

The Editor of the Neighbor writes:

### "RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE."

"A knot of base men, to further their wicked and malicious designs towards the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and to bolster up the intents of black legs and bogus makers, and advocate the characters of murderers, established a press in this city last week, and issued a paper entitled the 'Nauvoo Expositor.' The prospectus showed an intention to destroy the charter, and the paper was filled with libels and slanderous articles upon the citizens and city council from one end to the other.

"A burnt child dreads the fire; the church as a body and individually has suffered till forbearance has ceased to be a virtue; the cries and pleadings of men, women and children, with the authorities were, 'Will you suffer that servile, murderous paper to go on, and vilify and slander the innocent inhabitants of this city, and raise another mob to drive and plunder us again as they did in Missouri?' Under these pressing cries and supplications of afflicted innocence, and in the character, dignity and honor of the corporate powers of the charter, as granted to the city of Springfield, and made and provided as a part of our charter for legislative purposes, viz: 'to declare what shall be a nuisance and to prevent and remove the same,' the city council of Nauvoo on Monday the 10th inst., declared the establishment and Expositor a nuisance; and the city marshal at the head of the police in the evening took the press, materials and paper into the street and burnt them.

And in the name of freemen, and in the name of God, we beseech all men who have the spirit of honor in them, to cease from persecuting us, collectively or individually. Let us enjoy our religion, rights and peace, like the rest of mankind. Why start presses to destroy rights and privileges, and bring upon us mobs to plunder and murder? We ask no more than what belongs to us—the rights of Americans."

I copy from the St. Louis Gazette:

### "THE TEMPLE OF NAUVOO."

"Ascending an acclivity somewhat abrupt, and turning to the right, you are at the site of the Temple. The foundation is entirely of stone, constructed in the most massive manner, and the superstructure is to be of the same material and construction. The dimensions are perhaps 130 feet by 90, and the edifice is to have three stories of some 20 feet each in altitude. The spire is to be about one hundred feet higher than the walls, or 160 feet from the ground. The appearance presented by this edifice in the diagram model, which was shown me by the Prophet, is grand and imposing.

The tower, the casements, the doors, and all the prominent parts of the edifice are to be richly ornamented, both within and without, but in a style of architecture which no Greek, nor Goth, nor Frank ever dreamed. I will be bound to affirm; indeed, as I learned from the lips of the Prophet himself, the style of architecture is exclusively his own, and must be known henceforth and for ever I suppose as the 'Mormon order!'

The external layer of stone is dressed with considerable neatness, and each of the range of pilasters by which it is ornamented, bears upon it a sculptural representation of the crescent, with the profile of a man's face in strong relief, much in the style of that edifying picture of the moon you may have been wont to admire, as well as myself, in the primer when a boy! The effect of this image is semi-solemn, semi-lamphable, and certainly more than semi-singular.

In the workshop beside the structure, in which a large number of stone cutters are employed, may be seen divers other carvings on stone, designed for the holy edifice, still more novel than that I have named. Among them are suns, full moons, and half the constellations of the firmament, to say nothing of the human faces of expression weird enough for an English obelisk. There are 75 or 100 of the fraternity zealously at work at the present time hewing stone or laying it for the Temple, all other public improvements being in perfect abeyance that the greatest and holiest of all may advance.

The walls of the structure are about two feet in depth, and the solidity of the buttresses and the port-hole aspect of the basement apertures for windows, lend the pile more the appearance of a fortalice than a sanctuary. It has three entrances all on the west front. On each side of the main entrance is an apartment perfectly circular without window or loop-hole, or division of any kind, designed for some vestibular purpose, which none of our party could divine. At the eastern extremity is a large arched window, and here no doubt is to stand the altar.

The basement story, as you look down into it, reminds you more of a wine cellar, with its dozen apartments or crypts, each divided from the other by ponderous masonry. In the centre of the basement, resting upon the backs of eight white oxen carved from wood with passable skill, stands the baptismal font, a rectangular box of some twelve feet square, and half as many in depth.

From each side of this box appear the heads and shoulders of two oxen up to their knees in brick work, with most inexpressive eyes, most extensive ears, a remarkable longitude of face, and a protrusion of horns perfectly prodigious with a single exception, one horn of one unhappy ox having been torn off by some more than usually rude grasp at the altar! The effect of all this is of a character somewhat mixed.

It is certainly a little startling in the dim religious duskiness of the spot, to stumble upon

these eight white oxen, standing so still, and stiff, and stark, and solemn, with their great stony eyes staring sternly at you for the intrusion; and yet, the first inclination, after recovering from your surprise is to laugh, and that most heartily. The idea of this font seems to have been revealed to the prophet directly by the plan of the molten sea of Solomon's Temple, which we are told in the old scriptures, stood upon twelve oxen, three looking to the north, three to the south, three to the east, and three to the west; all their hinder parts inward.

