

Nauvoo, Nov. 6, 1842.

Mr. George W. Robinson:

Sir -- I take this opportunity to give you a few items of my faith respecting yourself. I believe you are a consummate scoundrel and that you embezzle my letters and steal my money that is sent to me by way of the post office, and that you are in cahoot with others in it -- and I believe you are joined with thieves and robbers are privately trying to do me all the injury you can, with some others which I shall not name now; and I give you this timely notice that I shall take every means to bring you to justice openly and boldly and publicly, &c.

(Signed) JOSEPH SMITH.

P. S. I believe you are a whoremonger also, while you are crying out against others. J. S.

Upon receipt of the above, I returned the following answer:

Nauvoo, Nov. 6, 1842.

Mr. Joseph Smith:

Sir -- I condescend to reply to your compliments of this morning not however because I think you worthy of such condescension, but that I may perhaps through you make known my own faith concerning yourself.

Sir, do you imagine that an idiot could not see your baseness in this attempt to injure my feelings as well as my reputation? Is it not notorious that you have for nearly three years, used your power to the utmost to obtain the post office, and do you think, sir, that this attempt of which you speak, and of what you say you will do, will not be looked upon as tending to the same object? You say you will do the utmost in your power to expose me to the public. But sir, would you not first do well to remove the stigma on your own character, or employ some kind friend of yours, who can bear a scrutinizing eye without the crimson blush of shame? My conscience is void of offence against the laws of my country, or the insinuations of which you speak, notwithstanding your 'believe so's, your think so's, or your guess so's I fear not your power, my dear sir, neither shall I shrink or be intimidated by you, -- nought of personal violence, save the assassin's steel, will harm a hair of my head, and for this I am duly prepared.

With regard to my privately injuring you, I say bring forth your testimony, all I have said or done has been public, and you yourself have, or can, see it, as well as others -- and with regard to the balance of your calumny I have only to say, Bah! how can others believe that which you yourself do not believe?

Your's, with contempt.

GEO. W. ROBINSON.

(Sangamo Journal 10 [18 Nov. 1842]: [2], quotation marks omitted)

Newel Knight Autobiography in Classic Experiences (1969), Pg.101 - Pg.102

The persecutions of the Saints in Missouri soon began to be reenacted in Illinois, where large numbers of our people had settled and built up the beautiful city of Nauvoo. Our enemies of the former place would not allow us to enjoy peace in the latter, but did everything in their power to arouse public indignation against us. Men who professed to be members of the Church also turned away from the truth and sought to injure the work. Notable among this latter class was John C. Bennett. He came to Nauvoo and joined the Church; with considerable ostentation he brought himself before the people, and seemed to enter into the work with a wholeheartedness which was quite commendable. He was instrumental in obtaining the charter for Nauvoo, the legion and the university; was elected mayor of the city, major general of the legion, and chancellor of the university. He defended the Prophet Joseph by writing over the non de plume of "Joab, general in Israel," and was altogether a popular man, and ran a rapid race. But he was only an adventurer, and his deeds of evil were eventually brought to light; for no sooner had he attained to these responsible positions than he sought to use the influence they gave him to accomplish his evil designs, and gave himself up to practices, not only diabolical in themselves but ruinous to the souls of those he entrapped. Thus he brought great scandal upon the Church, by seeking to destroy the innocent and virtuous; and when his acts were questioned by his intended victims he asserted that Joseph taught and sanctioned such doings. If his own assertions were not sufficient then he called on some of his tools--men he had in league with him--to bear testimony to his base lies. In this manner his deeds were brought to light, and then he used all his power to injure those whom he had before defended, and sought to bring about a renewal of the persecutions.

Aroet Hale Autobiography, typescript, BYU-S, Pg. 7

NO
The Prophet Joseph predicted a curse on John C. Bennett. He told him if he did not repent of his sins and sin no more, the curse of God Almighty would rest upon him, that he would die a vagabond upon the face of the earth, without friends to buy him. He told him that he stunk of women. In the year 1850, President Young was speaking about the matter. He said that he had watched the life of John C. Bennett. Bennett went to California in the great gold fever excitement, that Bennett died in one of the lowest slums of California, that he was dragged out with his boots on, put into a cart, hauled off, and dumped into a hole, a rotten mass of corruption. This prediction or prophecy came to pass as well as many others that I heard the Prophet Joseph make.