51. "Historical Record" by Andrew Jensen; Vol. 6:233-234.

Women sealed to the Prophet during 1842.
1. Mary E. Lightner, 18 Feb 1842.
2. Eliza Roxey Snow, June 29, 1842, Brigham Young officiating.

52. The Orson Pratt Journals, by E. J. Watson, 1975; p. 187; January 10, 1843.

Springfield, Illinois, January 10, 1843 Mr.

Sidney Rigdon and Orson Pratt:

Dear Friends:—It is a long time since I have written to you, and I should now much desire to see you, but I leave tonight for Missouri, to meet the messenger charged with the arrest of Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, Lyman Wright and others, for murder, burglary, treason, etc., etc., who will be demanded in a few days, on new indictments, found by the grand jury of a called court on the original evidence, and in relation to which a nole prosequi was entered by the district attorney.

New proceedings have been gotten up on the old charges, and no habeas corpus can save them. We shall try Smith on the Boggs case, when we get him into Missouri. The war goes bravely on; and, although Smith thinks he is now safe, the enemy is near, even at the door. He has awakened the wrong passenger. The Governor will relinquish Joseph at once on the new requisition. There is but one opinion on the case, and that is, nothing can save Joseph on a new requisition and demand predicated on the old charges on the institution of new writs. He must go to Missouri; but he shall not be harmed, if he is not guilty; but he is a murderer, and must suffer the penalty of the law. Enough on this subject.

I hope that both your kind and amiable families are well, and you will please to give them all my best respects. I hope to see you all soon. When the officer arrives, I shall be near at hand. I shall see you all again. Please to write me at Independence immediately.

Yours respectfully,
John C. Bennett


Orson Pratt also had some difficulties while we were in Nauvoo, arising out of the introduction of the celestial order of marriage. It seems, from remarks made in a conversation that I had with him afterwards, that he did not fully realize or comprehend the situation. But, at the time of the occurrence, when I saw that he was very severely tried, as I had always held pleasant relations with him, I took every pains that I possibly could to explain the situation of things, to remove his doubts, and to satisfy his feelings, but without avail. At one time I talked with him for nearly two hours, to prevent, if possible, his apostasy or departure from the church. But he was very sorely tried, and was very self-willed and stubborn in his feelings, and would not yield. His feelings were bitter towards the Prophet Joseph Smith and others, and the result was that he was dropped from his
prosequi had been entered and refused to issue a writ.

How long shall the feelings of innocent men be goaded with repeated attempts at cruelty and injustice? When the wicked rule the people mourn. We are pleased, however, that we now have a governor whose bosom burns with pure patriotic principles.

"Who understands the people's rights, and will protect them too.."

Elder John Taylor gives the following explanation for withholding the letter and comments from the public:

"I was requested by Joseph Smith to prefer charges against Sidney Rigdon before a court composed of twenty-four High Priests and three Bishops. I asked who should give testimony in the case. Joseph Smith told me to collect what testimony I could for there was an abundance, and that I was to call upon him and Sister Emma who knew plenty to criminate him. He handed me the letter about the time and stated that Sidney Rigdon had kept it from him, and that Orson Pratt, as soon as he got it, handed it to him. Joseph Smith immediately went to Sidney and charged him with being leagued with the enemies to destroy him. Mr. Rigdon, or order to excuse himself, said, I know it was wrong; but I dared not take upon myself the responsibility of making it known. This was the only excuse offered by him.

I had the above letter, with the accompanying remarks set up in type in the printing office, ready for printing, preparatory to commencing the trial of Sidney Rigdon. I, however, went to Bro. Joseph and told him what I had done and that I was now ready to proceed with the trial. Said I, Bro. Joseph, what shall I do? Shall I proceed? He paused for a moment and then replied, I think you had better not, we will save him if we can..."

