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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JULY, 1813.

Saturday, July 1.—At 8 a.m. the Municipal Court met in the Court Room. Present: William Marks, Acting Chief Justice, Daniel H. Wells, Newel K. Whitney, George W. Harris, Gustavus Hills, and Hiram Kimball, Associate Justices, to investigate the writ of habeas corpus.

The following witnesses were examined, viz.: Hyrum Smith, Parley P. Pratt, Brigham Young, George W. Pitkin, Lyman Wight, and Sidney Rigdon.

HYRUM SMITH sworn: Said that the defendant now in court is his brother, and that his name is not Joseph Smith, junior, but his name is Joseph Smith, senior, and has been for more than two years past. I have been acquainted with him ever since he was born, which was thirty-seven years in December last, and I have not been absent from him at any one time, not even the space of six months since his birth, to my recollection, and have been intimately acquainted with all his sayings, doings, business transactions and movements, as much as any one man could be acquainted with another man's business up to the present time, and do know that he has not committed treason against any State in the Union, by any overt act, or by levying war, or by aiding, abetting, or assisting an enemy in any State in the Union; and that the said Joseph Smith, senior, has not committed treason in the State of Missouri, nor violated any law or rule of said State. I being personally acquainted with the transactions and doings of said Smith, whilst he resided in said State, which was for about six months in the year 1838; I being also a resident in said State during the same period of time, and I do know that said Joseph Smith, senior, never was subject to military duty in any State, neither was he in the State of Missouri, he being exempted by the amputation, or extraction of a bone from his leg, and by having a license to preach the gospel, or being in other words a minister of the gospel, and I do know that said Smith never bore arms, as a military man, in any capacity whatever, whilst in the State of Missouri or previous to that time; neither has he given any orders or assumed any command in any capacity whatever; but I do know that whilst he was in the State of Missouri, that the people commonly called Mormons, were threatened with violence and extermination, and on or about the first Monday in August, 1838, at the election in Gallatin, the county seat in Daviess county, the citizens who were commonly called Mormons were forbidden to exercise the rights of franchise, and from that unhallowed circumstance an affair commenced, and a fight ensued among the citizens of that place, and from that time a mob commenced gathering in that county, threatening the extermination of the Mormons; the said Smith and myself, upon hearing that mobs were collecting together, and that they had also murdered two of the citizens of the same place, and would not suffer them to be buried; the said Smith and myself went over to Daviess county to learn the particulars of the affair, but upon our arrival at Diahman, we learned that none were killed, but several were wounded—we tarried all night at Col. Lyman Wight's; the next morning, the weather being very warm, and having been very dry for some time previously, the springs and wells in that region were dried up; on mounting our horses to return, we rode up to Mr. Black's, who was then an acting Justice of the Peace, to obtain some water for ourselves and horses; some few of the citizens accompanied us there, and after obtaining water, Mr. Black was asked by said Joseph Smith, senior, if he would use his influence to see that the laws were faithfully executed and to put down mob violence, and he gave us a paper, written by his own hand, stating that he would do so. He also requested him to call together the most influential men of the county on the next day, that we might have an interview with them; to this he acquiesced, and accordingly the next day they assembled at the house of Col. Wight, and entered into a mutual covenant of peace, to put down mob violence and to protect each other in the enjoyment of their rights; after this we all parted with the best

of feelings, and each man returned to his own home.

This mutual agreement of peace, however, did not last long; for but a few days afterwards the mob began to collect again, until several hundreds rendezvoused at Millport, a few miles distant from Diahman. They immediately commenced making aggressions upon the citizens called Mormons, taking away their hogs and cattle, and threatening them with extermination or utter extinction; saying that they had a cannon, and there should be no compromise only at its mouth; frequently taking men, women and children prisoners, whipping them and lacerating their bodies with hickory withes, and tying them to trees and depriving them of food until they were compelled to gnaw the bark from the trees to which they were bound, in order to sustain life; treating them in the most cruel manner they could invent or think of, and doing every thing they could to excite the indignation of the Mormon people to rescue them, in order that they might make that a pretext of an accusation for the breach of the law, and that they might the better excite the prejudice of the populace, and thereby get aid and assistance to carry out their hellish purposes of extermination.

