTIFICATES.

Inasmuch as John C. Bennett has called upon me through the Sangamo Journal to come out and confirm the statements which he has made concerning Joseph Smith and others, I take this opportunity of saying to the public, that I know many of his statements to be false, and that I believe them all to be the off-spring of a base and corrupt heart and without the least shadow of truth, and further that he has used my name without my permission. I believe him to be a vile and wicked adulterous man, who pays no regard to the principles of truth or righteousness, and is unworthy the confidence of a just community. I would further state that I know of no Order in the church which admits of a plurality of wives, and do not believe that Joseph Smith ever taught such a doctrine, and further, that my faith in the doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and in Joseph Smith, is unshaken.

WILLIAM MARKS.

Nauvoo, July 26, 1842.

Mr. Bennett seems to place very much confidence in the veracity, integrity and honor of the above individuals, we hope that he will now believe their testimony.

As there seems to be some foolish reports that I have been engaged with J. C. Bennett, in the difficulties between him and some of the citizens of this place, I merely say in reply to such idle and vain reports that they are without foundation in truth.

SIDNEY RIGDON.

Nauvoo, July 25, 1842.

Inasmuch as J. C. Bennett has referred the people to me for testimony against Pres. Joseph Smith, I take this opportunity to state before the public that I know nothing derogatory to his character, either as a christian, or a moral man.

Mr. Bennett made use of my name without my knowledge or consent.

PAMELA M. MICHAEL.

Being called on for what I know in regard to Dr. J. C. Bennett's and wife's character, I give it as follows:—

I knew them in Hocking City, Athens county, Ohio. I lived in the neighborhood with them about one year the year of 1837. I consider Bennett a very bad character, and not worthy the name of a gentleman; and on the other hand, I consider his wife, [illegible] in consequence of his ill treatment of her at home, and his intimacy with other women.

W. P. ROWELL.

The foregoing documents are made public to rebut and disprove the many slanderous reports that are constantly sickening the public mind, from a perusal of Bennett's letters. There are some things among these statements that necessity, for our reputation as a religious society, has compelled us to make public, which decency and humanity would have gladly dropped with the rest of their infamy into their proper receptacle.