

THE TRUE ORIGIN OF MORMON POLYGAMY

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The true origin of Mormon polygamy by Charles A. Shook

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CHARLES A. SHOOK

**THE TRUE ORIGIN
OF MORMON
POLYGAMY**



LIEUT. GEN. JOSEPH SMITH,
Mormon Prophet,

Joseph Smith.

The True Origin of Mormon Polygamy

By

CHARLES A. SHOOK

If Joseph Smith ever taught or practiced the doctrine of polygamy, we ask, When? Where? or by what testimony can he be thus convicted? And until these interrogatories are properly answered, we shall feel justified in flaunting back the statement that he taught or practiced polygamy in the face of his accusers as an unmitigated slander and villainous persecution.—Elder Willard J. Smith.

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Foreword

THE first edition of "The True Origin of Mormon Polygamy" was published in the year 1910. This edition being disposed of, the second is now presented to the public.

At the time that this book was first written, the author had at hand but few of the original works of the Mormon Church, but, since its appearance, through the kindness of Mr. Z. H. Gurley, of Canton, Missouri, now deceased, and Hon. A. T. Schroeder, of Cos Cob, Connecticut, he has had access to nearly all of the old literature of Mormonism, from which he has made a number of extracts both for the body of the work and also for a large number of footnotes which confirm what has already been written.

To the Josephite Mormon who may chance to read this production, we simply say: Consult your own early literature and you will find that what the author has written is true. The celebrated Berrien collection of Mormon books, pamphlets and papers in New York City and the Schroeder collection in the State Historical Building at Madison, Wisconsin, with the files of the *Saugamo Journal* at Springfield, Illinois, will afford you the facilities to ascertain what the true character of things was at Nauvoo between the years 1839 and 1844.

In putting this book out, our intention is not simply to expose the foibles of Joseph Smith as a mere man. If he had made no extraordinary claims, his mistakes would have been buried long ago, as the mistakes of thousands of men have been. But, when his followers present him to the world as a prophet and religious teacher, so immaculate in life that even God could use him as his monthpiece, it is quite another thing, and they must answer for his misdeeds before an intelligent and virtuous public. It will not do for them to hide behind the plea that the charges made are simply "a tissue of lies" or cringe beneath the mantle of

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affected innocence. The stain of sin is upon the garments of Mormonism, and the world at large believes that the hand of Joseph Smith placed it there. So, the evasive cry of "persecution" will not satisfy the ears of the enlightened people of this generation nor draw out their sympathy when boldly confronting them are the evidences which go to prove that he was the author and originator of that polygamic system which has been one of the foulest blots upon our national escutcheon. Therefore, the duty that plainly confronts the Reorganized Church is to meet the claims presented and overthrow them, if they can.

To the fact that the members of the Reorganized Church are usually good and law-abiding citizens, I cheerfully bear witness. They will compare favorably with the members of other churches, but they are no better. As I make this acknowledgment, let no man put on a shoe that does not fit him. What has been written is in respect to the evil designs and practices of the original leaders, and does not apply to the rank and file to-day. No one, who has studied the history of the Mormon movement, will for one moment believe that there is any more connection between the Josephite and Brighamite Churches than there is between the Presbyterian and the Roman Catholic. The former have fought their polygamic brethren with a zeal that would be commendable if it were consistent. But, while they strongly oppose polygamy now, they own and acknowledge as prophet a man who has confessed to being the father of the celebrated "Revelation on Celestial Marriage," which has been the basis of the doctrine of the plurality of wives in Utah. (See *Millennial Star*, xxi. 715).

In closing, we wish to say a word in our own defense. The charge has been made that this book has been written that the author might "realize a little pecuniary profit" from its sale. This charge is not true. Not one cent of profit or royalty will find its way into his pocket. It is put out solely in the interest of truth.

CHARLES A. SHOOK.

EDDYVILLE, NEBRASKA, November 1, 1913.

