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Truth and Liberty.

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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

AUGUST, 1841.

Monday, 9.—The steamboat "Erie" was burned on Lake Erie, 30 miles from Buffalo, and eight from the American shore, 200 persons on board, of whom 175 perished.

The funeral of brother Don Carlos was attended by a vast concourse of friends and relatives: he was buried with military honors.

The Zarahemla Conference appointed George W. Gee, Church Recorder, and was addressed by Elders Taylor and George A. Smith, on building the Temple, and on Temperance.

Tuesday, 10.—I spent the day in Council with B. Young, H. C. Kimball, J. Taylor, O. Pratt, and Geo. A. Smith, and appointed a special conference for the 16th instant, and directed them to send missionaries to New Orleans; Charleston, South Carolina; Salem, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, District of Columbia; and also requested the Twelve to take the burthen of the business of the Church in Nauvoo, and especially as pertaining to the selling of Church lands.

The department of English literature and mathematics, of the University of the city of Nauvoo, is in operation under the tuition of Professor Orson Pratt.

"GENERAL ORDERS,

Head Quarters, Nauvoo Legion,)
City of Nauvoo, Aug. 10, 1841. }

It becomes our painful duty to officially notify the troops of our command of the untimely decease of that noble chief, Brigadier-general Don Carlos Smith—he fell, but not in battle—he perished, but not by the weapons of war—at his burial you paid him honor, but he is gathered to his fathers to receive greater honor.

In consequence of this afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence, the commissioned officers of the staff and line will wear crape on the left arm for thirty days. The commissioned officers of the 2nd cohort will convene at General Smith's office, on Saturday, the 4th day of September, at 10 o'clock, a.m., for the purpose of electing a brigadier-general, at which time and place the court of appeals will sit.

The Legion will assemble at the usual place of rendezvous, in the city of Nauvoo, on Saturday, the 11th day of September, at 10 o'clock, a.m., for the purpose of general parade. The militia officers of the county of Hancock, Illinois; and the county of Lee, Iowa, are respectfully invited to attend. The adjutants of regiments will form their respective regiments at 9 o'clock, and at 10 o'clock the adjutant of the Legion will form the line by regiments, and not by companies as heretofore. A special court martial will convene at the usual place, on Saturday, the 28th day of August, at 10 o'clock, a.m., for the transaction of business.

JOSEPH SMITH, Lieutenant-General.

A shower of meteoric stones fell at Iwan in Hungary.

Letters from various parts of England and Scotland show that numbers are daily added to the Church; while shipwrecks, floods, houses and workshops falling, great and destructive fires, sudden deaths, banks breaking, men's hearts failing them for fear, because no man buyeth their merchandize, shopkeepers' and manufacturers' failing, and many accidents on the railways, betoken the coming of the Son of Man.

Thursday, 12.—A considerable number of the Sac and Fox Indians have been for several days encamped in the neighborhood of Montrose. The ferryman this morning brought over a great number on the ferry-boat and two flat boats for the purpose of visiting me. The military band and a detachment of Invincibles were on shore ready to receive and escort them to the grove, but they refused to come on shore until I went down. I accordingly went down, and met "Keokuk," "Kish-ku-kosh," "Appenoose," and about 100 chiefs and braves of those tribes, with their families, at the landing, introduced my brother Hyrum to them; and after the usual salutations, conducted them to the meeting ground in the grove, and instructed them in many things which the Lord had revealed unto me concerning their fathers, and the promises that were made concerning them in the Book of Mormon; and advised them to cease killing each other and warring with other tribes, and keep peace with the whites; which was interpreted to them.

Keokuk replied he had a Book of Mormon at his wick-a-up, which I had given him some years before. "I believe," said he, "you are a great and good man; I look rough, but I also am a son of the Great Spirit. I've heard your advice—we intend to quit fighting and follow the good talk you have given us."

After the conversation they were feasted on the green with good food, dainties, and melons by the brethren; and they entertained the spectators with a specimen of their dancing.

