

November 17th, 1923.

Mrs. Wilford Neyes,  
Burlington, Big Horn Co.  
Wyoming.

Dear Sister

I have your letter of November 7th.

It is very strange to me that your brother, or any other intelligent man, would allow himself to be deceived by reading books written by people cut off the Church. I wish it were possible to get the name of the bishop to whom he refers as approving of plural marriages.

As I stated before I state again: There is not one member of the General Authorities of the Church who is not absolutely and unqualifiedly opposed to any pretended plural marriages and who does not believe that every man entering into them should be excommunicated from the church.

I imagine that the quotation you make from Apostle Richards is a statement made long years before the Manifesto by President Woodruff was issued. When the Lord, through His servants was advising people to enter plural marriage, it was their duty to do so. I, myself, married plural wives, but when President Woodruff and the brethren, and subsequently Presidents Snow and Smith laid down the law that no more plural marriages should be performed, I sustained their position and have declared time and time again, in public, that those who entered into plural marriage at the present time were not only guilty of disobeying the laws of the church but that they are liable to prosecution under the laws of the land.

One would naturally think that when two of the Apostles and others have lost their standing in the Church because of their course regarding plural marriage, that people would not be trying to find some excuse for getting married to plural wives. When you get right down to the bed-rock in all these cases, you can trace it to some man falling in love with a woman and trying to excuse himself in getting surreptitiously married to her.

You refer to an apostle speaking in the Tabernacle in June and saying "Many will be disappointed when they find they have been deceived in different points of doctrine" and that it was necessary if people repent that they must be forgiven. This has no reference whatever to plural marriage. I do not know which Apostle Richards he refers to, but Apostles George F. Richards and Stephen L. Richards are as absolutely opposed to any man entering plural marriage at this time as any two men living.

Frank Y. Taylor, on August 25, 1923, had no more intention of teaching plural marriage than he had of attempting to fly, when he held up the Doctrine and Covenants and called on the people to obey the contents of that book. Frank Y. Taylor would be immediately relieved of the presidency of the Granite stake if he were to advocate plural marriage.

It is really amusing, after all that I have said, that they would refer to my getting up in conference and reading Section 59, verses 27 and 30, in the Doctrine and Covenants, and take that as an excuse to enter into plural marriage. You say "these people are quick to jump at conclusions." They are quick to make dishonest deductions from the remarks of the brethren, to try to cover their own sins.

Let us hope that your brother has not entered into pretended plural marriages, because if he has, he will be cut off the church and that in the near future. About nine out of ten of all the men that want to enter into plural marriage do so no matter what any of the General Authorities say. I call to mind one man that has since been cut off the church, with whom I, myself, personally sat down and gave to him my sacred word of honor that if the day ever came that the Lord permitted plural marriages, he should be notified of that fact, and I commanded him to not take another wife. He paid no attention to my command, but got somebody to marry him a wife. I do not know who did it, because he never would tell; and he was cut off the church.

I am enclosing to you a copy of this letter so that you can send it to your brother, and you are at liberty to say to your brother that we shall notify the bishop of Short Creek to investigate his case and warn him to leave pretended plural marriage alone, and if he has entered into plural marriage, to have him excommunicated from the Church.

With sincere wishes, and hoping that your brother has not entered into a plural marriage, and that he will repent of his wrong position, I am

Sincerely your brother,

/s/ Heber J. Grant

HJG-A  
Enc.

P.S. I have decided to ask you to send this original letter to your brother, as I am sending the copy of it to his Bishop.