

To refute the lying slanders of the Warsaw Signal as published in the proceedings of a meeting held at Carthage on the 13th inst., I insert the following certificate:

"TO THE PUBLIC.

"We whose names are undersigned having seen in the Warsaw Signal, containing the proceedings of a meeting held at Carthage on the 13th inst., many statements calculated to arouse the indignation and wrath of the people against the citizens of Nauvoo, do certify that Hyrum Smith did not make any threats, nor offer any reward against the Signal, or its editor, in the city council:

JOHN TAYLOR,
G. W. HARRIS,
AARON JOHNSON,
PHINEAS RICHARDS,
WILLIAM BOLES,
THOMAS SMITH,
GEO. P. STILES,
EDWARD HUNTER,
W. W. PHELPS,
MOSES F. CLARE,
ALANSON RIPLEY,
LEVI RICHARDS,
ORSON SPENCER,
ADDISON EVERETT,
JOHN P. GREENE,
PHILIP B. LEWIS."

"Nauvoo, June 17, 1844."

A Nauvoo Neighbor Extra was issued with the following editorial:

"TO THE PUBLIC.

"As a soft breeze in a hot day mellows the air, so does the simple truth calm the feelings of the irritated; and so we proceed to give the proceedings of the city council relating to the removal of the Nauvoo Expositor as a nuisance. We have been robbed, mobbed, and plundered with impunity some two or three times, and as every heart is more apt to know its own sorrows, the people of Nauvoo had ample reason, when such characters as the proprietors and abettors of the Nauvoo Expositor proved to be before the city council, to be alarmed for their safety.

The men who got up the press were constantly engaged in resisting the authority or threatening something. If they were fined an appeal was taken, but the slander went on, and when the paper came, the course and the plan to destroy the city was marked out. The destruction of the city charter and the ruin of the Saints, was the all commanding topic.

Our lives, our city, our charter, and our characters are just as sacred, just as dear and just as good as other people's; and while no friendly arm has been extended from the demolition of our press in Jackson county, Missouri, without law to this present day, the city council with all the law of nuisance, from Blackstone down to the Springfield charter, knowing that if they exceeded the law of the land, a higher court could regulate the proceedings—abated the Nauvoo Expositor.

The proceedings of the council show, as sketched, that there was cause of alarm. The people when they reflect will at once say that the feelings and rights of men ought to be respected. All persons otherwise, who, without recourse to justice, mercy, or humanity, come out with inflammatory publications, destructive resolutions, or more especially extermination, show a want of feeling and a want of respect, and a want of religious toleration, that honorable men will deprecate among Americans, as they would the pestilence, famine, or horrors of war. It cannot be that the people are so lost to virtue as to coolly go to murdering men, women, and children. No; candor and common sense forbid it."

Dr. Richards and Thomas Bullock sat up all last night writing the proceedings of the city council for the press.

Tuesday, 18.—At 8 a.m., the Legion assembled according to orders, and organized at 9 a.m., under acting Major General Jonathan Dunham; the first cohort under the command of Col. Stephen Markham, acting brigadier general; and the second cohort under Colonel Hosea Stout, acting brigadier general.

Just before, I was informed that there were several boxes of arms landed at the upper stone house, which were secured by the marshal. Soon after, it was discovered that the arms (40 stand) had been sent by H. G. Sherwood and the marshal bought them for the city.

About 1 1/2 p.m., I proclaimed the city under martial law, and caused the following orders to be issued from the mayor's office:

"PROCLAMATION.

"Mayor's Office, City of Nauvoo, }
June 18th, 1844."

"To the Marshal of the City of Nauvoo:

From the newspapers around us, and the current reports as brought in from the surrounding country, I have good reason to fear that a mob is organizing to come upon this city, and plunder and destroy said city, as well as murder the citizens; and by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor, and to preserve the city and lives of the citizens, I do hereby declare the said city, within the limits of its incorporation, under martial law. The officers, therefore, of the Nauvoo Legion, the police, as well as all others will strictly see that no persons or property pass in or out of the city without due orders.

JOSEPH SMITH, Mayor."

About 2 p.m. the Legion was drawn up in the street close by the mansion; I stood in full uniform on the top of the frame of a building. Judge Phelps read the Warsaw Signal Extra of the 17th, wherein all the "old citizens" were called upon to assist the mob in exterminating the leaders of the Saints and driving away the people.