Saturday, 14.—Sir J. M. Brunel, the engineer, with fifty ladies and gentlemen, made the first passage under the river Thames, England.

Sunday, 15.—My infant son, Don Carlos, died, aged 14 months, 2 days.

Conference met in Zarahemla, and were addressed by Elders B. Young and George Miller, on building the Temple in Nauvoo.

Monday, 16.—Elder Willard Richards arrived at Nauvoo this morning.

Ebenezer Robinson succeeded brother Don Carlos as editor of the Times and Seasons, with Elder Robert B. Thompson.

"At a Special Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held in the city of Nauvoo, August 16, 1841, Elder Brigham Young was unanimously appointed to preside over the conference, and Elias Smith and Lorenzo Barnes were appointed clerks.

Singing by the choir; conference opened by prayer by the President.

The object of the conference was then presented by the President, who stated that President Joseph Smith (who was then absent on account of the death of his child) had called a special conference to transact certain items of business necessary to be done previous to the October conference—such as to select men of experience to send forth into the vineyard, take measures to assist emigrants who may arrive at the places of gathering, and prevent impositions being practised upon them by unprincipled speculators, &c., and he hoped that no one could view him and his brethren as aspiring, because they had come forward to take part in the proceedings before them, for he could assure the brethren that nothing could be further from his wishes, and those of his quorum, than to interfere with church affairs at Zion and her stakes; for he had been in the vineyard so long, he had become attached to foreign missions; and nothing could induce him to retire therefrom and attend the affairs of the Church at home but a sense of duty, the requirements of heaven, or the revelations of God; to which he would always submit, be the consequence what it might; and the brethren of his quorum responded, Amen.

A list of names of the elders and cities were read by the President, and a few were selected by nomination, and designated as follows:—voted that Elders Henry G. Sherwood go to New Orleans; A. O. Smoot to Charleston, South Carolina; Erastus Snow and B. Winchester to Salem, Massachusetts; John Murdock to Baltimore, Maryland; and Samuel James to Washington, D. C.

On motion of Vinson Knight, seconded by Samuel Bent, resolved that the quorum of the Twelve select the individuals to go and preach in such places as they may judge expedient, and present the same to conference, with a view of expediting the business of the day.

The situation of the poor of Nauvoo City was then presented by Bishops Knight and Miller, and a collection taken for their benefit.

After singing, conference adjourned until 2 o'clock, p.m.

All of the Twelve present at the conference went and visited President Joseph Smith to comfort him in his affliction.

Conference assembled at 2 p.m., and was addressed by Elders Lorenzo Barnes and Henry G. Sherwood, concerning the spread of the gospel and the building up of the kingdom of God in these last days.

President Joseph Smith now arriving, proceeded to state to the conference at considerable length, the object of their present meeting, and, in addition to what President Young had stated in the morning, said that the time had come when the Twelve should be called upon to stand in their place next to the First Presidency, and attend to the settling of emigrants and the business of the Church at the Stakes, and assist to bear off the kingdom victorious to the nations, and as they had been faithful, and had borne the burden in the heat of the day, that it was right that they should have an opportunity of providing something for themselves and families, and at the same time relieve him, so that he might attend to the business of translating.

Moved, seconded, and carried, that the conference approve of the instructions of President Smith in relation to the Twelve, and that they proceed accordingly to attend to the duties of their office.

Moved, seconded, and carried unanimously, that every individual who shall hereafter be found trying to influence any emigrants belonging to the Church, either to buy of them (except provisions) or sell to them (excepting the Church agents), shall be immediately tried for fellowship, and dealt with as offenders, and unless they repent shall be cut off from the Church.

President Rigdon then made some appropriate remarks on speculation.

Moved that the conference accept the doings of the Twelve, in designating certain individuals to certain cities, &c.; when President Joseph Smith remarked that the conference had already sanctioned the doings of the Twelve; and it belonged to their office to transact such business, with the approbation of the First Presidency; and he would then state what cities should now be built up:—viz., Nauvoo, Zarahemla, Warren, Nashville, and Ramus.

Resolved that this conference adjourn to the general conference in October next.

