

Emma Smith on the Book of Mormon Translation Process, Quote 1

Explanation In an interview conducted by her son Joseph Smith III in 1879, Emma Smith, wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith, expressed her faith in the restored Church of Jesus Christ, which was established in 1830 after the Prophet had translated the Book of Mormon and published it to the world. As a firsthand witness of the translation process when she acted as his scribe, Emma could testify that her husband had no notes, drafts, or books with him while he translated that ancient record. She, like the Three and Eight Witnesses of the Book of Mormon, never wavered in her testimony of the book's authenticity.

Sources Joseph Smith III, "Last Testimony of Sister Emma," *Saints' Advocate* 2 (Oct. 1879): 51. For additional source information and related discussion, see John W. Welch and Tim Rathbone, "The Translation of the Book of Mormon: Basic Historical Information" (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1986), 14–15.



Q. *What is the truth of Mormonism?*

A. I know Mormonism to be the truth; and believe the church to have been established by divine direction. I have complete faith in it. In writing for your father I frequently wrote day after day, often sitting at the table close by him, he sitting with his face buried in his hat, with the stone in it, and dictating hour after hour with nothing between us.

Q. *Had he not a book or manuscript from which he read, or dictated to you?*

A. He had neither manuscript or book to read from.

Q. *Could he not have had, and you not know it?*

A. If he had anything of the kind he could not have concealed it from me.

— *Emma Smith, 1879*