



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

I hereby inform the public that the *DESERET NEWS* is not and has not been an organ of mine, for, except matter accompanied with my name, I have only occasionally, and that too some time ago, known any more of the contents of the *News* until after it is published, than I have of the copy furnished to the compositors of the *New York Ledger*.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

G. S. L. City, Jan. 28, 1863.

MASS MEETING IN THE TABERNACLE.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNOR HARDING HOSTILE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE TERRITORY AND TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

HIS INSULTING MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE READ TO THE MEETING.

PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE REMOVAL OF GOV. HARDING AND JUDGES WAITE AND DRAKE.

SPEECHES, RESOLUTIONS, &c.

It is never a pleasant task to publish the follies of men: where it can be done justly, we prefer to cover up the infirmities of humanity with the mantle of charity; but when wickedness is unmistakably manifest everywhere, and misrepresentation and falsehood are resorted to, in order to accomplish an evil purpose, we have no disposition to shrink from telling the truth. We have been studiously silent on the proceedings of some of the Federal officers, though we confess it has been hard at times to keep that silence. We have been accustomed to suffer wrongs, and probably have acquired too much patience for our own good; but whatever may be the result of our forbearance we shall ever have the satisfaction of knowing that we contributed nothing to the downfall of men, evidently bent on their own ruin. We have seen them like men building their own sepulchres, but have not hastened their interment. Should they have consciousness beyond the tomb, they will bear us witness that their own hands dug their dark graves into which they crept and passed into everlasting shame and oblivion.

For some time back, it has been very evident that the labors of Governor Harding and the Associate Justices were hostile to the interests of the people of Utah and that the Governor particularly was straining every nerve to create difficulties. So absurd and ridiculous have of late been his Excellency's everlasting speeches, that it has been often a matter of doubt whether he was perfectly responsible for his actions. His most intimate acquaintances have been the most surprised at his language, and though courtesy has required a certain amount of attention to his addresses, we know no person who has not shrunk from his presence, as if from a nuisance. His lan-

guage and his actions have been in perpetual hostility. Every citizen who has had the misfortune to come under the sound of his tongue has had to listen to his professions of attachment to the people of Utah. He unceasingly refers to his early acquaintance with the prophet Joseph and considers himself entitled to the gratitude of the community for his preservation of the first proof sheet of the title page of the Book of Mormon. His youthful dreams and visions, illustrated with his own pen and ink, have been handed about like diagrams of a battlefield, or the visions of Nebuchadnezzar, in which His Excellency, of course, is the fated child of Providence. He refers to the general goodness of his heart, and appeals to everything sacred for confirmation of the immaculate purity of his intentions, and all of this and a thousand times more, while at the same moment he has been laboring in his efforts to bring trouble upon the whole people. He is a perfect compound of contradictions. We have hoped for reformation; but we have hoped in vain, and what had only been known for a long time to the few had at length become so palpable to the whole community, that self preservation forced upon them the action we have now to report.

On Monday evening, a few of our prominent citizens met in caucus and proposed a Mass meeting, at which such measures might be adopted as would properly represent the feelings of the people. The next day, at one p.m. being considered a proper time for assembling, that hour was announced, and long before the appointed time, the Tabernacle was crowded with citizens of every class and condition.

THE MASS MEETING.

As a prelude to the proceedings of the meeting, Capt. Thomas' Brass Band played "Hail Columbia," which, with other music discoursed by the Band, we thought very appropriate. The meeting then organized by the appointment of Hon. Daniel Spencer, chairman, Wm. Clayton and Thos Williams, Esqrs., clerks, Geo. D. Watt and John V. Long, Esqrs., reporters. President Joseph Young engaged in prayer, invoking the blessing of the Lord upon the speakers and hearers, and seeking the direction and guidance of the Spirit of the Lord on the proceedings in which they might engage, that truth and righteousness might be advanced, and that the people might be protected in the exercise of their rights as citizens of a free and independent Government.

