

L. D. S. HISTORIAN'S OFFICE
58-60 E. South Temple Street

Salt Lake City, May 24, 1907.

Mr. John R. Haldeman,
Independence, Mo. (copy)

Dear Sir:

Your communication of the 15th inst. is at hand. Replying thereto I will say that the revelations when first given were written on ordinary sheets of paper, generally foolscap, and were afterwards compiled and recorded in the bound records of the Church by, or under the direction of, Joseph Smith the Prophet, who took great care to have them correct. These records are now in the possession of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We have but a very few of the original papers on which the revelations given before 1834, were written. It is more than likely that after the revelations were recorded in the bound records by the Prophet, or ^{most of} his scribe, the loose sheets were destroyed. To us, therefore, these recorded revelations which were revised and prepared by Joseph Smith, are the original, and they agree with very few and slight exceptions with the printed Doctrine & Covenants as issued in 1835, what exceptions there may be will be found in the printed revelations as published in the History of The Church, Vol 1. If you desire to compare the manuscript records with the Book of Commandments as that book was fragmentarily published in Independence, a trip to Salt Lake City for that purpose would be almost a waste of time as I can assure you that the manuscript agrees with the revelations as published and revised by the Prophet in 1835, and which have been published in the several editions of the Doctrine & Covenants since that time.

However, if you still desire to examine the records, you would

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have to communicate with President Anthon H. Lund, as it is not my ~~pr~~^{pr}erogative to grant that privilege. I do not see that there would be any impropriety in such examination, so long as your motive is good, which I fully believe it to be; but fail to see what you would accomplish in the interest of your people by such an inspection of the record, since it is the same as the printed work - the Doc. & Cov.

The article in the Saints' Herald by Heman C. Smith which you have called to my attention, contains some things with which I cannot agree. I am satisfied about the corrections indicated by him as noted in the Evening & Morning Star, but he is a long way off from the truth when he insinuates that changes have been made in some of the revelations that have been published since the martyrdom. I know that such is not the case. Our people have not added to, changed, nor eliminated from the revelations as he would have his people believe. I have no idea as to the contents of the papers burned in the Saints' Herald fire, but the section 77 which he questions, has not been tampered with; nor was the paper that was "burned" the "original manuscript." The answers in that section, as we have them and as they are published are as they were given by Joseph Smith and we have the record for it. He also intimates that if we ever did publish the revelations - portions of which are known as sections 22 and 36 in their book - from the Book of Moses that we have discontinued to publish them in the book issued by us. If he would examine carefully the article from the Era which he quotes, he would learn that they have been published by us continuously since 1851, and that they can be found in any copy of the Pearl of Great Price. His effort appears in many parts as an attempt to deceive his readers.

Respectfully, I am,

Jos. F. Smith Jr.