

If Abraham reasoned thus—if Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that he had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a Father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? Whenever did a tree or anything spring into existence without a progenitor? And everything comes in this way. Paul says that which is earthly is in the likeness of that which is heavenly; hence if Jesus had a father, can we not believe that he had a father also? I despise the idea of being scared to death at such doctrine, for the Bible is full of it.

I want you all to pay particular attention to what I am saying. Jesus said that the Father wrought precisely in the same way as his Father had done before him; as the Father had done before, he laid down his life and took it up same as his Father had done before; he did as he was sent, to lay down his life and take it up again, and then was committed unto him the keys, &c. I know it is good reasoning.

I have reason to think that the church is being purged; I saw Satan fall from heaven, and the way they ran was a caution. All these are wonders, and marvelous in our eyes in these last days. So long as men are under the law of God they have no fears; they do not scare themselves.

I want to stick to my text to shew that when men open their lips against these truths they do not injure me, but injure themselves. To the law and to the testimony, for these principles are poured out all over the Scriptures. When things that are of the greatest importance are passed over by weak minded men without even a thought, I want to see truth in all its bearings and hug it to my bosom. I believe all that God ever revealed, and I never hear of a man being damned for believing too much, but they are damned for unbelief.

They found fault with Jesus Christ because he said he was the Son of God, and made himself equal with God. They say of me like they did of the Apostles of old, that I must be put down. What did Jesus say? 'Is it not written in your law, I said, ye are Gods? If he called them Gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken, say ye of him whom the Father hath sanctified and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest, because I said I am the Son of God?' It was through him that they drank of the spiritual rock; of course he would take the honor to himself. Jesus, if they were called Gods unto whom the word of God came, why should it be thought blasphemy that I should say I am the Son of God?

Oh, poor blind apostates, did you never think of this before? These are the quotations that the apostates take from the Scriptures. They swear that they believe the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants; and then you will get from them filth, slander and bogus makers plenty. One of the apostate church official members prophesied that Joseph should never preach any more, and yet I am now preaching.

Go and read the vision in the Book of Covenants; there is clearly illustrated glory upon glory, one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and a glory of the stars, and as one star differeth from another star in glory, even so do they of the celestial world differ in glory, and every man who reigns in celestial glory is a God to his dominions. By the apostates admitting the testimony of the Doctrine and Covenants they damn themselves. Paul, what do you say? They impeached Paul, and all went and left him. Paul had seven churches, and they drove him off from among them; and yet they cannot do it by me. I rejoice in that; my testimony is good.

Paul says 'there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So is also the resurrection of the dead.' They who obtain a glorious resurrection from the dead are exalted far above principalities, powers, thrones, dominions, and angels; and are expressly declared to be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, all having eternal power.

The Scriptures are a mixture of very strange doctrines to the Christian world, who are blindly led by the blind. I will refer to another Scripture: 'Now,' says God when he visited Moses in the bush—(Moses was a stammering sort of a boy like me) God said, 'thou shalt be a God unto the children of Israel.' God said, 'thou shalt be a God unto Aaron, and he shall be thy spokesman.' I believe those Gods that God reveals as Gods to be sons of God, and all can cry 'Abba, Father.' Sons of God who exalt themselves to be Gods even from before the foundation of the world, and are the only Gods I have a reverence for.

John said he was a king. 'And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful Witness and the First Begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever: Amen.' Oh thou God who art King of kings and Lord of lords, the sectarian world by their actions declare, 'we cannot believe thee.'

The old Catholic Church traditions are worth more than all you have said; here is a principle of logic that most men have no more sense than to adopt. I will illustrate it by an old apple tree. Here jumps off a branch and says I am the true tree, and you are corrupt. If the whole tree is corrupt are not its branches corrupt? If the Catholic religion is a false religion how can any true religion come out of it? If the Catholic Church is bad how can any good thing come out of it? The characters of the old churches have always been

slandered by all apostates since the world began.

I testify again, as the Lord lives, God never will acknowledge any traitors or apostates; any man who will betray the Catholics will betray you, and if he will betray me he will betray you. All men are liars who say they are of the true church without the revelations of Jesus Christ and the priesthood of Melchisedec, which is after the order of the Son of God.

