DESERET EVENING NEWS.
Tuesday, - - - November 16, 1869.

AN ANSWER

TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE HISTORY AND DOCTRINE OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND THE SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS OF UTAH TERRITORY.

In the Spring of 1844, Joseph Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who was then living at Nauvoo, Hancock county, Illinois, selected a company of men to explore the Rocky Mountains, with a view to find a place where the Saints could locate and enjoy an immunity from that religious persecution which had followed the Church in the States of New York, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois. President Smith at that time expressed his determination to explore the mountain valleys, and prophesied that within five years the Saints should be located in the Rocky Mountains beyond the influence of mobs, requesting it to be recorded, that when it came to pass it should be remembered.

While this company were making preparations for their journey a mob assembled at Carthage, the county seat of Hancock, to menace the Saints. Disappointed political demagogues, writhing under the sting of defeat, and apostates, who had been expelled the Church because of their iniquity, combined at this juncture to fan the flame of excitement and persecution, insomuch that the Governor of the State, Thomas Ford, deemed it advisable to visit Hancock county. When Joseph Smith, the Prophet, learned that the Governor had called out the militia of Carthage, who composed the mob previously collected there, and had made a requisition for additional forces from Warsaw, where resided many of the most bitter enemies of the Saints, he was apprehensive that it was their intention to murder instead of try him, (having already been about fifty times before judicial tribunals, and invariably acquitted) he hesitated to answer the process of law, until the Governor pledged the faith of the State that he should be protected and have a fair trial. This Governor Ford did, and then Joseph, with his brother Hyrum, proceeded to Carthage, where they surrendered themselves prisoners to the constable who held the writ for them. They voluntarily entered into recognizances before the Justice of the Peace for their appearance at court to answer the charge; whereupon, a new writ was issued against them on the affidavit of two dissolute men charging them with *treason*, and they were immediately thrust into jail, Elders Willard Richards and John Taylor being permitted to accompany them.

Governor Ford then disbanded all his troops except the "Carthage Greys" who were known to possess the most violent feelings of hatred against Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and after holding a private council on the subject, he left them to their fate.

MASSACRE OF JOSEPH AND HYRUM SMITH.

On the 27th of June, 1844, about 150 men, with their faces blackened, surrounded the prison and deliberately murdered Joseph and Hyrum Smith, leaving Elder John Taylor severely wounded with four balls; Elder Willard Richards, who was in the same room escaped unhurt.

At the fall term of court, bills of indictment for murder in the first degree, were found against the principal leaders in the massacre; but they were allowed to go at large on bail and to become each other's security; the sum required being only one thousand dollars.

In May, 1845, they had a sham trial and were acquitted, although the most of the members of the court, bar, jury and witnesses knew them to be guilty of the murder.

The Twelve Apostles, being the first quorum remaining in the church, immediately returned from their missions abroad, and by the unanimous voice of the Saints took their position at the head of affairs in Nauvoo, Brigham Young, President of the Twelve Apostles, presiding. A revelation had been given through Joseph Smith in 1841, commanding the Saints to build a Temple in which to administer the ordinances of the gospel; also to build a house to be called "The Nauvoo House," for the entertainment of strangers, and a sufficient time was granted for the completion of this work which would be acceptable only in the day of their poverty, in order that they might prove themselves faithful in all things that they were commanded; nevertheless the Lord said: "Verily, verily I say unto you that when I give a commandment to any of the sons of men to do a work unto my name, and those sons of men go with all their might and with all they have to perform that work, and cease not their diligence, and their enemies come upon them and hinder them from performing that work; behold it behoveth me to require that work no more at the hands of those sons of men, but to accept of their offerings; and the iniquity and transgression of my holy laws and commandments I will visit upon the heads of those who hindered my work, unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord God. Therefore, for this cause have I accepted the offerings of those whom I commanded to build up a city and a house unto my name, in Jackson Co., Missouri, and were hindered by their enemies, saith the Lord your God; and I will answer judgment, wrath and indignation, wailing and anguish, and gnashing of teeth upon their heads unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not and hate me, saith the Lord your God.

"And this I make an example unto you, for your consolation concerning all those who have been commanded to do a work, and have been hindered by the hands of their enemies, and by oppression, saith the Lord your God; for I am the Lord your God, and will save all those of your brethren who have been pure in heart, and have been slain in the land of Missouri, saith the Lord."

In view of fulfilling this Revelation the Twelve pushed forward the building of the Temple, which at the time of the Prophet's death was about one half story above the basement. This magnificent work was vigorously prosecuted to its completion in the face of relentless persecution, and amid obstacles of the most difficult and trying kind. A Seventies' Hall, a Music Hall and an Assembly Hall were also built, but the Nauvoo House was scarcely commenced and the work of the first story completed; when the mob, coming to the conclusion that the murder of the Prophets had not destroyed the progress of the work of the Lord, commenced on the 13th of September, 1845, burning houses in the south west portion of Hancock county, whereupon the sheriff issued the following proclamation;

[*To be continued.*]

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Manufacture in Chicago
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d200-3m

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A Planer
In good Planing order.
d116:tf

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500 MEN!
HIGHEST WAGES PAID!
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None but Good Men need apply.
Apply immediately at the Mouth of Weber Kanyon.
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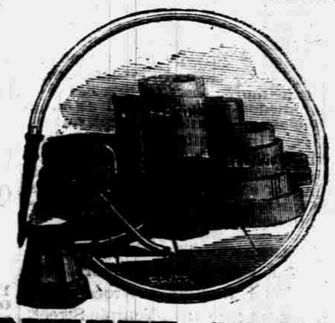
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