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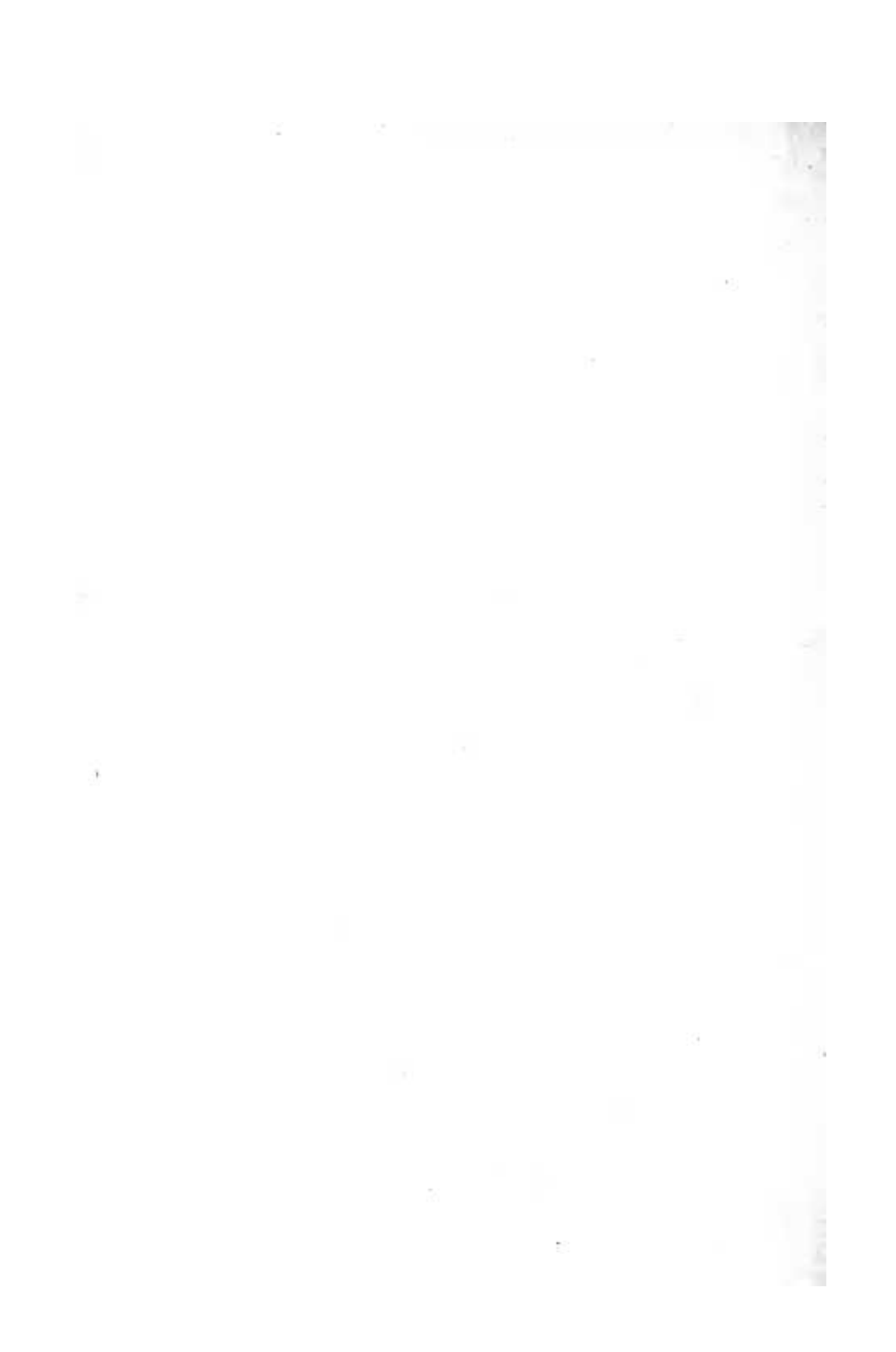


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