It is in the order of heavenly things that God should always send a new dispensation into the world, when men have apostatized from the truth and lost the priesthood; but when men come out and build upon other men's foundations, they do it on their own responsibility without authority from God; and when the floods come and the winds blow, their foundations will be found to be sand, and their whole fabric will crumble to dust.

Did I build on any other man's foundation? I have got all the truth which the Christian world possessed, and an independent revelation in the bargain, and God will bear me off triumphant. I will drop this subject; I wish I could speak for three or four hours, but it is not expedient on account of the rain. I will still go on and show you proof upon proofs; all the Bible is as equal one part as another.

[On account of the rain it was impossible for Thomas Bullock to report any more.]

Judge Jesse B. Thomas came to Nauvoo and advised me to go before some justice of the peace of the county, and have an examination of the charges specified in the writ from Justice Morrison of Carthage, and if acquitted or bound over it would allay all excitement, answer the law, and cut off all legal pretext for a mob, and he would be bound to order them to keep the peace.

Some forty gentlemen from Madison came down on a steamer to inquire into our difficulties. I met them at the Masonic Hall at 2 p.m., and gave them the desired information. Dr. Richards, the city recorder, read the minutes of the council, declaring the Nauvoo Expositor a nuisance. They expressed themselves satisfied. I then went to the Temple stand, and met some thousands of the brethren. I instructed them to keep cool, and prepare their arms for defence of the city; as it was reported that a mob was collecting in Carthage and other places. I exhorted them to be quiet and make no disturbance, and instructed the brethren to organize into the capacity of a public meeting, and send delegates to all the surrounding towns and villages to explain the cause of the disturbance, and show them that all was peace at Nauvoo, and that there was no cause for any mobs.

A messenger arrived, stating that the clerk of the county court expected to be driven out of Carthage to-morrow, and the only way to prevent the shedding of blood was to get the governor in person to come down with his staff.

I wrote to Governor Ford stating the facts as follows:—

"Nauvoo, Ill., June 16th, 1844.

"His Excellency Thomas Ford:

Sir—I am informed from credible sources, as well as from the proceedings of a public meeting at Carthage, &c., as published in the 'Warsaw Signal' extra, that an energetic attempt is being made by some of the citizens of this and the surrounding counties to drive and exterminate 'the Saints' by force of arms; and I send this information to your Excellency by a special messenger, Hugh McFall, adjutant general, Nauvoo Legion, who will give all particulars; and I ask at your hands immediate counsel and protection.

Judge Thomas has been here and given his advice in the case, which I shall strictly follow until I hear from your Excellency, and in all cases shall adhere to the Constitution and laws.

The Nauvoo Legion is at your service to quell all insurrections and support the dignity of the common weal.

I wish—urgently wish your Excellency to come down in person with your staff, and investigate the whole matter without delay, and cause peace to be restored to the country; and I know not but this will be the only means of stopping an effusion of blood.

The information referred to above is before me by affidavit.—I remain, sir, the friend of peace, and your Excellency's humble servant,

JOSEPH SMITH.

His Excellency Thomas Ford:

I enclosed a copy of the following affidavit:

"State of Illinois, }
Hancock county, }
City of Nauvoo. }

June 16th, 1844.

Personally appeared before me, Willard Richards, clerk of the municipal court of the city of Nauvoo, Thomas G. Wilson, and after being duly sworn according to law, depose and saith, that during the last evening, Robert Johnson of the county aforesaid, told deponent that fifteen hundred Missourians would assemble at Warsaw in said county, on the morning of the 17th inst.; that the arms of the Quincy Greys had been sent up to Warsaw; that they had five cannon at Warsaw; that said Missourians and others who should join them would proceed to Carthage, and the Quincy Greys and other companies from Adams county were to meet the Missourians in Carthage, at the time before stated; that from Carthage they were going round to the branches of the Church of Latter Day Saints in said county and inform them that they must deny Joseph's being a Prophet, and if they did not deny Joseph, they must leave immediately; and on Thursday next the whole mob were to proceed to Nauvoo and demand Joseph and Hyrum Smith and the city council of said city, and if Joseph and Hyrum and city council were not given up,

they would blow up the city and kill and exterminate all the inhabitants of said city.

THOMAS G. WILSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Willard Richards, clerk. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the Municipal Court of said city, at the time and place above written.