I addressed the Legion for about 1 1/2 hours;

the following synopsis of this address was compiled by Geo. A. Smith from the verbal reports of Joseph G. Hovey, William G. Sterrett, Robert Campbell and many others, who heard the Prophet on the occasion:

"It is thought by some that our enemies would be satisfied with my destruction; but I tell you that as soon as they have shed my blood, they will thirst for the blood of every man in whose heart dwells a single spark of the spirit of the fulness of the gospel. The opposition of these men is moved by the spirit of the adversary of all righteousness; it is not only to destroy me, but every man and woman who dares believe the doctrines that God hath inspired me to teach to this generation.

We have never violated the laws of our country; we have every right to live under their protection, and are entitled to all the privileges guaranteed by our State and national Constitutions. We have turned the barren bleak prairies and swamps of this State into beautiful towns, farms and cities by our industry; and the men who seek our destruction and cry thief, treason, riot, &c., are those who themselves violate the laws, steal and plunder from their neighbors, and seek to destroy the innocent, heralding forth lies to screen themselves from the just punishment of their crimes by bringing destruction upon this innocent people. I call God, angels and all men to witness that we are innocent of the charges which are heralded forth through the public prints against us by our enemies; and while they assemble together in unlawful mobs to take away our rights and destroy our lives, they think to shield themselves under the refuge of lies which they have thus wickedly fabricated.

We have forwarded a particular account of all our doings to the governor; we are ready to obey his commands, and we expect that protection at his hands which we know to be our just due.

We have taken the counsel of Judge Thomas, and have been tried before a civil magistrate on the charge of riot; not that the law required it, but because the judge advised it as a precautionary measure to allay all possible pretext for excitement; we were legally acquitted by Esq. Wells who is a good judge of law. Had we been before the circuit, the supreme, or any other court of law in the State or nation, we should have been acquitted, for we have broken no law.

Constable Bettisworth comes here with a writ requiring us to go before Mr. Morrison, 'or some other justice of the peace of the county,' to answer to the charge of riot; we acknowledged ourselves his prisoners, and were ready to go before any magistrate in any precinct in this part of the county, or any where else where our lives could be protected from the mob, who have published the resolutions for our extermination, which you have just heard read. This is a privilege the law guarantees to us, and which the writ itself allows. He breaks the law, and refuses us this privilege, declaring that we shall go before Morrison in Carthage, and no one else, when he knew that a numerous mob was collecting there, who are publicly pledged to destroy our lives.

It was under these circumstances that we availed ourselves of the legal right of the ancient, high and constitutional privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and were brought before the municipal court of this city, and discharged from the illegal detention under which we were held by Constable Bettisworth. All mob men, priests, thieves and bogus makers, apostates and adulterers, who combine to destroy this people now raise the hue and cry throughout the State that we resist the law, in order to raise a pretext for calling together thousands more of infuriated mob men to murder, destroy, plunder and ravish the innocent.

We are American citizens; we live upon a soil for the liberties of which our fathers periled their lives, and spilt their blood upon the battle field; those rights so dearly purchased shall not be disgracefully trodden under foot by lawless marauders, without at least a noble effort on our part to sustain our liberties.

Will you all stand by me to the death, and sustain at the peril of your lives the laws of our country, and the liberties and privileges which our fathers have transmitted unto us, sealed with their sacred blood? (Aye, shouted thousands.) He then said "it is well, if you had not done it I would have gone out there (pointing to the west) and would have raised up a mightier people.

I call upon all men, from Maine to the Rocky Mountains, and from Mexico to British America, whose hearts thrill with horror to behold the rights of freemen trampled under foot, to come to the deliverance of this people from the cruel hand of oppression, cruelty, anarchy, and misrule, to which they have been long made subject. Come all ye lovers of liberty, break the oppressors' rod, loose the iron grasp of mobocracy, and bring to condign punishment all those who trample under foot the principles of our glorious Constitution and the people's rights. (Drawing his sword and presenting it to heaven he said)—I call God and angels to witness, that I have unsheathed my sword with a firm and unalterable determination that this people shall have their legal rights, and be protected from mob violence, or my blood shall be spilt upon the ground like water, and my body consigned to the silent tomb. While I live I will never tamely submit to the dominion of cursed mobocracy; I would welcome death rather than submit to this oppression, and it would be sweet—oh, sweet to rest in the grave rather than submit to this oppression, agitation, annoyance, confusion, and alarm upon alarm any longer.