Immediately on the authentication of these facts, messengers were despatched from Far West to Austin A. King, Judge of the fifth judicial district of the State of Missouri, and also to Major General Atchison, Commander-in-chief of that division, and Brigadier General Doniphan, giving them information of the existing facts, and demanding immediate assistance.

General Atchison returned with the messengers, and went immediately to Diahman, and from thence to Millport, and he found the facts were true as reported to him;—that the citizens of that county were assembled together in a hostile attitude to the amount of two or three hundred men, threatening the utter extermination of the Mormons, he immediately returned to Clay county, and ordered out a sufficient military force to quell the mob.

Immediately after they were dispersed and the army returned; the mob commenced collecting again soon after; we again applied for military aid, when General Doniphan came out with a force of sixty armed men to Far West; but they were in such a state of insubordination that he said he could not control them, and it was thought advisable by Col. Hinkle, Mr. Rigdon and others, that they should return home; General Doniphan ordered Col. Hinkle to call out the militia of Caldwell and defend the town against the mob, for, said he, you have great reason to be alarmed, for he said Neil Gilliam, from the Platte country, had come down with two hundred armed men, and had taken up their station at Hunter's Mill, a place distant about seventeen or eighteen miles north west of the town of Far West, and also that an armed force had collected again at Millport, in Daviess county, consisting of several hundred men, and that another armed force had collected at De Witt, in Carroll county, about fifty miles south east of Far West, where about seventy families of the Mormon people had settled upon the bank of the Missouri river, at a little town called De Witt.

Immediately a messenger, whilst he was yet talking, came in from De Witt, stating that three or four hundred men had assembled together at that place armed cap-a-pie, and that they had threatened the utter extinction of the citizens of that place, if they did not leave the place immediately, and that they had also surrounded the town and cut off all supplies of food, so that many of them were suffering with hunger.

Gen. Doniphan seemed to be very much alarmed, and appeared to be willing to do all he could to assist, and to relieve the sufferings of the Mormon people; he advised that a petition be immediately got up and sent to the Governor. A petition was accordingly prepared, and a messenger dispatched immediately to the Governor, and another petition was sent Judge King.

The Mormon people throughout the country were in great state of alarm, and also in great distress; they saw themselves completely surrounded with armed forces on the north and on the north-west, and on the south, and also Bogard, who was a Methodist preacher, and a captain over a militia company of fifty soldiers, but who had added to his number out of the surrounding counties about a hundred more, which made his force about one hundred and fifty strong, was stationed at Crooked Creek, sending out his scouting parties, taking men, women and children, prisoners, driving off cattle, hogs and horses, entering into every house on Log and Long Creeks, rifling their houses of their most precious articles, such as money, bedding, and clothing, taking all their old muskets and their rifles or military implements, threatening the people with instant death if they did not deliver up all their precious things, and enter into a covenant to leave the state or go into the city of Far West by the next morning, saying that they calculated to drive the people into Far West, and then drive them to hell. Gilliam also was doing the same on the north-west side of Far West, and Sashiel Woods, a Presbyterian minister, was the leader of the mob in Daviess county; and a very noted man of the same society was the leader of the mob in Carroll county; and they were also sending out their scouting parties, robbing and pillaging houses, driving away hogs, horses and cattle, taking men, women and children and carrying them off, threatening their lives and subjecting them to all manner of abuses that they could invent or think of.