This Mormon Temple, should it ever be complete—and it has been three years reaching its second floor, will certainly present one of the most extraordinary architectural structures since the era of the erection of the massive sanctuaries of the Nile—of descriptions of the ruins of which the spectator is by this reminded! Its interior structure and arrangement, we were informed by the prophet, had not been decided on—he did not tell me 'had not yet been revealed to him,' as he did to many others—and indeed he was by no means certain he should erect the edifice externally in accordance with the plan proposed and published.

The view of the roofs and streets of the city beneath, the farms and fields away to the north and east, the river winding its dark and serpentine course in front, the long and low wooded island lying midway of the stream, the little village of Montrose, on the opposite shore, and far away in the distance, blue along the western horizon, the retreating, undulating hills of Iowa—all these objects are spread out like a map before the eye, at a coup d'œil, from the walls of the Temple; and the scene is as grand as it is beautiful."

Thursday, 13.—At nine, a.m., presided in Municipal Court, which sat in the Seventies' Hall. Present, William Marks, N. K. Whitney, Geo. W. Harris, Gustavus Hills, and Elias Smith, associate justices. Hyrum Smith, John P. Greene, William W. Phelps, Stephen Markham, Harvey D. Redfield, John Lytle, Dimick B. Huntington, John Taylor, Levi Richards, Stephen Perry, Jonathan H. Holmes, Jonathan Dunham, Samuel Bennett, and William W. Edwards were arrested on the complaint of Francis M. Higbee, before Thomas Morrison, J. P. of Carthage, by David Bettisworth, a constable of Hancock County. They petitioned for and obtained a writ of habeas corpus. I sat as chief justice, William Marks, N. K. Whitney, Geo. W. Harris, Gustavus Hills and Elias Smith, as associate justices.

Addison Everett and James Jackson gave their testimony under oath, when they were all honorably discharged from the accusations and arrest, the court deciding that said Higbee pay the costs; whereupon execution was issued for the amount.

Evening, I attended meeting in the Seventies' Hall; Geo. J. Adams preached, and I made some observations afterwards, and related a dream which I had a short time since. I thought I was riding out in my carriage, and my guardian angel was along with me; we went past the Temple, and had not gone much further before we espied two large snakes so fast locked together that neither of them had any power. I inquired of my guide what I was to understand by that; he answered, "those snakes represent Dr. Foster and Chauncey L. Higbee—they are your enemies and desire to destroy you, but you see they are so fast locked together that they have no power of themselves to hurt you." I then thought I was riding up Mulholland Street, but my guardian angel was not along with me. On arriving at the prairie I was overtaken and seized by William and Wilson Law and others, saying, "Ah, ah! we have got you at last, we will secure you and put you in a safe place;" and without any ceremony, dragged me out of my carriage, tied my hands behind me, and threw me into a deep dry pit, where I remained in a perfectly helpless condition, and they went away. While struggling to get out I heard Wilson Law screaming for help hard by; I managed to unloose myself so as to make a spring, when I caught hold of some grass which grew at the edge of the pit; I looked out of the pit and saw Wilson Law at a little distance attacked by ferocious wild beasts, and heard him cry out, "Oh brother Joseph, come and save me." I replied, "I cannot, for you have put me into this deep pit." On looking out another way I saw William Law with outstretched tongue, blue in the face, and the green poison forced out of his mouth, caused by the coiling of a large snake round his body; it had also grabbed him by the arm a little above the elbow, ready to devour him. He cried out in the intensity of his agony, "Oh brother Joseph, brother Joseph, come and save me, or I die." I also replied to him, "I cannot, William—I would willingly, but you have tied me and put me in this pit, and I am powerless to help you or to liberate myself." In a short time after, my guide came and said aloud "Joseph, Joseph! what are you doing there?" I replied, "My enemies fell upon me, bound me, and threw me in." He then took me by the hand, drew me out of the pit, set me free, and we went away rejoicing.

Two of the brethren arrived this evening from Carthage, and said that about 300 mobbers were assembled there, with the avowed intention of coming against Nauvoo. Also that Hamilton was paying a dollar per bushel for corn to feed their animals.

The following was published in the Warsaw Signal Office; I insert it as a specimen of the unparalleled corruption and diabolical falsehood, of which the human race has become capable in this generation:—

At a mass meeting of the citizens of Hancock County, convened at Carthage on the 13th day of June, 1844. Mr. Knox was appointed President, John Doty and Lewis F. Evans,

Vice Presidents, and William Y. Head, Secretary.