The band played the Star Spangled Banner, and the Hon. John Taylor made a brief opening speech stating the object of the meeting. They had met together for the purpose of investigating certain acts of several of the United States officials now in the territory. It was a mass meeting of the citizens, and he, for one, desired to hear a proper statement of the course of the persons alluded to, so far as that affected the citizens of the territory, laid before the people, and that such action might be adopted as they thought proper, and as the circumstances demanded.

The time had come for certain documents to be placed before the people and before the country, and on which they could not avoid taking action. Though the Legislature was under no obligation at the opening of the session to publish the Governor's Message—as such action on their part was purely complimentary—they did at first contemplate doing so, but on reflection, considered that the character of that message was such that they could not with respect to themselves and to the community do so, and many were of opinion that its publication at that time might have subjected His Excellency to the insult which his intemperate language had provoked. Mr. Taylor then gave place to the Hon. Albert Carrington, who read the Message from the printed Journals of the Legislature.

The reading of the Message was listened to with great attention, and at its conclusion, the audience unmistakably indicated their uneasiness over the insult offered to their representatives, who had been forced to listen to its delivery by the Governor in person. There was one deep feeling of contempt manifest for its author. Mr. Carrington then alluded to the inconsistencies of the Governor's professions and his actions. He said his Excellency reminded him of the man and his cow. He commenced with sweet apples and at every opportunity threw in the onions. The Governor commenced with admitting that

the Constitution debarred him from interfering with their religious rights, and at every opportunity throughout the Message he attacked them. He said that he would neither affirm or deny with regard to the question of Polygamy, yet at the same time, he held it up to ridicule and obliquely, and everywhere affirming that it was not only contrary to civilization, but anomalous, and that it could not be endured, was contrary to law and unconstitutional, while at the same time he conceded that it was a religious rite and a matter of faith with the people. These were, he said, a few of the reasons which induced the Legislative Assembly to wave the complimentary publication of the Message, in hopes that his Excellency might consider his folly, mend his ways and pursue the course which he promised in the latter part of his Message; but how consistently he had acted since that time, the audience would be able to judge after the reading of other documents during the meeting.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FROM WASHINGTON.

Mr. Carrington then read correspondence from the Hon. John M. Bernhisel, delegate to Congress, and from the Hon. Wm. H. Hooper, Senator elect, in which the unjustifiable proceedings of Governor Harding and the Associate Justices Waite and Drake were exposed. Mr. Carrington read an extract from a letter, dated Washington, 22d January, in which Governor Harding was represented to have communicated to the Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate, his Message, accompanied by a letter stating that the Message had been suppressed through the influence of one of our prominent citizens, referring, unquestionably, to Governor Young. The following is the last paragraph of the letter referred to:

"I entertain strong hopes that we shall be able to obtain, before the termination of the session, an appropriation to liquidate your Indian amounts unless prevented by Governor Harding's insinuation of the disloyalty of our people."

The following is an extract from a letter, dated Washington, Feb. th:

"On the 11th of December last, Senator Browning introduced a bill in the Senate, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. This bill was prepared at Great Salt Lake City, and its enactment by Congress, recommended by Governor Harding and Judges Waite and Drake. The leading and most exceptionable features of this bill are the following: 1st: It limits the jurisdiction of the Probate Court to the Probate of Wills, to the issue of letters of administration and the appointment of guardians. 2d: It authorizes the Marshal to summon any persons within the district in which the court is held that he thinks proper as jurors. 3d: It authorizes the Governor to appoint and commission all militia officers, including the Major-General, and remove them at pleasure. It also confers on the Governor authority to appoint the days for training."

On the 27th of January, the Hon. Wm. H. Hooper writes from Washington that "Governor Harding is, of course, doing all he can by letters" against the people of Utah. His letter was chiefly occupied with the bill presented by Mr. Browning. The Senator's letter was entirely confirmatory of those from the pen of our Delegate. He says:

"The bill has been presented, and referred back. There does not appear to have been any action on it. It has not been printed; should it be, I will forward a copy. The bill was drawn up at Salt Lake, and attached with eyelets. Also attached was as follows: 'The Bill should be passed.' Signed:—S. S. Harding, Governor; Waite and Drake, Associate Justices."