Closed with prayer by President Young.

BRIGHAM YOUNG, President.

ELIAS SMITH, } Clerks.
LORENZO BARNES, }

Thursday, 19.—Elders Young, Kimball, and Richards, went to Warsaw, and examined the town plat of Warren, which is situated about a mile south of the village of Warsaw, and made some arrangements with the proprietors for building up the place.

The plat designed for the city of Warren is the school section, No. 16, and opposite the first permanent and good landing place on the Mississippi River below the falls; which is about two miles below the Warsaw landing, which is filling up with sand bars.

The brethren returned about eleven, p.m., quite exhausted.

Sunday, 22.—I preached at the stand, on wars and desolations that await the nations.

Wednesday, 25.—I received the following letter:—

"Fair Haven, 24th July, 1841.

Rev. Joseph Smith: Dear Sir:—I have this moment received a letter from Dr. Galland, dated yesterday at New York, in which he states his intention of leaving for the west.

It certainly was my expectation that I should again see him before his departure, and be able to make some arrangement with him respecting the interest due to myself, Mr. Tuttle, and Mr. Gillet. In this I am disappointed, and considering that a proposition for effecting this object emanated from your brother Hyrum and the Doctor, to which no allusion has since been made by them or any body else, I and Mr. Tuttle think we have much reason to be dissatisfied at this silence and apparent neglect.

Now, all the transactions relating to Nauvoo have by me and my friends been entered into in the most perfect good faith, and will continue to be conducted upon the most honorable principles.

Permit me to ask whether this is a proper return for the confidence we have bestowed, and for the indulgence we have extended?

If you have not already requested your brother Hyrum to call on me when he arrives east, will you write him immediately, and say that it is my urgent wish?

Relative to the Ivins note the Dr. has written me, and referred to Mr. William Smith at New Egypt, on whom I shall call next week.

Your obedient servant,

HORACE R. HOTCHKISS.

And wrote the following answer:—

"Nauvoo, August 25, 1841.

To Horace R. Hotchkiss, Esq., New Haven, Connecticut:—

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 24th ult., came to hand this day, the contents of which I duly appreciate. I presume you are well aware of the difficulties that occurred before, and at the execution of the writings in regard to the landed transaction between us, touching the annual payment of interest; if you have forgotten, I will here remind you, you verbally agreed on our refusal and hesitancy to execute the notes for the payment for the land, that you would not exact the payment of the interest that would accrue on them under five years, and that you would not coerce the payment even then; to all this you pledged your honor; and upon an after arrangement you verbally agreed to take land in some one of the Atlantic States, that would yield six per cent interest (to you) both for the principal and interest, and in view of that matter I delegated my brother Hyrum and Doctor Isaac Galland to go East and negotiate for lands with our friends, and pay you off for the whole purchase that we made of you; but upon an interview with you, they learned that you were unwilling to enter into an arrangement according to the powers that I had delegated to them; that you would not receive any of the principal at all, but the interest alone, which we never considered ourselves in honor or in justice bound to pay under the expiration of five years. I presume you are no stranger to the part of the city plat we bought of you being a deathly sickly hole, and that we have not been able in consequence, to realize any valuable consideration from it, although we have been keeping up appearances, and holding out inducements to encourage immigration, that we scarcely think justifiable in consequence of the mortality that almost invariably awaits those who come from far distant parts (and that with a view to enable us to meet our engagements), and now to be goaded by you, for a breach of good faith, and neglect, and dishonorable conduct, seems to me to be almost beyond endurance.

You are aware that we came from Missouri destitute of every thing but physical force, and had nothing but our energies and perseverance to rely upon to meet the payment of the extortionate sum, that you exacted for the land we had of

you. Have you no feelings of commiseration? Or is it your design to crush us with a ponderous load before we are able to walk? Or can you better dispose of the property than we are doing for your interest? If so, to the alternative.

I therefore propose, in order to avoid the perplexity and annoyance that has hitherto attended the transaction, that you come and take the premises, and make the best you can of it, or stand off and give us an opportunity that we may manage the concern, and enable ourselves by the management thereof to meet our engagements, as was originally contemplated.