Henry Stephens, Esq., presented the following resolutions passed at a meeting of the citizens of Warsaw, and urged the adoption of them as the sense of this meeting:—

### PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, information has reached us, about which there can be no question, that the authorities of Nauvoo did recently pass an ordinance declaring a Printing Press and Newspaper published by the opponents of the Prophet, a nuisance, and in pursuance thereof, did direct the Marshal of the city, and his adherents, to enter by force the building from whence the paper was issued, and violently (if necessary) to take possession of the press and printing materials, and thereafter to burn and destroy the same. And WHEREAS, in pursuance of said ordinance, the Marshal and his adherents, together with a mob of Mormons, did after sunset on the evening of the 10th inst., violently enter said building in a tumultuous manner, burn and destroy the press and other materials found on the premises.

And WHEREAS, Hyrum Smith did in presence of the City Council, and the citizens of Nauvoo, offer a reward for the destruction of the printing press and materials of the Warsaw Signal, a newspaper also opposed to his interest.

And WHEREAS the liberty of the press is one of the cardinal principles of our Government, firmly guaranteed by the several constitutions of the States, as well as the United States.

And WHEREAS, Hyrum Smith has within the last week publicly threatened the life of one of our valued citizens Thos. C. Sharp, the editor of the Signal.

Therefore, be it solemnly Resolved, By the citizens of Warsaw in public meeting assembled,

That, we view the recent ordinance of the city of Nauvoo, and the proceedings thereunder, as an outrage, of an alarming character, revolutionary and tyrannical in its tendency, and being under color of law, as calculated to subvert and destroy in the minds of the community, all reliance on the law.

Resolved, That as a community, we feel anxious, when possible, to redress our grievances by legal remedies; but the time has now arrived, when the law has ceased to be a protection to our lives and property; a mob at Nauvoo, under a city ordinance, has violated the highest privilege in our Government, and to seek redress in the ordinary mode would be utterly ineffectual.

Resolved, That the public threat made in the council of the city, not only to destroy our Printing Press, but to take the life of its Editor, is sufficient, in connexion with the recent outrage, to command the efforts and the services of every good citizen, to put an immediate stop to the career of the mad Prophet and his demonic coadjutors. We must not only defend ourselves from danger, but we must resolutely carry the war into the enemy's camp. We do therefore declare, that we will sustain our Press and the Editor, at all hazards. That we will take full vengeance,—terrible vengeance, should the lives of any of our citizens be lost in the effort. That we hold ourselves at all times in readiness to co-operate with our fellow citizens in this State, Missouri and Iowa, to exterminate, UTTERLY EXTERMINATE, the wicked and abominable Mormon leaders, the authors of our troubles.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed forthwith to notify all persons in our township suspected of being the tools of the Prophet, to leave immediately on pain of INSTANT VENGEANCE. And we do recommend the inhabitants of the adjacent townships to do the same, hereby pledging ourselves to render all the assistance they may require.

Resolved, That the time, in our opinion has arrived, when the adherents of Smith, as a body, should be driven from the surrounding settlements, into Nauvoo, That the Prophet and his miscreant adherents should then be demanded at their hands, and if not surrendered, A WAR OF EXTERMINATION SHOULD BE WAGED, to the entire destruction, if necessary for our protection, of his adherents. And we do hereby recommend this resolution to the consideration of the several townships, to the Mass Convention to be held at Carthage; hereby pledging ourselves to aid, to the utmost, the complete consummation of the object in view, that we may thereby be utterly relieved of the alarm, anxiety, and trouble, to which we are now subjected.

Resolved, That every citizen arm himself to be prepared to sustain the resolutions herein contained.

Mr. Roosevelt rose and made a brief but eloquent speech; and called upon the citizens throughout the country to render efficient aid in carrying out the spirit of the resolutions. Mr. Roosevelt then moved a committee of seven be appointed by the chair to draft resolutions expressive of our action in future.

Mr. Catlin moved to amend the motion of Mr. Roosevelt, so that the committee should consist of one from each precinct, which motion, as amended, was adopted.

The chair then appointed the following:—Col. Levi Williams, Rocky Run Precinct; Joel Catlin, Augusta; Saml. Williams, Carthage; Elisha Worrell, Chili; Capt. Maddison, St. Mary's; John M. Ferris, Fountain Green; James Rice, Pilot Grove; John Carns, Bear Creek; C. L. Higbee, Nauvoo; Geo. Robinson, La Harpe; and Geo. Rockwell, Warsaw, were appointed said committee.

