since I gave you my advice in relation
to the proper time a man ought to apo-
statize. My advice was that he should
never apostatize in a dark and cloudy
day—never when he felt bad—never be-
cause he felt hard towards his brother
or brethren in the Church; but when
he apostatizes, he should wait for a
clear day, when everything around him
is prospering; and then, before he apos-
tatizes, he should ask counsel.

In relation to men's apostatizing, I
recollect in the upper room of the Tem-
ple in Kirtland, Ohio, when we were as-
sembled there, a very noted man, by the
name of Sylvester Smith, bore testimony
of what he had seen of the Prophet of
God, of angels, &c. He said he wanted
to bear testimony, and continued to say,
"I have spoken by what you call the Holy
Ghost; the eyes of my understanding
have been touched, and I have seen con-
voy after convoy of angels; I have laid
hands on the lame, and they have leaped
like an hart; I have spoken with tongues
and had the interpretation thereof; I
have seen the sick healed time after
time—but let me tell you, everything
I have seen and everything you have
seen is the height of idiotism." This was
Sylvester Smith, after he apostatized.

This was the testimony of an apos-
tate, which is conclusive proof to
me that a man may see the hosts of
heaven—the chariots of Israel and the
horsemen thereof, and gaze on the glory
of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost;
and unless he retains the Spirit of God,
he will apostatize. Therefore my advice
to the Saints has been, and is, and when-
ever I give you good advice in the future,
it will be the same, that you propose in
your hearts never to depart from God or
from his people, only when you are filled
with the Holy Ghost; and then when you
do it, ask counsel of his servants.

I felt glad when brother Brigham
nominated John Smith, the son of
Hyrum, to be our Patriarch. I have been
acquainted with his father personally.
I have lived with him for years, and I
know the Lord God has promised to bless
his children, and that his Spirit will rest
upon his son, to unfold and teach the
eternal truths of heaven to bless the peo-
ple of God.

I would rather have a young man
to fill this office than an old man who
is filled with the leaven of sectarian-
ism. Give me a man who was raised
by a "Mormon" father and a "Mormon"
mother, and raised up in the faith from
his childhood. That is the man I want to
bless me and the people of God.