FOURTEENTH GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS. TO THE SAINTS IN THE VALLEYS OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND THOSE SCATTERED ABROAD THROUGHOUT THE EARTH—GREETING:—

BELOVED BRETHREN:—

Feeling impelled by the Spirit of our God to write unto you concerning the things of the kingdom, and having greater boldness therein by reason of the faith and testimony of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Ghost, of which we have received and bear record unto the whole world, we proceed to manifest unto you such intimations of the Spirit pertaining unto the church and kingdom of God as are or may be presented unto us, trusting that they may prove instructive and beneficial unto the Saints.

To those who read our publications we need not minutely recapitulate the operations and success attending the labors of our missionaries, as all such information is promptly and fully laid before the people through those channels. Suffice it to say, uniform success has attended the efforts of our elders and thousands are now rejoicing in the light of truth, having renounced their traditional errors, obeyed the ordinances of the House of the Lord and received with gladness, praise and thanksgiving the pure principles of the gospel of Christ. They are now anxiously looking for deliverance to unite and cast their lot with us in these peaceful vales.

The missionaries, who have been absent in Europe two years and more, have mostly returned this season, having been relieved by others appointed at our last April conference. Notwithstanding thousands from Europe annually find their homes in Utah, still the numbers are increasing abroad.

The interest excited in favor of and to learn the truth and the hatred of its opposers were never greater than at the present time. The power of Almighty God is made manifest in the administrations of his servants, and is plainly discernible in his hand dealings with the nations of the earth as well as with his people, making the assurance doubly sure that his word will not return unto him void, nor his promises be made in vain. He will sustain the righteous, the ungodly will be cut off.

In California the Western Standard is faithfully warning the people, under the able care and guidance of Dr. George Q. Cannon, who has also published the Book of Mormon in the Hawaiian language. The publication of that paper has proved very useful and beneficial in correcting public opinion, and in exercising a salutary influence over the few to be found in that land who are seekers after truth. Gold is the shrine at which they bow, and the truth emanating from High Heaven's King has but few admirers. The Standard, however, will be able to sustain itself, mostly through the aid of the Saints, and will continue to be issued so long as it shall be considered beneficial in aiding the cause of truth in that region.

The Sandwich Islands and Australian missions are in a healthy and prosperous condition. We learn by late advices from Silas Smith, who is at present presiding over the Sandwich Islands' mission, that the crops on Lanai are much better this season than usual, which will greatly facilitate the gathering of the native Saints upon that island, the appointed place. The repeated failure and destruction of their crops has involved the mission somewhat in debt, and partially frustrated the design in gathering the Saints to that place, where they could be measurably protected from the hireling missionary operations and other contaminating influences of licentious civilization. But through the present prosperity, the aid of the faithful elders and continual blessings of the Almighty, who is ever mindful of his faithful Saints, we hope and expect that the mission will soon rise above its present embarrassments. There was represented at a conference held on Lanai on the 24th of July, 1855, 99 organized branches, 4,220 members, 723 of whom had been baptized within that year, 25 American and 118 native elders then laboring on the islands, besides native priests, teachers and deacons.

From the Society Islands we have no very satisfactory accounts. Owing to difficulties with the French government, the elders were compelled, some two years ago, to leave those islands. Brs. Addison Pratt and Ambrose Alexander were appointed to that mission from San Bernardino, at their last April conference, and sailed for those islands on the 24th day of the same month, but were soon obliged to leave, and have since returned.

Elder Farnham, from the Australian mission, arrived in this city on the 21st of November, leaving a shipload of Saints at San Bernardino, the most of whom, it is expected, will come on during the ensuing season.

Brs. John S. Eldredge and James Graham with 28 Saints from Australia, on board the ship Julia Ann, were wrecked near the Society Isles on the 4th day of October, 1855. We regret to add that five persons, two women and three children, were lost, the remainder barely escaped with their lives upon a barren and uninhabited island where they remained, subsisting upon turtle, for six weeks. They were finally relieved from their perilous situation

by the captain of the Julia Ann, who had sailed over three hundred miles in an open boat to an inhabited island and procured another vessel, but were left upon that group and the Sandwich Islands, with no means to further prosecute their journey; though they have since arrived on the western coast, on their way to Zion.