I call upon all friends of truth and liberty to come to our assistance; and may the thunders of the Almighty and the forked lightnings of

heaven, and pestilence, and war and bloodshed, come down on those ungodly men who seek to destroy my life and the lives of this innocent people.

I do not regard my own life; I am ready to be offered a sacrifice for this people, for what can our enemies do? Only kill the body and their power is then at an end. Stand firm, my friends; never flinch; do not seek to save your lives; for he that is afraid to die for the truth will lose eternal life. Hold out to the end, and we shall be resurrected, and become like Gods and reign in celestial kingdoms, principalities, and eternal dominions, while this cursed mob will sink to hell, the portion of all those who shed innocent blood.

God has tried you; you are a good people, therefore I love you with all my heart; greater love hath no man than that he should lay down his life for his friends. You have stood by me in the hour of trouble, and I am willing to sacrifice my life for your preservation.

May the Lord God of Israel bless you for ever and ever, I say it in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, and in the authority of the holy priesthood which he hath conferred upon me."

The people said, Amen.

Hyrum said that the statement of Sharp in the Warsaw Signal, that he (Hyrum) had threatened to take his life was false as hell, and there was not a syllable of truth in it.

About 3 1/2 p.m., I took the command, and with my staff rode in front of the Legion, marched up Main street, and returned to our former parade ground. The number on parade was very large considering the number of Elders who had been sent on missions. After dismissing the Legion to their several commands, I returned home and gave orders to the several commanders, only to receive official communications through my aides-de-camp, the proper official channel. I appointed Edward Bonny one of my aides-de-camp.

Truman Gillett, jun., made the following affidavit:

"State of Illinois, }
City of Nauvoo."

June 18th, 1844.—Personally appeared, Truman Gillett, jun., before me, Willard Richards, recorder of the city of Nauvoo, and after being duly sworn depose and saith, that on or about the first day of June, 1842, while passing up the Ohio river on steamboat 'Massachusetts,' deponent overheard two men, one a resident of Missouri and the other of Ohio, as reported, conversing together concerning incidents on the Upper Mississippi, when one said to the other—'If Law could have succeeded in getting an introduction for us to Jo Smith, damn him, we would have gagged him and nabbed him, and damn him, all hell could not have rescued him from our hands.'

The next morning deponent got in conversation with the man before mentioned from Missouri who stated that he had been on the Upper Mississippi on business, that he stopped at Nauvoo on his way down with some twelve or fourteen other men, who laid a plan to kidnap Jo Smith, that some of the company queried about getting access to him, but one of them said he knew they could if he could find Wm. Law. They called on William Law in the evening to get an introduction to their great Prophet, and Law went with them to the gate where they were stopped by the police, and it was well for him that we did not succeed in getting an introduction to him.'

Deponent said 'Did William Law know your business?' and he said 'Yes.' Deponent asked 'What have you against Joseph Smith?'—did he ever injure you?' The man replied 'No, but he has others.' 'Did you ever see him?' 'Yes, I was one who helped to run the Mormons from Missouri,' and related many circumstances concerning the Missouri mob.

Deponent said to the man he was acquainted with William Law, considered he was an honorable man, and was led to doubt his being engaged with them in a conspiracy against Joseph Smith; he replied, 'God damn you it is true whether you believe it or not,' and repeatedly affirmed it. Deponent did not believe the statements of the man from Missouri as mentioned above, until after hearing the recent developments before the city council.

TRUMAN GILLETT, Jun.

Sworn and subscribed at the time and place above written before me,
WILLARD RICHARDS,
Recorder C.N."

At 8 p.m., wrote the following:

"Nauvoo, June 18th, 1844.

"H. T. Hugins, Esq.:

Sir:—I received your communication from Burlington per Capt. Anderson. Also Dr. Hickok's from Springfield, and I feel grateful for your favors, and congratulate you and Mr. Smith also.

The enemy, or mob, is prowling in the southern and eastern part of the county, and threatening us with extermination; and we ask the friends of peace and good government every where to use their influence in suppressing the spirit of mobocracy, and sustain us in our righteous course.

So far as you can conscientiously speak in our behalf, and lend your influence in our favor for the public good, your favors will be highly appreciated.

Please show this to Dr. Hickok and such confidential friends as you think proper. Also request Mr. Daplop to direct his letter to me.

The bearer, Dr. Wakefield, will give you all particulars.

In haste, I remain, your friend, respectfully,
JOSEPH SMITH."

