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1849 CHARGES OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT AGAINST Ransom Parks

5 March 1849 (Monday)

Ransom Parks, immediately after breakfast, was asked to appear before Elders Freegift Wells and David A. Buckingham, and a number of brethren--David Miller, B.S. Youngs, F.S. Wicker, Jesse Harwood, Stanton Buckingham, Chauncey Copley, Charles Brackwrr, Shubel Prentiss, W. Allen and Chauncey Miller-- "to hear a statement of his disorderly and improper conduct in relation to certain things..."

Freegift presented the case. 1) a pair of boots being made for Ransom with deep red morocco tops turned down about 3", extravagantly stitched with lining up the back part of pale red, "which fashion was nowise allowable in our Society." 2) Unbecoming talk and harsh conversation and replies to Elder Freegift.

Those present did not believe Ransom had any basis for his treatment of Freegift. "After 'ân explanation of much good feeling of charity and love and a desire for his reformation, he was told he might have the day to examine himself and make up his mind what course he wants to take--whether to acknowledge his wrongs and amend his improper habits and behavior or to chose his way by absenting himself from our Society." All knelt in prayer. He was released from work, told to talk to noone so he could give his whole attention to making up his mind.

Next morning, all (except FW & CM) met and thought Ransom had not repented and was therefore still unprepared to make a final decision.

On Wednesday, had a 1½ hour meeting. Although at the beginning he knelt for several minutes, he was told to take a seat. His statements were were not satisfactory as tokens of reformation or repentance. Gave him further time for reflection, although he could go back to work.

On Thursday, 14th, met and all agreed it would be better for Ransom to leave the Society peaceably. So his things were to be gathered and taken to the Office and there packed, and he was to be taken to his mother in Albany.