Without reflecting upon the officers of the Julia Ann, all of whom are well spoken of by our brethren, or even upon the strength and sea worthiness of the vessel, which we understand was good and new, still we wish to caution our elders, not only those in Australia but all in foreign countries, not to permit an over anxiety to emigrate and gather with the Saints to make them careless or indifferent to the kind and condition of the vessel in which they embark, nor to the character of the officers and crew on board. This is the second instance of vessels, sailing from that mission with Saints on board, not reaching their destination. In the other case no lives were lost, though the vessel had to put into port where she was condemned and the Saints, after having paid their passage to the western coast, were left on the Sandwich Islands. It is a matter worthy of record, and a source of great joy and satisfaction to us, that in all our foreign emigration those are the only losses by sea, of that character, that have occurred.

From the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, there is a company of Saints en route for this place, the first fruits of the labors of Brs. Jesse Haven, William Walker and Leonard I. Smith, who have been manifestly blessed of the Lord in planting the work in that distant part of the Lord's vineyard. At a conference held at Port Elizabeth in the month of August, 1855, three conferences and six branches, comprising 126 members, were represented. The brethren of the mission, having organized the various branches and ordained faithful elders to prosecute the work, are, together with a small company, on their way home, except Br. Leonard I. Smith who arrived in this city on the 31st of last May.

The East India missionaries have now all returned, having effected but little in the redemption of that benighted people. How truly have they become 'joined unto their idols' and left of the Lord, even like unto the aborigines of America a law unto themselves, until the Lord shall again visit them with salvation in great power and glory.

From the report of the conference held at Copenhagen we learn, through Br. John Van Cott, that over two thousand Saints have emigrated from that mission; and there still remained over twenty-four hundred anxiously looking for deliverance. Although the elders in the Scandinavian mission and in various places in Germany, Italy, Switzerland and France, owing to the suspicious and intolerance of those governments, have been often thrown into prison and banished from place to place, still the work of the Lord has gained a foothold in those countries which cannot now be eradicated. When our elders are banished from one kingdom they go to another, still teaching the people the way of life and salvation. Thus the enemies of the truth, by their over anxiety to suppress, have unwittingly been the means of spreading the gospel and causing the bread of life to be cast upon the waters, which will be gathered after many days.

From the British Isles we have the most cheering accounts of the progress of the work. We learn, by Brs. F. D. Richards, Daniel Spencer, Cyrus H. Wheelock and others lately returned, having been succeeded in the presidency of that mission by Brs. Orson Pratt, Ezra T. Benson and James A. Little, that, notwithstanding the great annual emigration from Britain's shores, it does not keep pace with the annual increase and onward progress of the work in those lands.

In the United States and the British provinces we also hear of an increased interest springing up in behalf of the truth, and of the work of God now fully established upon the earth.

It is the testimony of all the elders that, while signal success attends their labors in all of these lands, being attended by the Spirit and power of the Lord in all of their ministrations, the opposition also increases in equal proportion. In truth it is stated that the deep rooted hatred of the wicked towards the work of God was never so great as now, and appears to steadily increase with the increase of the work. But their opposition cannot hinder this work, for it is from heaven; and if the Saints of the Most High God will be faithful, diligent and united, they will always be able to wield an influence and power which none shall be able to gainsay or withstand.

In consequence of the temporary absence of Br. Erastus Snow, and the subsequent death of our beloved brother Orson Spencer, who was left in charge, the 'Luminary,' published in St. Louis, was discontinued; and, although Br. Snow has since returned to the field of his labors, it has been as yet deemed wisdom not to resume that publication.

It is considered that 'The Mormon,' having the increased patronage which the aid and influence of the patrons of the Luminary would give it, might become as useful to the Saints as the publication of both papers, and be much better sustained.