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Whitney, Helen Mar Kimball, 1828-1896

Autobiography, 1881 Mar. 30

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Helen Mar Kimball Whitney,
1828-1896.

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Microfilmed

Salt Lake City
March 30th 1881

My great Grandfather Kimball and his brother came from England and both assisted in gaining the Independence of the United States - My father was the son of Solomon Furubham Kimball, who was born in the State of Massachusetts in the year 1740. He married Anna Spaulding, who was born in New Hampshire, in the town of Plainsfield, on the banks of the Connecticut river, she was the oldest daughter of David and Speedy Spaulding - My father, Heber Chase Kimball, was born June 14th 1801, in the Town of Sheldon, Franklin Co. Vermont. Nov 27th 1822, he married Vilate daughter of Roswell and Susannah Murray. My mother was born in Glouster Montgomery Co. New York June 1st 1806. She bore ten children. Their first child was a daughter who died when ten months old. I was their fourth child born in Mendon Monroe Co. N. Y. August 22nd 1828. & the last daughter my mother ever bore. Their fifth child, a son, was born & died in Mendon just previous to the hearing this Gospel preached, which they received & gathered up to Kirtland Ohio in the fall of 1833. I was then five years old & William, my elder brother was over seven. I was baptized by Uncle Brigham Young in a branch of the Chagrin river, my father cutting the ice for that purpose. He & Brigham Young then belonged to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Years passed away and we were living in the City of Nauvoo, just previous to my father's starting upon his last mission but one, to the Eastern States he taught me the principle of Celestial marriage, & having a great desire to be connected with the Prophet, Joseph, he offered me to him; this I afterwards learned from the Prophet's own mouth. My father had but one One Lamb, but willingly laid her upon the altar: how cruel this seemed to the mother whose heart strings were already stretched untill they were ready to snap asunder, for he had taken Sarah Moon to wife & she thought she had made sufficient sacrifice, but the Lord required more. I will pass over the temptations which I had during the twenty four hours after my father introduced to me this principle & asked me if I would be sealed to Joseph who came next morning & with my parents I heard him ~~teach~~ ^{teach} & explain the principle of

Celestial marriage - after which he said to me, "If you will take this step, it will ensure your eternal salvation & exaltation and that of your father's household & all of your kindred. This promise was so great that I willingly gave myself to purchase so glorious a reward. None but God & his angels could see my mother's bleeding heart - when Joseph asked her if she was willing, she replied "If Helen is willing I have nothing more to say." She had witnessed the sufferings of others, who were older & who better understood the step they were taking, & to see her child, who had scarcely seen her fifteenth summer, following in the same thorny path, in her mind she saw the misery which was as sure to come as the sun was to rise and set, but it was all hidden from me.

I thought through this life my time will be my own

The step I now am taking's for eternity alone,

No one need be the wiser, through time I shall be free,
And as the past hath been the future still will be.

Is my guileless heart all free from worldly care

And full of blissful hopes - and youthful visions rare,
The world seemed bright - the threatening clouds were kept
From sight - and all looked fair but pitying angels wept.

They saw my youthful friends grow shy and cold,

And poisonous darts from slanderous tongues were hurled,
Arenter'd heart in thy generous sacrifice,

Thou did'st not weigh the cost nor know the bitter price,

Thy happy dreams all o'er thou'rt doom'd alas to be

Bar'd out from social scenes by this thy destiny,

And o'er thy sad and mem'ries of sweet-departed joys

Thy sick'n'd heart will brood and imagine future woes,

And like a fetter'd bird with wild and longing heart,

Thou'lt daily pine for freedom and murmur at thy lot;

But could'st thou see the future view that glorious crown,

Awaiting you in Heaven you would not weep nor mourn.

Pure and exalted was thy father's aim, he saw
A glory in obeying this high celestial law,
For to thousands who've died without the light
I will bring eternal joy & make thy crown more bright.
I'd been taught to receive the Prophet of God
And receive every word as the word of the Lord,
But had this not come through my dear father's mouth,
I should ne'r have received 'tis Gods sacred truth.

Two years after the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum I loved and married
your father, Horace Kimball Whitney, eldest son of Bishop Newell K. and Elizabeth
Ann Whitney. He stood proxy for Joseph & I stood for Elizabeth Sikes. We were
sealed in the Nauvoo Temple over the altar on the 3rd of Feb. 1846. & we soon after
crossed the Mississippi river on the way to these Rocky Mountains. Since coming
here I have given him Lucy B. Kimball & Mary Covath to wife. By him I have
borne eleven children, who I hope to see crowned in the Celestial Kingdom. We
have lived happily together for over 35 years & still we are spared as monu-
ments of Gods mercy. I have long since learned to leave all with Him, who
knoweth better than ourselves what will make us happy. I am thankful that
He has brought me through the furnace of affliction & that He has condense-
-d to show me that the promises made to me the morning that I was
sealed to Him ^{Prophet of God} will not fail & I would not have the chain broken for I have
a view of the principle of eternal salvation & ^{the} perfect union which this
sealing power will bring to the human family & with the help of our
Heavenly Father I am determined to so live that I can claim those promises.

Now my children, I ask Him to bless and preserve these lines that
my children & my grandchildren & their children's children may
read them & may they ^{all so do} live to accomplish these ^{desires} of our Maker.

Before they have broken this seal the writer of these few lines
will most likely have passed onto another stage of action.

But I shall live until I have finished my earthly mission
and rejoice in the day of salvation & may all my loved ones enjoy
these blessings is the prayer of your ^{affectionate} mother Helen ^{Smith} Mar Kimball Whitney.