I sent the letter by Dr. Wakefield to Burlington.

Nine messengers arrived from Carthage, and report that the mob had received intelligence from the governor, who would take no notice

of them; and the mob damned the governor as being as bad as 'Jo Smith.' They did not care for him, and they were just as willing he would not help them, as if he would.

There was a body of armed men in Carthage, and a mob meeting at Fountain Green which attracted considerable attention.

Shadrach Roundy, a policeman, reported at ten p.m., after I had retired, that a man by the name of Norton had threatened to shoot me; an examination was immediately had, but no proof found.

This evening I appointed Theodore Turley armorer general of the Legion.

I insert the following affidavit:

"June 18th, 1844.

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

Personally appeared before me, Aaron Johnson, a justice of the peace, Cyrus Canfield and Gilbert Belknap of Hancock county, and being duly sworn, depose and say, that on yesterday, June 17th, 1844, at Carthage, certain persons, to wit, Dr. — Barnes and Joseph H. Jackson, having entered into conversation with your deponents, among other things, declared that the governor of Illinois was as big a scoundrel as Joseph Smith, and that he is the d—d-st scoundrel that was ever suffered to live—that they did not care for the governor, and had rather that the governor would side with Smith—that they (the mob) were coming to Nauvoo with a sufficient force to take Smith, and if the people endeavored to prevent them, that they should kill the people; and that if Smith had left Nauvoo, they had determined to destroy the mansion and other buildings. And your deponents further say that one John Eller declared that he had lived in Missouri and was at the massacre of the Mormons at Haun's Mill; that he had killed one Mormon, and that he had left Missouri on purpose to fight the Mormons, and would hunt a Mormon as he would a deer. And your deponents further say that they heard that about one hundred persons had already arrived from Missouri, and were expecting a many more from that State. And your deponents further say that they heard in Carthage that they had already received a number of guns and ammunition, and provisions from St. Louis, in order to prosecute their attack upon Nauvoo; and further your deponents say not.

CYRUS CANFIELD,
GILBERT BELKNAP.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this eighteenth day of June, 1844.

AARON JOHNSON,
A Justice of the Peace."

Wednesday, 19.—The Legion assembled on the parade ground. A company of the Legion came in from Green Plains about 11 a.m.; I met them at the front of my mansion, and an escort came down from the parade ground below the Temple and escorted them to the ground.

At 1 p.m., a company of volunteers arrived from Iowa, and were also escorted to the parade ground.

On Sunday the 16th a committee of the mob, headed by James Charles, a constable of Hancock county, went to the house of Captain Chester Loveland, who lives four miles south east of Warsaw, and required him to call out his company to join the posse of David Bettisworth to go to Nauvoo and arrest me and the city council; he peremptorily refused to comply with their request; the same posse returned on the 17th with an order as they stated from the governor, which Loveland believed (and no doubt correctly) to be a forgery, and therefore still refused to go on any terms; the posse then reported his refusal to Col. Williams, who appointed a committee of twelve to lynch, tar and feather Captain Loveland on the 18th, which committee went that evening and arrived about midnight.

Loveland, who had been informed of Williams' order, prepared himself for defence and kept watch; as soon as they came, and he saw their number, and that they were provided with tar bucket, bag of feathers and a bundle of withs, in addition to their fire-arms, he blew out his light and placed himself in a suitable position to defend the door (which he had fastened) and the window. They went round his house several times, tried his door, rapped, called him by name, and consulted together; some were for breaking the door, others thought it too dangerous; they knew he must be in there, for they were near his door when the light was blown out. Finally their courage failed; and notifying him to leave the country immediately, they took their departure. During this trying time Loveland did not speak.

In the afternoon I gave orders to Gen. Dunham to have a picket guard under Col. Markham posted on all the roads leading out of the city; also an inner guard under Major Jesse P. Harmon posted in all the streets and alleys in the city, and also on the river bank. I also gave orders to have all the powder and lead in the city secured, and to see that all the arms were in use, and that all vacant arms be put in the hands of those who could use them.

DISCOURSE

By Elder Orson Hyde, Bowers, Sunday Morning, October 4, 1857.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

Brethren and sisters, I feel to occupy a portion of the time allotted to us this morning, in calling your attention to some matters which I hope and trust may be for our benefit, for our security and for our prosperity.

We are all aware or should be, of the condition that we are in, and the circumstances by which we are surrounded. We have duly considered them, for we have had time for re-