



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

Thursday,.....April 12, 1866.

THE KILLING OF BRASSFIELD.

As we have already published, a Mr. S. Newton Brassfield was killed on 1st South street, Monday evening, April 2d, by a shot from some person still unknown. This summary citation to meet the future has caused quite an amount of comment, as varied in surmises, style and character as are the classes commenting, to which we add some of our views of the case, based upon statements deemed the most reliable.

It is said that Brassfield, not long since, came here from Austin, Nevada. Of his occupation and general conduct during his sojourn we are not informed, nothing concerning him having come under our notice until recently. Among other operations, however, either through great foolishness on his part, or through the influence of evil counsel, or both, he was lately married to a Mrs. Mary Hill, wife of Archibald N. Hill, who is absent on a mission in Europe.

It is possible that, had Mary Hill been Elder A. N. Hill's only living wife, Mr. Brassfield might have taken a different course; at least the advice given him would no doubt have been different, as in that case robbing another man of his wife would merely have extended by one more the instances of fashionable corruption, while his advisers would not have looked upon it as so particularly favoring their insane efforts against plurality of wives.

Had Mary Hill left the children and only taken what portion of the property the rest of the family deemed just, or arbitrated the matter, the illegally married couple would probably have been suffered to pursue their way to their own liking, as has been done. But no, in the absence of the father and owner, she and Brassfield attempted to take away the children and such property as she pleased to claim; and, when opposed in their unlawful course, Brassfield threatened to shoot. But threatening availing nothing, the party applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*, to procure the children, which was granted by and, on the 4th inst., argued in chambers before the Hon. S. P. McCurdy, U. S. Associate Justice assigned to the Second Judicial District, this being the Third. The law says that such writ "may be served in any part of the Territory," but whether a Judge can lawfully issue, hear and decide upon such writ outside of his District is, to say the least, very questionable. The Hon. Z. Snow, Deputy Attorney General, conducted the defense, ably presenting the chief points in the case. Illness prevented the attendance of the Attorney General. The Judge's decision had not reached us at going to press.

The foregoing is a brief and plain statement of the main features of the case, and is correctly in accordance with the most reliable information on the subject. Whether Brassfield was killed by some one whom he had threatened to shoot, or by some relation or friend of Elder Hill's family, or by some one who had made a cat's-paw of him in his ill-starred operations, or by some one of his acquaintances, to settle

a grudge, thinking it would, of course, be laid upon the 'Mormons', or by some one outside of these four named classes, is yet to be learned.

We are told that Brassfield has been heard to remark that he had rather have given \$3,000 than to have got into such a scrape. Those who had given him such unfortunate advice had, probably, begun to see their folly.

Whoever did the shooting appears to have been fleet of foot, for he was closely pursued to First East street, running the gauntlet of several pistol shots, then north to South Temple street, then west to past this Office, where his pursuers lost sight of him in the darkness.

There is an ancient and true writing which reads:—As ye sow so also shall ye reap. Mr. Brassfield is said to have come here to engage in freighting to Austin, &c., and, had he not so grossly infringed upon the rights of another, it is presumable that he, as do all who mind their own business, would have passed and re-passed entirely unmolested, for then there would have been no family foully wronged, and consequently no cloak under which revenge for an old grudge could be laid upon the 'Mormons'. But Mr. Brassfield seems to have chosen to vary the monotony of legitimate business by sowing the robbing another man of his wife and a further effort to rob him of a part of his children, to say nothing about property, and he speedily reaped the fruit such sowing is apt to produce in all communities we have ever lived in or heard of.

However much violence is to be deprecated as a method for righting wrongs, we presume some time will yet elapse before laws are so enacted, observed and enforced, anywhere in Christendom, that an invasion of the rights of the domestic circle will not have to run the risk of meeting sudden retribution, either at the hands of those directly aggrieved, or at the hands of some enemy under the cloak presented by so strong and general a feeling of just indignation.

CONFERENCE.

