

*[April 11, 1949]*

A lady met me in the hall (from my description, Rowena thinks it may have been Heber Bennion's daughter, Mrs. Mary Bennion Powell) who said that Preston Richards had told her she ought to talk with me. She said she had a question to ask, why did people practice polygamy. I told her because the Lord told us to. She said, "is that all." I said, "well, that is sufficient." I then said that people had tried to find some reason for it, among the reasons being that it would increase the population more rapidly. I said that reason did not appeal to me very much as being a real reason. I said that I had never heard this reason given authoritatively but when I was a boy I had understood that there was the thought, having in mind, the Mormon philosophy that we had the blessing of eternal lives in the hereafter, that is, propagating spirits, that the more spirits a man was able to propagate the more glory he would have. She went off on the tack that we were here for love and for happiness and nothing that did not give happiness was right. She said, of course, she could see that

one might find some happiness in eating a lot of chocolate, but we knew in the long view that the eating of chocolate brought ailments and was not too healthy, to which I immediately replied, of course, (she had previously referred to the misery and unhappiness that polygamy brought) and upon her making the statement about chocolate I said in the long view, looking into eternity increased of progeny would bring happiness. She then wished to get on into the subject of why it should bring happiness, and I said, "well, sister, evidently you have made up your mind about this matter, so I think you will have to work it out yourself." (JRC) From her attitude and from what she said I gathered that perhaps on this point at any rate, she is not fully normal.