We have taken a city plat at Warsaw (at the head of navigation for vessels of heavy tonnage) on the most advantageous terms; the proprietors waiting on us for the payment of the plat, until we can realize the money from the sales, leaving to ourselves a large and liberal net profit. We have been making every exertion, and used all the means at our command to lay a foundation that will now begin to enable us to meet our pecuniary engagements, and no doubt in our minds to the entire satisfaction of all those concerned, if they will but exercise a small degree of patience, and stay a resort to coercive measures which would kill us in the germ, even before we can (by reason of the season) begin to bud and blossom, in order to bring forth a plentiful yield of fruit.

I am, with considerations of high respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH SMITH.

The Hotchkiss purchase, to which the foregoing letters relate, includes all the land lying north of the White purchase to the river, and thence on the river south, including the best steam-boat landing, but is the most sickly part of Nauvoo.

Elder Oliver Granger died at Kirtland, Lake county, Ohio, aged 49 years. He was the son of Pierce and Clarissa Granger, born in the town of Phelps, Ontario county, New York, 7th February, 1794; received a common school education, was two years a member of the Methodist Church, and was a licensed exhorter. On the 8th September, 1813, he married Lydia Dibble; in the year 1827, he in a great measure lost his sight by cold and exposure; he was sheriff of Ontario county, and colonel in the militia. He received the gospel on reading the Book of Mormon, which he providentially obtained, and was baptized at Sodus, Wayne county, and ordained an elder by Brigham and Joseph Young, they being the first elders he saw, and immediately devoted his time to preaching and warning the people.

In the year 1833 he moved to Kirtland, and then took a mission to the east with Elder Samuel Newcomb; returned and was ordained a high priest; took another mission in the spring of 1836 to New York with John P. Greene; and after his return built up a branch at Huntsburg, Geauga county, Ohio; also a branch at Perry Richland county, where he baptized Bradley Wilson, with his seven sons and their wives. When the Church left Kirtland he was appointed to settle the Church business.

In June, 1838, he went to Far West, and returned in August of same year; in October he again started, taking his family; he went 70 miles into Missouri, and was driven back by the mob; in the spring of 1839 he went to Nauvoo. In 1840 he removed to Kirtland with his family, where he remained until his death.

He was a man of good business qualifications, but had been for many years nearly blind. His funeral was attended by a vast concourse of people from the neighboring towns, although there were but few Saints in the country.

THE COMSTOCK METHOD.—Professor Comstock is still occupied with giving instruction in regard to his peculiar mode of culture. He announces a meeting on the 1st of February, 1855, for the purpose of hearing his disclosures at Washington Hollow, in this state, in the building of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society. Delegates from the societies in Dutchess county, formed for the purpose of prosecuting agriculture on the principles he has laid down, will attend. In a letter to Mr. Dawson, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr. Comstock invites Congress to take this opportunity of satisfying its members of the merits of the method he has discovered. In the course of his letter he says:

"I can select and transplant two nursery trees; one of them by its growth will show that it has been accidentally terra-cultured, and the other will show that it had received the best book culture—good common nursery culture; to the common observer they will both appear perfect, and to have received equally good culture in the nursery; the after-culture shall be the same to each tree; and yet, in consequence of the common nursery culture received by one of them its heart will be sure to die; while the heart of the tree which was accidentally terra-cultured in the nursery will remain perfectly sound; a fact which I demonstrated at every disclosure by my discoveries. Who will say that this is not both new and important?"

Some witnesses of the success of this method are cited, among whom is George W. Coffin, Esq., Secretary of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, who has tried it with extraordinary effect upon his strawberries and Catawba grapes. The system, Professor Comstock remarks, lets potatoes and other plants grow to perfection, while the common mode of agriculture prevents them.

He is, we perceive, to give a disclosure at Chatham, in this state, four miles from Chatham Four-Corners, on Thursday, the 8th of February, at 10 o'clock in the morning.—[Evening Post.]