During the thirty-sixth annual Conference, which closed on Sunday afternoon, and the two days' meeting which preceded it, the Holy Spirit was poured out in much abundance on both speakers and people. The instructions were excellent, seasonable, and characterized by a plainness and power which the inspiration of Heaven alone could bestow. Many principles were treated upon to the edification of the Saints; and the people were greatly blessed before the Lord in assembling in Conference capacity.

The dense masses that filled the Tabernacle, crowded the aisles and blocked up the windows and doorways, with the crowds that were compelled to remain outside or go away, urged, in an unmistakable manner, the necessity of soon having the new Tabernacle in a fit condition to meet in. We hope that the desire of the Presidency may be realized, that our semi-annual Conference, in October next, will be held in it. But we expect that however large the place may be that is built for the Saints to assemble in, it will be found, before it is long constructed, that it is too small to accommodate the gathering thousands of Zion. The work of God in the last days is onward and upward, growing and spreading with increasing vigor and rapidity.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Conference convened in the Tabernacle, G. S. L. City, on Friday, April 6th, 1866, at 10 a.m., President Brigham Young presiding.

There were on the stand, Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells, the First Presidency; Orson Hyde, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards and George Q. Cannon, of the Twelve Apostles; John Smith, Patriarch; Joseph Young, Levi W. Hancock, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and John Van Cott, of the First Presidency of the Seventies; Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, of the Presidency of the High Priests Quorum; Daniel Spencer, David Fullmer and George B. Wallace, the Presidency of this Stake of Zion; Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, the Presi-

dency of the Bishopric; George D. Watt and Edward L. Sloan, Reporters; with a great many Bishops and Elders.

The Tabernacle choir led by Elder Robert Sands, occupied the usual place; the American Fork choir was in front of the stand and directly under it, led by Elder E. Hunter.

Singing "Sweet is the work my God, my king," by the Tabernacle choir. President H. C. Kimball prayed. American Fork Choir sang "Wake the song of jubilee."

Elder Ezra T. Benson was called upon to speak and said the present was an important time, not alone for the Saints but for all mankind. The kingdom of God is established upon the earth, not by the passions, ideas or notions of men, but by the power of God, and the revelations of Jesus Christ. Man is not carrying on this work, nor doing what is done; it is God who directs the destinies of His own work upon the earth; and He gives visions, revelations, wisdom and knowledge to His servants, and who can help it. He referred to the arrival of the Pioneers in this Valley, and to the condition of the country at that time. We did not come here in our own name and strength, but in the name of the Lord and in the strength of the God of Israel. And if men come here and desire to do wickedly, they will find that this people are opposed to it mentally and physically. The work is onward; and though we have opposition to encounter, if we exercise patience and be humble before God, keeping His commandments, we will see the work of God overcoming every opposition, and extending righteousness over the whole earth. He bore testimony to the Divine Mission of the Prophet Joseph, to President Young being his successor, to the purity and divinity of plural marriage; and to the ultimate triumph of the principles of truth.

Elder Wm. Willes sang "There is a place in Utah, that I remember well."

Elder Geo. Q. Cannon spoke on the fulfillment of the promises which God has made to His people; and the assurance that those yet in the future will be as certainly fulfilled. Referred to the blessing of peace enjoyed by the Saints under the most peculiar and adverse circumstances, when there were the least prospects of its continuation; and to the perpetuation of this and other blessings among the Saints if they are faithful.

Singing by the Tabernacle choir. Prayer by Lorenzo Snow.

2 p.m.

Before the appointed time for opening the meeting had arrived, the Tabernacle was densely crowded; every niche of available standing room being occupied, the door-ways blocked up, and crowds being compelled to remain outside.

Singing by the American Fork choir. Prayer by Elder George Q. Cannon. Singing by the Tabernacle choir.

President Joseph Young addressed the Saints on the peaceful and holy feeling which accompanies the possession of the Holy Spirit, and on the blessings which are obtained through obedience to the gospel. He exhorted them to continued and increased faithfulness, bore testimony to the truth, and prayed for the blessings of God to rest upon and abide with His people.