WILLARD RICHARDS, Clerk M.C.C.N.

I have compared the within affidavit with the original and find it a true copy.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of court, at the city of Nauvoo this 16th day of June, 1844.

WILLARD RICHARDS,
Clerk of the Municipal Court, City of Nauvoo."

Br. Butler from Bear creek came in and made affidavit before the recorder that fifteen hundred Missourians were to cross the Mississippi to Warsaw the next morning on their way to Carthage.

I received a letter from Father Morley:—

"President Joseph Smith:

Sir:—Believing it to be my duty to inform you of the proceedings of a wicked clan against the Saints in this place, I improve this opportunity. On yesterday George Baker in company with Joseph Barber, a Mr. — Banks, Luther Perry, and one more, his name I have not got, came to my house. Mr. Baker came to my door and said he had some business, and wished to speak with me. I went out into my door yard with him, and came in company with a Mr. Banks and others; they informed me they were a committee appointed to inform me and our people, that they had three propositions to make to us; in the first place yourself and about seventeen others had broken the law and good order of society; that we, the Mormon people, must take up arms and proceed with them for your arrest, or take our effects and proceed immediately to Nauvoo, otherwise give up our arms and remain quiet until the fuss is over. We have until Monday morning next to make up our minds; we have made up our minds that we shall not comply with any of these proposals, but stand in our own defence; we have no signature from the governor, or any official officer, to accept of such wicked proposals.

We are informed that the company must be at Col. Williams' to-morrow morning at eight o'clock to proceed to Nauvoo.

I have thought it my duty to inform you of the proceedings here.

This from your humble servant,

ISAAC MORLEY."

"June 16th, 1844.

GARDNER SNOW,
EDMUND DUFFEE,
IRA WILLEY."

I sent the following answer by Joseph S. Allen:—

"Head Quarters, Nauvoo Legion,
Lieut. General's Office, Nauvoo,
June 16th, 1844.

"Col. Isaac Morley:

Sir:—In reply to yours of this date, you will take special notice of the movements of the mob party that is stirring up strife, and endeavoring to excite rebellion to the government and destroy the Saints, and cause all the troops of said Legion in your vicinity to be in readiness to act at a moment's warning, and if the mob shall fall upon the Saints by force of arms defend them at every hazard, unless prudence dictate the retreat of the troops to Nauvoo, in which case the mob will not disturb your women and children; and if the mob move towards Nauvoo, either come before them or in their rear, and be ready to co-operate with the main body of the Legion. Instruct the companies to keep cool, and let all things be done decently and in order.

Give information by affidavit before a magistrate and special messengers to the governor of what has occurred, and every illegal proceeding that shall be had on the subject without delay. Also notify me of the same, and demand instruction and protection from the

JOSEPH SMITH,

Lieut. Gen. Nauvoo Legion."

I insert the minutes of a public meeting:

"A public meeting was held in the city of Nauvoo, on Sunday evening the 16th inst.

Mr. John Taylor was unanimously called to the chair, and Wm. Clayton appointed clerk.

The chairman stated briefly the object of the meeting, whereupon it was unanimously

Resolved, That inasmuch as many false reports are being circulated through this county by designing characters, for the purpose of bringing persecution upon the peaceable citizens of this city, we will use our endeavors to disabuse the public mind, and present a true statement of facts before them as speedily as possible.

Resolved, That for the more speedy accomplishment of this object, this meeting appoint delegates to go to the different precincts throughout the county to lay a true statement of facts before the public."

The following delegates were then appointed:

To Warsaw precinct, Messrs. Joseph A. Kelting, Hugh McFall and John T. Barnett.
Rocky Run precinct, Messrs. Anson Call, E. Horner, Nicholas Boscow and David Evans.
Carthage precinct, Messrs. Lewis Robinson, Jeremiah Hatch, jun., and Dr. Robinson.
Lima precinct, Messrs. Wm. Allen, Elam Luddington and Charles Warner.
La Harpe and Pilot Grove, Messrs. Benjamin Warrington and Hiram Kimball.
Spilman's Landing and Appanoose, Messrs. Elijah R. Swackhammer and Truman Gillett, jun.

St. Mary's and Chili, Messrs. Philander Colton and — Averett.