On motion of Mr. Simpson, Walter Bagby, Esq., was requested to address the meeting during the absence of the committee. He spoke long and eloquently upon the cause of our grievances, and expressed his belief that

the time was now at hand, when we were individually and collectively called upon to repel the innovations upon our liberties; and suggested that points be designated as places of encampment at which to rendezvous our forces—that we may be ready when called upon for efficient action.

D. J. Barnes, one of the persons who went with the officers to Nauvoo for the purpose of arresting the rioters, having just arrived, came into the meeting, and reported the result of their proceedings—which was, that the persons charged in the writs were duly arrested, but taken from the officers' hands on a writ of habeas corpus from the municipal court, and discharged, and the following potent words entered upon the records—HONORABLY DISCHARGED.

On motion of O. C. Skinner, Esq., a vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Barnes for volunteering his services in executing said writs.

Francis M. Higbee was now loudly called for. He stated his personal knowledge of the Mormons from their earliest history, throughout their hellish career in Missouri and this State—which has been characterised by the darkest and most diabolical deeds which has ever disgraced humanity.

The committee appointed to draft resolutions brought in the following report, which after some considerable discussion was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the officer charged with the execution of a writ against Joseph Smith and others, for riot in the county of Hancock, which said writ said officer has served upon said Smith and others—and whereas said Smith and others refuse to obey the mandate of said writ—and whereas, in the opinion of this meeting it is impossible for said officer to raise a posse of sufficient strength to execute said writ—and whereas, it is the opinion of this meeting that the riot is still progressing; and that violence is meditated and determined on; it is the opinion of this meeting that the circumstances of the case require the interposition of executive power: Therefore,

Resolved, That a deputation of two discreet men be sent to Springfield to solicit such interposition.

2nd, Resolved, That said deputation be furnished with a certified copy of the resolution—and be authorized to obtain evidence by affidavit and otherwise in regard to the violence which has already been committed, and is still further meditated.

Dr. Evans here rose and expressed his wish that the above resolutions would not retard our operations—but that we would each one arm and equip ourselves forthwith.

The resolutions passed at Warsaw were again read by Dr. Barnes, and passed by acclamation.

On motion of A. Simpson, Esq., the suggestion of Mr. Bagby appointing places of encampment was adopted, to wit: Warsaw, Carthage, Green Plains, Spilman's Landing, Chili and La Harpe.

On motion, O. C. Skinner and Walter Bagby, Esqrs., were appointed a committee to bear the resolutions adopted by this meeting to his Excellency the Governor, requiring his executive interposition.

On motion of J. H. Sherman, a Central Corresponding Committee was appointed.

Ordered, That J. H. Sherman, H. T. Wilson, Chauncey Robinson, Wm. S. Freeman, Thos. Morrison, F. M. Higbee, Lyman Prentiss and Stephen H. Tyler, be said committee.

On motion of Geo. Rockwell,

Resolved, That constables in the different precincts hold themselves in readiness to obey the officer in possession of the writs, whenever called upon, in summoning the posse.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

JOHN KNOX, President,  
JOHN DOTY, {  
LEWIS F. EVANS, } Vice Presidents.  
W. Y. Head, Secretary."

Friday, 14.—Wrote to Governor Ford as follows:—

"Nauvoo, June 14th, 1844.

His Excellency Thomas Ford:—

Sir:—I write you this morning briefly to inform you of the facts relative to the removal of the press and fixtures of the 'Nauvoo Expositor' as a nuisance.

The 8th and 10th instant were spent by the city council of Nauvoo, in receiving testimony concerning the character of the Expositor, and the character and designs of the proprietors.

In the investigation it appeared evident to the council that the proprietors were a set of unprincipled, lawless, debauchees, counterfeiters, bogus makers, gamblers, peace disturbers, and that the grand object of said proprietors was to destroy our constitutional rights and chartered privileges; to overthrow all good and wholesome regulations in society; to strengthen themselves against the municipality; to fortify themselves against the church of which I am a member, and destroy all our religious rights and privileges, by libels, slanders, falsehoods, perjury, &c.; and sticking at no corruption to accomplish their hellish purposes, and that said paper of itself was libelous of the deepest dye, and very injurious as a vehicle of defamation; tending to corrupt the morals, and disturb the peace, tranquility, and happiness of the whole community, and especially that of Nauvoo.

After a long and patient investigation of the character of the Expositor, and the characters and designs of its proprietors, the constitution, the charter (see addenda to Nauvoo charter from the Springfield charter, sec. 7) and all the best authorities on the subject (see Blackstone iii. 5, and n. &c., &c.)

The city council decided that it was necessary for the peace, benefit, good order, and regulations of said city, and for the protection of property, and for the happiness and