

Palmyra, N. Y.,

March 16, 1879

Mr. J. S. Cobb,

Dear Sir—

J. A. T. Tucker
was a cousin of Somers Tucker, but did not
work in the office at the time the Mormon
Bible was printed, but did subsequently
a short time, if my memory serves me.
He went to Groton, Ct., got married,
became a preacher—Baptist I believe—
committed some crime,— was tried and
acquitted on the plea of insanity— he
was a "bad egg." I think he died some
years ago. His statement in regard
to a page of the manuscript being spirited
away by some of the typos in the office,
is totally untrue. The work he speaks
of, "Mormon Delusions and Monstrosities,"
I never heard of before, and know nothing
about it or where it can be procured.

Book of Jacob, 2d Chap, 6th paragraph:
 "And now my brethren, I have spoken unto
 you concerning words; and those of you which have
 afflicted your neighbor, and persecuted him, because
 that ye were wroth in your hearts of the things
 which God hath given you, what say ye of it?
 x x x x x And now I make an end of
 speaking unto you concerning this pride. And
 were it not that I must speak unto you
 concerning a grosser crime, my heart would
 rejoice ~~upon~~ exceedingly, because of you. But
 the word of God burthens me because of your grosser
 crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord: This
 People begin to wax in iniquity; they understand
 not the Scriptures: for they seek to excuse themselves
 in committing whoredoms, because of the things
 which were written concerning David, and
 Solomon his son. Behold, David and Solomon
 truly had many wives and concubines, which
 thing was abominable before me, saith the
 Lord. Wherefore thus saith the Lord: I have
 led this people forth out of the land of Jeru-
 salem, by the power of mine arm, that I

might raise up unto me a righteous branch,
 from the fruit of the loins of Joseph. Where-
 fore, ~~!~~ the Lord God will not suffer that this
 people shall do like unto them of old. Where-
 fore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken unto
 the word of the Lord: for there shall not any
 man among you have save it be one wife;
 and concubines he shall have none: For ~~!~~
 the Lord God, delighteth in the chastity of women.
 And whoredoms is an abomination before me:
 thus saith the Lord of Hosts. Wherefore, this
 people shall keep my commandments, saith
 the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for
 their sakes. For if I will, saith the Lord
 of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will
 command my people: otherwise, they shall
 hearken unto these things. For behold, ~~!~~ the
 Lord, have seen the sorrow, and heard the
 mourning of the daughters of my people in the
 land of Jerusalem; yea, and in all the lands
 of my people, because of the wickedness and
 and abominations of their husbands. And I
 will not suffer, saith the Lord of Hosts, that

the cries of the fair daughters of the people, which I have led out of the Land of Jerusalem, shall come up unto me, against the men of my people, saith the Lord of Hosts; for they shall not lead away captive, the daughters of my people, because of their tenderness, save I shall visit them with a sore curse, even unto destruction: for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto they of old, saith the Lord of Hosts."

I have given you the whole paragraph, except five lines, when I have inserted stars, thinking that perhaps in later editions they have left out the most important—the condemnation of polygamy. What the sentence you quote, taken by itself, has to do with polygamy, I fail to see—but taken in connection with the whole paragraph, is denunciatory of it, if it means anything—as I understand it. I do not think polygamy was thought of until after they settled in Aaruroo. Hypocrite Smith was the only one of the family I had any acquaintance with, and that very slight. In my last letter, I gave you all the knowledge

I possess in regard to the manuscript
all in Cowdery's hand-writing.

I think Mrs. Emma Smith did not
stay at Palmyra much of the time, but
know nothing certain, — have inquired of
several, but find them as ignorant as myself
in regard to it. I never had any

acquaintance with Cowdery until after the
Norman Bible was commenced. I suppose
Cowdery was paid by Harris for making the
copy — a six months' job at least — and
think he was shrewd enough to worm
out of Jo all the facts, and ^{became} a brother
conspirator.

I think Harris
really believed that Jo found the plates
on the commencement of the fraud, but
changed his opinion before he left Palmyra.
I asked Harris once if he had really
seen the plates with his naked eyes? his
reply was, No, but with spiritual eyes.

I cannot learn from inquiry anything positive as to the time Harris went to Kirtland, O. I think he went there in the fall of 1830, and came back in the spring of 1831 — was backwards and forwards several times, before he left Putnam for good.

Perhaps Smith had some tin plates — cannot say — new idea to me.

Hope you will succeed in ferreting this humbug and fraud out, and expose the thing from beginning to end.

Yours truly
J. W. Gilbert