Fountain Green and Macedonia, Messrs. Moses Clare and Andrew H. Perkins.

Augusta and Plymouth, Messrs. Peter Slater, Darwin Chase and John McIlwrick.

On motion, meeting adjourned sine die.

JOHN TAYLOR, President.

Wm. CLAYTON, Secretary."

And I issued the following:

"PROCLAMATION.

"Mayor's Office, Nauvoo, }
June 16th, 1844. }

"As there are a number of statements in circulation which have for their object the injury of the 'Latter Day Saints,' all of which are false and prompted by blackhearted villains, I therefore deem it my duty to disabuse the public mind in regard to them, and to give a plain statement of facts which have taken place in the city within a few days past, and which has brought upon us the displeasure of the unprincipled and the uninformed, and seems to afford an opportunity to our enemies to unite and arouse themselves to mob; and already they have commenced their hellish operations by driving a few defenceless Mormons from their houses and homes in the vicinity of Warsaw and Carthage.

A short time since a press was started in this city which had for its object the destruction of the institutions of the city, both civil and religious; its proprietors are a set of unprincipled scoundrels who attempted in every possible way to defame the character of the most virtuous of our community, and change our peaceful and prosperous city into a place as evil and polluted as their own black hearts. To rid the city of a paper so filthy and pestilential as this, became the duty of every good citizen who loves good order and morality. A complaint was made before the city council, and after a full and impartial investigation it was voted—without one dissenting voice—a public nuisance, and to be immediately destroyed; the peace and happiness of the place demanded it, the virtue of our wives and daughters demanded it, and our consciences demanded it at our hands as conservators of the public peace.

That we acted right in this matter we have the assurance of one of the ablest expounders of the laws of England, viz., Blackstone—the constitution of the State of Illinois and our own chartered rights.

If then our charter gives us the power to decide what shall be a nuisance and cause it to be removed, where is the offence? What law is violated? If then no law has been violated, why this ridiculous excitement and bandying with lawless ruffians to destroy the happiness of a people whose religious motto is 'peace and good will toward all men?'

Our city is infested with a set of blacklegs, counterfeiters and debauchees, and that the proprietors of this press were of that class the minutes of the Municipal Court fully testify, and in ridding our young and flourishing city of such characters we are abused by not only villainous demagogues, but by some who from their station and influence in society, ought rather to raise than repress the standard of human excellence.

We have no disturbance or excitement among us, save what is made by the thousand and one idle rumors afloat in the country. Every one is protected in his person and property, and but few cities of a population of twenty thousand people in the United States, hath less of dissipation or vice of any kind than the city of Nauvoo.

Of the correctness of our conduct in this affair, we appeal to every high court in the State, and to its ordeal we are willing to appear at any time that His Excellency Governor Ford shall please to call us before it. I, therefore, in behalf of the Municipal Court of Nauvoo, warn the lawless, not to be precipitate in any interference in our affairs, for as sure as there is a God in Israel, we shall ride triumphant over all oppression.

JOSEPH SMITH, Mayor."

I received a letter from my uncle John Smith: "Macedonia, Illinois, }
Sunday, June 16th, 1844. }

"President Smith:

Dear Sir:—We send you brs. Perkins, two faithful brethren, who will give you all the information which is within our knowledge, of the proceedings of our enemies; and as we have not heard or received communication from Nauvoo as regards the course we should pursue, we now ask your counsel, and you will please forward per br. Perkins. We should have sought your counsel sooner only on account of high water. Please communicate in writing the course we in this part of the county should pursue. The brethren in these parts are in good faith, spirits and health generally, and may be relied on.—Respectfully,

JOHN SMITH.

General Joseph Smith."

Monday, 17.—I wrote the following to my uncle John Smith:

"Nauvoo, June 17th, 1844.

"Uncle John:

Dear Sir:—The brethren from Ramus arrived here this morning; we were glad to see them, and to hear that you were all alive in the midst of the ragings of an infatuated and blood-thirsty mob. I write these few lines to inform you that we feel determined in this place not to be dismayed if hell boils over all at once. We feel to hope for the best, and determined to prepare for the worst; and we want this to be your motto in common with us 'that we will never ground our arms until we give them up by death.' 'Free trade and sailors rights, protection of persons and property, wives and families.'

If a mob annoy you, defend yourselves to the