John Taylor (original of file)
(Journal History, January 10, 1842 [sic])

55. BYU Collection, Ms/f/219/Reel 79; CHO, Ms/d/1234/Bx 47/fd 2; January 20, 1843. These minutes were formerly in a box entitled "High Council Meetings etc, Conference and Public Meetings", in a folder marked "Minutes of the Council of Twelve," in the Church Historian's Office. They were recataloged and placed in the Brigham Young Collection. "/" in this typescript means end of a line in the original minutes. Typed as in the original without use of [sic] except in one case. Compare with published version of these minutes in History of the Church, V, pp. 253-6; Millennial Star, XX, 27 (Saturday 3 July 1858), pp. 422-3; and Manuscript History of the Church, under date given.

Nauvoo January 20th 1843

The Quorum of the Twelve assembled at the / home of Elder Brigham Young- present viz, B. Young / H. C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, W. Woodruff, John Taylor/ Geo. A. Smith, & W. Richards. also President / Joseph Smith, & Hyrum Smith of the first presidency / also Orson Pratt--the meeting having been / called to investigate his case:--

President Joseph Smith remarked that as there / was not a quorum when Orson Pratt's case came / up before that he was still a member--he had not/ legally been cut off--/

0. Pratt remarked that he had rather die / than go to preach in any other standing than I had / before.

Joseph-Let him have the same calling that Paul / had. let him have the keys to the Jews. first unto / the Gentiles then unto the Jews --/
Paul held the keys of transfer—that is when / the Gentiles have heard all they will—it shall be / given to the Jews.—/

Jos.—Orson by transgression laid himself liable to have / another ordained in his stead.—and / brought Jacob and Esau / were brought for example— (p. 2)

Young. said there was but 3 prstn. when Amasa / was ordained—/ Joseph said that was legal / when no / more could be had. Young said all he had against Orson was when he / came home / he loved his wife better than David./

Joseph—She lied about me—I never made the offer / which she said I did.

--I will not advise you to break up your / family—unless it were asked of me. then I would / concil [sic] you to get a bill from your wife / & marry a virtuous woman—& raise a new family / but / if you do not do it she never throw it in / your teeth.

Joseph Orson I prophesy in the name of the Lord / Jesus Christ that it will not be 6 months / before / you learn things which will make you glad you / have not left us.—/

Prest. Joseph said to Orson Hyde—I can make / a swap with Amasa Lyman.—& let him have / the office we were going to give you.—

Orson, the latter part of your life shall be more / joyful than the former—

3 o'clock adjourned to President Josephs. /

4 o'clock Orson Pratt. Sarah Marinda Pratt (p. 3) & Lydia Granger were baptized in the River /

/ Per Prst—Joseph Smith—& confirmed in the / Court Room—Orson received the Priesthood & / the same power and authority as in former days.


Brigham Young:

I attended Council with the Prophet and the Twelve at my house, in regard to Orson Pratt, / who had confessed his sins and manifested deep repentance, which resulted in his baptism and re- / ordination, by the Prophet, to his former standing in the Quorum of the Twelve. Brother Joseph / Smith said that he would find another place for brother Amasa Lyman. (Mss History of BY, p. 126.)

Wilford Woodruff:

This was also an interesting day in consequence of the return of Orson Pratt to the quorum / of the Twelve. He had returned and repented in dust & ashes as it were for opposing Joseph & the / Twelve &c. We met at Brigham Young's, & the First Presidency & the Twelve conversed over the / subject & Orson Pratt desired much to return to the quorum of the Twelve. We had an interesting / time together. We then assembled at the river & Joseph the Seer went into the river from the ice & / baptized Orson Pratt & his wife & widow Granger. Joseph confirmed them & ordained Orson Pratt / to the Apostleship & his former standing which caused joy to our hearts. Elder Amasa Lyman who / had been appointed in his stead as a member of the quorum of the Twelve was taken into the First / Presidency which left the place again vacant for Orson Pratt.

Joseph Smith:

In the afternoon I attended a council of the Twelve, at President Young's. . . .

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