

June 17, 1899.

Well, this morning at 10 o'clock we went to the place appointed (To wit) The Office of Dr. N. W. Baker, room 5. 5th Block East main, we met according to agreement - and as soon as they came (the reorganizers) they began to want every thing their way and finally they got mad. Well, finally we got every thing fixed up. The following is the Propositions as we are to debate on them.

1st-

Ottumwa Iowa June 17, 1899.

Resolved that Joseph Smith of Lamanai Iowa, is the Legal Successor of Joseph Smith the Prophet as President of and Revelator to the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his teachings ~~are~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~practice~~ <sup>and</sup> are in harmony with those of his Predecessor

J. S. Smithely, Affirmative  
J. J. Hammond & P. Hansen, Neg.

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved that Brigham Young was the  
Legal Successor of Joseph Smith the Prophet  
as President and Revelator to the Church  
of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints and  
his teachings and practice were in  
harmony with those of his Predecessors

{ D. J. Hammond. Off.  
W. Hansen.

J. S. Smiley Secy.

Standards of Authority Bible, Book  
of Mormon, Dab. & Care, in so far as  
received and Published up to July 1844.  
Supplemented by use of other Authorized  
Publications of both Churches represented,  
and Collateral evidence Properly Authenticated  
from other Sources.

American Parliamentary Laws to  
Govern all Questions Arising for  
Decision of Moderators.

June 18, 1899.

To day we have written a letter to Pres. Thomas asking him to come down and help us in our debate also I wrote a letter to Pres. Kelsoe of Chicago asking his advice and all important points that will help us out. Yesterday after we had made out the contracts they refused to sign them and took it under advisement before their Conference to see if they could afford to debate with us. So finally after (4) four day waiting they came and signed for the papers of the City come out and published them. but now they have fixed the date of our debate as June 26, 1899 and the reorganized Cedeers are to furnish the hall for the debate free to us that is it is not to cost us any thing they pay all Expense

June 19 1899

We went out on the street and had a meeting last night - our Enemies never come out - at all Dr. N. O. Baker has tried or pretended to be a friend to us but we have been warned against him there was a Barber by the name of Graham who at first said he would furnish a hall free but when it came to a show down he backed out and was not ~~in~~ in it he also made a dirty statement that was not true he said he was in Utah many years ago and he said he stood on the street of Salt Lake City and saw a woman come along the street with two little Bastards (children) in her arms but when asked how he knew he said he believed so. any how we had a hot word or two about it and he got quiet.

mad about it. This with other things  
he said, was very Insulting to us and  
we told them our mind on the subject.

June 20 1899.

The reorganized outfit seems to be a little  
afraid of us as they don't seem to have  
the grit they had at first. Some of the  
most prominent men in the City have  
taken our part. The Papers have come  
out and made the statement that  
we have been treated rough and also  
that we have acted like gentlemen  
of Education and Ability.

June 20<sup>th</sup> 1899.

To day we have been down town to see  
some of the Reorganizers some of them  
seem to be afraid of the debate  
and now they are already beginning to  
try to get out of it but the more I think  
about it the stronger I think we will

beat them at first when they came  
out and abused us I felt - fact about  
it the next time they came I did  
not feel the same and when I  
excepted the challenge I felt better  
Immediately and the Spirit of Confidence  
has grown stronger all the time  
I'd firmly believe that god will  
vindicate the truth

June 22. 1899.

To day Elders Anderson and Hanson  
came up to our room and we have  
been looking over the evidence and  
looking over our books and now  
I am sure we can beat in our  
debate - I have written a letter to  
our President at Des Moines also at  
Chicago telling them I have accepted  
a challenge and asked Council also  
all the information they can give

and Requested our Conference President  
to come down and Assist us if he  
can and I wrote to the Mission  
President and told him all, how we  
had been treated and that we could  
not do any other way that I could see  
with out we left town so I could  
not do that and I wrote and said  
I will Debate with them and we  
will nail our Flag to the mast  
and we will sink or go down with  
our Flag flying this is just the way  
I feel even if I were in any other  
Part of the world or even a Soldier  
in the army I would want to gain  
the victory or die. So I feel in this  
Case I know the Lord whom we lead  
all will Bless us and cause that our  
Enemies will be defeated and that  
we will come out victorious in the end

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1899.

This morning I got a letter from our President (Conference) stating he would be here to assist us in our debate we went to the Depot to meet him at 10:35 and when he got off the train and met us he seemed a little offish and afraid we were in to some hard mess. but after we told him how ever thing came about and also he heard it from others besides us. Then he said Bro Hammon I see you are not to blame. you have been driven in to the debate. so we will do the best we can and the Lord will bless us and the truth will be vindicated but short after some of the reorganized men came to me. (now it must be remembered that we to furnish the hall free for the debate.) and said Elder Hammon we will take up

a collection in our debate so we can  
pay for our hall. O no. I said we will  
not do any thing of the kind, you need to  
furnish the hall free. and if you take  
up a collection I want the crowd to  
understand we are not the ones but  
your church are the ones. he then said  
I suppose you are willing to pay for  
your share of the hall any how. I said  
no sir we will not pay one copper cent  
you need to furnish the hall now you  
may have the pleasure

June 24 1899.

To day we have been around town  
some visiting some of the news papers  
we have subscribed for 4 of the leading  
news papers in town so while we are  
waiting for the debate to commence we  
will have plenty to read to day. Sincerely  
Come and later we would have to