

Joseph Stewart Jr. Esq.
Clayton N. H.

Cambria, Luzerne Co. Penn.
February 10th 1843

Dear Sir,

I hope you will pardon
me for the liberty I am taking in addressing
you this letter, which is intended, not as an oblation
but to elicit a statement of facts which come under
your own personal observations, or such as you know
to be facts from circumstances with which you are
well acquainted, relative to the youthful, and also
more matured character of Joseph Smith Jun, your
play mate and school fellow, but now the leader of
the "Latter day" Saints.

I have been laboring, now for some weeks
in this section of the Country, by way of preaching the gospel
as understood by the true Smith and others, and feel there
a great deal of opposition & perturbation, in consequence
of the reported bad character of Mr. Smith in his youth, and
the consequent ^{it is said} deception he is practicing upon the people.

Being convinced of the great injustice done him
in being ~~represented~~ ^{represented} as a perpetrator of the most heinous
acts against him, which are widely believed by
the people here, and greatly to the prejudice of
the spread of the gospel in this section; and having
recently had an opportunity of conversing with you,
(while at your house together with Mr. Bond) on the subject
and learned that you were his youthful companion,
and had, on many occasions, defended his character from
the false abuse of the slanderer, I cannot but
solicit you, a statement of such things as you feel
warranted in making in his defence and in defence
of the truth, & more especially as you are not a member of the ^{Church}.

It is here stated and widely believed, that he Smith was
a gambler, a black leg, a notorious horse jockey, an adept
at the slight of hand or juggling, and was notorious
for frequenting grogshops, and intemperance, and that
he was also exceedingly profane, &c. &c. Now if this
matter can be answered to the satisfaction of some happy

a Boyer person in this neighborhood, it would have
quite a beneficial effect here; besides, it would be a
vindication of the character and reputation of one who is
suffering more than his share of misrepresentation
and abuse. I have openly and boldly denied those who
accuse me, and although not required to frame a negative, have
agreed to do so in several instances, which if I can
do, through you, will set the matter at rest in this
place.

I hope you will take the trouble, (if you think
me reasonable in requesting it) to answer in reply to those
charges as soon as circumstances will possibly admit
of your doing so; ^{I should be pleased to have you} and make also such general remarks
as the occasion seems to require. I should be pleased
also to have the old gentleman, your father, subscribe to a number
of your reply as he is knowing to you.

Address to Cambria &c. as above.

Give my compliments to all that I had the pleasure
of seeing at your house, & to Mr. Bird, should you see him.

Very Respectfully

Jos. S. Pullman

" D. C. "

P.S. I would gladly pay the postage on this letter;
but to tell the truth I have not yet it. am laboring
with a fever or cold without compensation, only such
good as I may be the means of doing while in my mission.
Send yours without paying postage.

J. S. P.

Copy of a letter
to
Sparks' MSS. 100
Ms. A. 1. 1. 1. 1.

Cambria, Luzerne Co. Penn.
February 10th 1843

Josiah Stowell Jr. Esq.
Elmyra, NY

Dear Sir,

I hope you will pardon me for the liberty I am taking in addressing you this letter, which is intended, not as an obtrusion, but to elicit a statement of facts which came under your own personal observation, or such as you know to be facts from circumstances with which you are well acquainted, relative to the youthful, and also more matured character of Joseph Smith Jun., your play mate and school fellow, but now the leader of the "Latter day Saints."

I have been laboring now for some weeks in this section of the country, by way of preaching the gospel as understood by the said Smith and others, and find here a great deal of opposition & persecution, in consequence of the reputed bad character of Mr. Smith in his youth, and the consequent deception / ^[it is said] he is practising upon the public.

Being convinced of the great injustice done him everywhere in alledging charges of the most haineus character against him, which are verily believed by the people here, and greatly to the prejudice of the spread of the gospel in this section; and having recently had an opportunity of conversing with you, (while at your house together with Mr. Bird) on the subject and learned that you were his youthful companion, and had, on many occasions, defended his character from the fulsome abuse of the slanderer; I cannot forbear to solicit from you a statement of such things as you feel warranted in making in his defence and in defence of the truth, & more especially as you are not a member of the church.

It is here stated and verily believed, that he, Smith, was a gambler, a Black leg, a notorious horse jockey, an adept at the slight of hand or juggling,

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and was notorious for frequenting grogshops, and intemperance, and that he was also exceedingly profane, &c. &c. Now, if this matter can be answered to the satisfaction of some half a Dozen persons in this neighborhood, it would have quite a beneficial effect here; besides, it would be a indication of the character and reputation of one who is receiving more than his share of misrepresentation and abuse. I have openly and boldly denied those charges, and although not required to prove a negative, have still agreed to do so in several instances, which if I can do, through you, will set this matter at rest in this place.

I hope you will take the trouble, (if you think me reasonable in requesting it,) to answer in reply to those charges as soon as circumstances will possibly admit of your doing so; I should be pleased to have you make also such general remarks as the occasion seems to require. I should be pleased also to have the old gentleman, your father, subscribe to as much of your reply as he is knowing to.

Address to Cambria &c. as above.

Give my compliments to all that I had the pleasure of seeing at yr. house. & to Mr. Bird, should you see him.

Very Respectfully

Jno: S. Fullmer

P.S. I would gladly pay the postage on this letter; but to tell the truth I have not go it. Am laboring without purse or scrip & without compensation, only such good as I may be the means of doing while on my mission. & may God bless you & yours. Send yours without paying postage.

J.S.F.