Prest. D. H. Wells touched upon our constitutional rights as citizens and as members of a religious organization. He showed that the Lord required this generation to put away evil, corruption and wickedness, and practice righteousness. God will save us by our obedience to His laws; and if any come to this Territory or into this Church for any object, or from any motives other than pure and holy ones, they are deceiving themselves, and had better have remained where they were in the world. It is our right, as it is the right of all, to worship God according to our own views and faith, without our religion being in any way interfered with. This right will be guaranteed to all men when the Kingdom of God bears rule, wherever that rule extends.

He referred to the charge of "disloyalty" brought against the Saints, showing that the Elders of the church have ever inculcated obedience to the laws in every place where they labor, and in this Territory faithful adherence to the Constitution of our country, without their being the first instance in the history of the church of our having opposed any provision or refused to accede to anything that did not seek to rob us of our Constitutional rights. When we preach our principles, before those whom they are laid can please themselves whether they receive or reject them; but Congress sitting in session has no right to decide whether any part or all of them are true or false.

The Constitution throws its broad folds in protection over all religions in the nation, yet some of the contradictory principles taught by opposing sects must of necessity be false. He cautioned the Saints against being led away by the influences of evil which are seeking to seduce them from the path of righteousness, virtue and holiness; and urged them to be constantly on guard against such corrupting spirits.

Elder Wm. Willes sang an original song written by himself,—"I'm a merry hearted Mormon."

Elder Geo. A. Smith spoke briefly of his travels lately through Tooele, and Utah counties; and of the great increase of children that he saw everywhere on his travels. He strongly recommended the *Juvenile Instructor* to be placed in the hands of the rising generation, as a means of supplying them with knowledge in an attractive manner.

Singing by the American Fork choir. Prayer by Elder Edward L. Sloan.

Saturday 7th, 10 a.m.

Singing by the Tabernacle choir. Prayer by Elder John Taylor. American Fork choir sang "May we who know the joyful sound."

Elder Geo. Q. Cannon then presented the authorities of the Church to the Conference who were unanimously sustained by vote in the following order:

Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Heber C. Kimball his first, and Daniel H. Wells his second counselor.

Orson Hyde, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Pratt, sen., John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards and George Q. Cannon, members of said Quorum.

John Smith, Patriarch of the Church. Daniel Spencer, President of this Stake of Zion, and George B. Wallace and Joseph W. Young, his counselors. Elder David Fullmer, who was First Counselor to Prest. D. Spencer, being released at his own request, on account of his failing health.

William Eddington, John L. Blythe, John T. Caine, Howard O. Spencer, Claudius V. Spencer, John Squires, William H. Folsom, Emanuel M. Murphy, Thomas E. Jeremy, Geo. W. Thatcher, Joseph E. Smith, Peter Nebeker, members of the High Council.

John Young, President of the High Priests' Quorum; Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, his counselors.

Joseph Young, President of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Harriman, Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, members of the first seven Presidents of the Seventies.

William Squires, President of the Elders' Quorum; James Smith and Peter Latter, his counselors.

Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop; Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, his counselors.

Samuel G. Ladd, President of the Priests' Quorum; William Carmichael and Robert Rice, his counselors.

Adam Spiers, President of the Teachers' Quorum; Henry I. Doremus and Martin Lenzi, his counselors.

James Leach, President of the Deacons' Quorum; Warren Hardie, his counselor.

Brigham Young, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Daniel H. Wells, Superintendent of Public Works; John Sharp, his assistant.

William H. Folsom, Architect for the Church.

Brigham Young, President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to gather the poor; Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells and Edward Hunter, his assistants and agents for said Fund.

George A. Smith, Historian and general Church Recorder, and Wilford Woodruff, his assistant.

Elder Wm. Willes sang a song.

Elder P. H. Young referred to the gospel being brought to his father's house, and his father, his brothers, Presidents Brigham and Joseph Young, and himself being baptized thirty-four years ago. He pointed out that persecution has invariably attended obedience to the gospel, yet the church has continued to grow and prosper exceedingly.

Elder John D. T. McAllister sang "We'll plow, we'll sow and joyful reap."

Elder John Taylor showed that we do not found our claim to have authority from God upon having received it from any other organization or through any church upon the earth; but that the authority of the priesthood comes from