

Pres. Young spoke to me, as Mayor, either once or twice—I think it was twice—wishing to know if Ogden City would let him have the “Union Square” for the purpose of making a Utah Central Railroad Passenger Depot, saying that if he could obtain it for this purpose he would also make of it an ornamental square, suitable for a summer resort; which I believe he fully contemplated doing, and would have done, or have made the necessary provisions for it to be done, had he known that he was so soon to leave us. I have no doubt in my mind but what he intended to make a very nice public sort of it, and believing so, I laid the matter before the City Council, informing that body that Pres. Young had a claim on this city which arose in this way: when he located Ogden City, between the forks of the two rivers, there was then a very desirable farm here which was owned by Father Bingham, containing 160 acres more or less. The President intimated to Father Bingham his design of locating a city hereabouts, and that he knew of no situation so good and suitable as that commanded by his farm, and proposed to purchase his farm for that purpose. Father Bingham consented to the proposition, the purchase was effected

Pres. Taylor then resumed the stand. Some people will say, "Oh, don't talk about it." I think a full, free talk is frequently of great use; we want nothing secret nor underhanded, and for one I want no association with things that cannot be talked about and will not bear investigation. I wanted to hear Bro. Farr's statement about this affair, and I wanted you to hear it, because out of such things, unless properly understood, a great many misunderstandings arise. I have heard it stated that President Young had exacted too much in getting possession of this ten acre square; I wonder now if any of you speculating men had owned this 160 acres of land in this locality if you would have been satisfied to take ten acres of this swampy land for it? There is no decent man anywhere that would object to anything of that kind, neither Jew, Gentile, or Mormon, and such unpleasantness frequently arises from a miscomprehension of affairs. Had President Young, because he was President of the Church, no right to have pay for that which belonged to him? And if he furnished 160 acres of land and got sixty dollars for it, I think nobody was injured very seriously in giving him ten acres in lieu of it. Some of you would have thought your toes were trodden on pretty heavily had you been required to trade on any such terms. I heard a man say not long ago, when something perplexing occurred, he did not know what excuse to make about it. I said to him, A right needs no excuse, and an excuse will not make a wrong right. We want facts, and when we get them let us appreciate them, and lay aside our nonsense which

Bro. Henick testifies to its correctness. [Bro. Wells said, "I am also conversant with the fact; I carried the flag-pole when this square was laid out."] Bro. Wells also bears testimony to the same thing, he carried the flag-pole when the square was surveyed. I want these matters understood, open and above board; we have nothing to conceal from anybody. But there was some inattention manifested by your local authorities—for the general authorities of the Church have nothing to do with it; this place, through neglect, was not entered at the time the city entries were made, and because of this technicality some of the City Councilors seemed to object to the Church having $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the ten acres, which was all they asked for, and that, too, on behalf of the citizens of Ogden, by paying for it what it had cost the city, the same as they have done with private individuals, I believe as provided by law. But somebody seems to think that somebody is injured. Who is injured? If the Church had ten acres and only desire $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, or if they desired the whole of it, I don't think it any great stretch of liberality of anybody, and I do not see why any one should be at all exercised about it. They will say, What will the Gentiles say? No honorable Gentile would say it is wrong, or take any exception to it, and as for those who are not so, we do not care anything at all about them. That is my idea. Somebody said the City Council had given $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres to some outside religious sect. Well, if they had it to spare, who cares? We do not want to be pinched up in a nutshell. But then, I think the Latter-day Saints have just as much right to lands surveyed and owned by them upwards of twenty years ago, as the Gentiles to receive a free gift. I do not know why this kind of feeling should exist, and therefore I speak of it. We are all one, or ought to be; and therefore I speak of these things as they have been presented to me. Is there anything wrong in that? Again, here the Seventies, I understand, have given a large Hall over to the City. Anything wrong in that? No, not if they felt able to do so. I would not think it very good policy, however, to give such a Hall away and then be left without any place to meet in. But then it belonged to them and they have done it, and who cares? I don't. But if the City has got things of that kind from the Seventies, if they have done an act of that kind, why not the City turn round and be a little generous? Can't the City be as generous and kind? Who are the City? I suppose you are, along with a few outsiders. Bro. Richards mentioned to me, as Trustee in Trust, that there were five acres of land here, joining the schoolhouse, in the lane, saying, "We would like to get it, for we wish to use it for the purposes of a High School, or Academy." I said, "I will mention it to the brethren of the Council." We have since turned it over. Whose business is it? The City is not injured, and the Church is not. I mention these things that we may have a proper understanding of them, and not be found talking about things we do not understand. I feel very liberal towards the liberal class of Gentiles; but do I feel

I say to those men who may have any differences, settle them like men and don't act the baby any more, but conduct yourselves as servants of the Most High God. And may he enable you to do so and bless us all and lead us in the paths of life, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WASATCH STAKE CONFER-
ENCE.

Editors Deseret News:

Yours respectfully,
C. SHELTON, Clerk.

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