

Letter from David Hyrum Smith to Sherman Smith in Pontiac,
Michigan, 27 July 1872

RLDS archives
P13, f214

Great Salt Lake City
July. 27th 1872

Dear Bro. Sherman

I am here in this old city so I do wish it was in fonliack [Pontiac] if the poor deceived souls were only free. I have reason to believe Beadle a scamp, he wrote his book to sell his object is money. Bill Heckman wrote a book Beadle cheated him out of his dues pocketed the cash and this like a vulture lives on corruption. We are making great head way here in this city against the evils here, I hope the day will come when they will be done away. It is an unpleasant subject to me if I knew in regard to the subject I would tell you the truth, you I think know me well enough to know I never would deceive you in any thing cost what tears it would I would tell you if I thought my brother was a deciever I would save you from deception. I know my Mother believes just as we do in faith, repentance, baptism and all the saving doctrines, in the books of the church and all, but I do not wish to ask her in regard to poligamy, for dear brother God forgive me if I am wrong how can I tell you if I did not love you I could not, I believe there was something wrong, I dont know it, but I believe it, the testimony is too great for me to deny. Now you may give up everything if you must and cease to regard me as your friend but I never did decieve you and never will if my father sinned I can not help it. The truth to me is the same he must suffer for his sin. I do not know that he did, and if I had not received such convincing testimony of the gospel my faith might fail but it does not even though he did sin. The bible is my guide and Christ my pattern there is no religion for me except the gospel we believe, I know all men and all religions so well that no bridge catches me if Christ fails. I hope you will burn up this letter, and not let it shock your faith, if I could tell you otherwise I would oh how gladly, if neglecting to answer the question would be right I would do that, I have prayed and suffered and can suffer no longer and so

tell you what I think the truth is, I wish I was with you so I could receive the comfort of your consolation. If you decide to send that sugar direct to Clara C. Smith, Sandwich De Kalb Co Ills. Care of W m. H. Hartshorn, and they will pay the postage and expressage. We are doing a world of good, hold fast your faith in Christ and his gospel and pray for us that we may be true ever. Trust me Sherman to tell you the truth hard or soft be my dear friend still and please write me a long and kind letter to hold me up. I wish you were here to administer to me. The excitement is great Brighamism is on the decline the decline while the reorganization is triumphant.

Peace be yours.

David H. Smith

[postscript written sideways at the top and left side of first page above "Great Salt Lake City":]

When I was with you before I did not know as much as I do now in regard to my fathers life. Even if he did wrong he repented and told the saints that poligamy was a false and wicked doctrine. It seems natural for women to love good men and they most always sin in that line if my experience is any thing this is true. But the gifts of the gospel prove it true, even if he did mis[s] it in one respect. Though God has kept me so far from that sin, still I know men are liable the best.

MANUSCRIPT TYPESCRIPT

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David H. Smith to Dear Bro. Sherman, Great Salt Lake City July 27th 1872

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