

JOSEPH SMITH DID NOT SANCTION POLYGAMY

In *The Outlook* of December 4, there appeared an item concerning the death of Joseph F. Smith. It contains inaccurate statements about Joseph Smith, the seer.

Another statement in many papers is decidedly incorrect, as they state that Joseph and Hyrum Smith were taken to Carthage jail shortly after presenting the doctrine of polygamy.

We have received a number of papers from all over the United States and Canada containing this misstatement. At first we thought that they were possibly copied from some one original, but if so, credit has not been thus given, while similarity of form and language would lead one to believe that they were prepared and issued from Salt Lake City. In fact, many of these clippings so credit the item. They have been sent broadcast and simultaneously to many newspapers all over the country.

Some of them contain also a statement that the claim of Joseph F. Smith to be the head of the church was, "disputed by several apostate organizations, including the Missouri Branch."

It seems strange after all these years, that so many will continue to make these unjustifiable assertions. It has been distinctly before the courts on two occasions when property was involved—before Judge Sherman in the Common Pleas Court for Lake County, Ohio, concerning the title to the Kirtland Temple, and before Judge John F. Philips, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, affecting the Temple Lot. In both cases the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was found to be the true successor, identical in doctrine with the original church, and the church in Utah to be apostate. In two other cases the distinction of the two churches has been recognized. Also in the Reed Smoot case the distinction was recognized, and Senator Burroughs in particular referred to the fact that the Reorganized Church has been recognized repeatedly by the courts as the legitimate successor.

To this we may add the fact, unknown perhaps to some of our readers, that every person belonging to the church in Utah was rebaptized and reconfirmed in Utah; and those claiming the priesthood, before being permitted to exercise in their office were reordained. They were already members of the church founded by Joseph Smith. Pray into what church were they then baptized?

The Reorganized Church, upon the other hand, has received many of the old timers on their original baptism, and in fact, have taken over whole branches that have never been disorganized.

If those who have noted this article and have not had it corrected will call it to our attention, we shall be glad to see that proper steps are taken.

While we do not attempt to reply in these columns to every attack, we are glad to have copies for our file, and for us to take such action as may appear advisable in the interest of the work.

Judge Philips also found as a matter of evidence that polygamy was introduced by Brigham Young, and that the evidence is altogether insufficient to show Joseph Smith ever taught any such doctrine.

At this time when efforts are being made to confuse the public mind we are pleased to notice so clear-cut a statement as the following from the *Free Press*, London, Ontario, November 20.

The local Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter Day Saints, whose beautiful new edifice on Maitland Street was recently used for an emergency hospital, wish the city of London to distinctly understand that it has no affiliation or any connection whatever with the Utah Mormon Church, who call themselves Latter Day Saints, the death of whose leader was announced yesterday.

The original church which the local body represents was organized in 1830 and remained intact until 1844, when its leaders were shot in Carthage gaol for proclaiming to the world that an angel had appealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith, commanding him to organize a church according to the divine pattern as founded by Jesus Christ in former days. This is the real cause which precipitated the death of the Martyrs Joseph and Hyrum Smith and not for preaching plurality of wives, as stated in a recent account, Elder Gray states.

The Utah Mormon Church was organized by Brigham Young in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1852, eight years after the assassination of Mr. Smith, there introducing for the first time a doctrine of plurality of wives, Adam God worship, blood atonement, thus apostatizing from the original church.

The original church remained unorganized owing to the death of its leaders until 1860, when a son of the prophet who had been previously ordained prior to his father's death, reorganized the church known at the present day the world over as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, by the apostasy of Brigham Young and the Utah Church the prophecy of Jeremiah, chapter 17, verse 5, was fulfilled.

"Thus saith the Lord, cursed be the man that trusteth in man and maketh flesh his arm and whose heart departeth from the Lord, for he shall be like the heath in the desert and shall not see when good cometh, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited."

Did you ever think that while the preacher's mind is filled with the Spirit of God, and he sees in the countenances of *some* of his hearers that they rejoice in that light, that he would be excusable for preaching long? Did you ever hear of a real, genuine kicker, grumbler, and faultfinder, that could not find fault with most anything under the sun?—S. K. Sorensen.