The reading of these extracts created quite a sensation. When the insinuation of the disloyalty of the people was read, there was a loud murmur of dissatisfaction throughout the audience. Mr. Carrington's sarcastic reference to the Governor's promise "to help us" and his allusion to His Excellency's private room being a new place for drafting bills for the action of Congress had telling effect upon the meeting.

SPEECH OF HON. JOHN TAYLOR.

After the applause had subsided, which greeted his rising, Mr. Taylor said, It has already been stated that these documents speak for themselves. They come from those who are ostensibly our guardians and the guardians of our rights. They come from men who ought to be actuated by the strictest principles of honor, truth, virtue, integrity and honesty, and whose high official position ought to elevate them above suspicion, yet what are the results?

In relation to the Governor's Message, enough perhaps has already been said. We are not here to enter into any labored political

disquisitions, but to make some plain matter-of-fact statements, in which are involved the vital interests of this community. There is one feature, however, in that document which deserves a passing notice. It would seem that we are by direct implication accused of disloyalty. He states that he has not heard any sentiments expressed, either publicly or privately, that would lead him to believe that much sympathy is felt by any considerable portion of this people in favor of the government of the United States. Perhaps we may not be so blatant and loud-spoken as some people are; but is it not patent to this community that the Legislature, during the session of 1861-2, assumed the territorial quota of taxation, and at the very time that His Excellency was uttering this infamy, a resolution, passed by the House, lay on the table, requesting the Secretary to place a United States flag on the State House during the session. This was a small affair, yet significant of our feelings.

It is not a matter of very grave importance to us, generally, what men may think of us, whether they be government officials, or no; but these allegations assume another form, and their wickedness is now rendered vindictive from the peculiar circumstances in which our nation at the present time is placed. When treason is stalking through the land, when all the energies, the wealth and power of the United States has been brought in requisition to put down rebellion, when anarchy and distrust runs riot through the nation. When under these circumstances we had a right to look for a friend in our Governor who would, at least fairly represent us, we have met a most insidious foe, who through base insinuations, misrepresentations and falsehood, is seeking with all his power, privately and officially, not only to injure us before the government, but to sap the very foundations of our civil and religious liberty; he is, in fact, in the pursuit of his unhallowed course, seeking to promote anarchy and rebellion, and dabbled in your blood. It is then a matter of no small importance (hear hear.) Such it would seem were Governor Harding's intentions when he read this message, such were his feelings when he concocted it. The document shows upon its face that it was not hastily written, it has been well digested, and every word carefully weighed. It most assuredly contains the sentiments of his heart, (hear hear) of which his Washington letters are proof positive in relation to our alleged disloyalty.

We are told about the generous reception of our senators elect, of this we are most profoundly ignorant. Their reception was not so gracious as he would represent. He labors under error, for which we do not feel to reproach him; but what are we to think of his official letters to Washington? They are facts. What of his gracious acts of kindness to this people and to their representatives. From the statements of our representatives in Congress, he is the most vindictive enemy we have. The only man, it would seem, who is insidiously striving to sap the interests of this people, and to injure their reputation, yet he is our Governor, and professes to represent our interests and to feel intensely interested in our welfare. Let us investigate for a short time the results of his acts, should his designs be successful, leaving the allegations of treason out of the question.

We have been in the habit of thinking that we live under the auspices of a Republican government, that we had the right of franchise; that we had the privilege of voting for whom we pleased, and of saying who should represent us; but it may be that we are laboring under a mistake, a political illusion. We have thought too, that if any man among us was accused of crimes, that it was his privilege to be tried by his peers; by people whom he lived among, who would be the best judges of his actions. We have farther been of the opinion that, while acting in a military capacity, when we were called to muster into service, to stand in defence of our country's rights, we had a right to the selection of our own officers. It is a Republican usage—we have always elected our own militia officers: but if the plotting of Gov. Harding and our honorable Judges should be carried into effect we can do so no more; we shall be deprived of franchise of the rights of trial by an impartial jury, and shall be placed in a military capacity, under the creatures of Gov. Harding or his successors direction, in other words we shall be deprived of all the rights of freemen, and placed under a military despotism; such would be the result of the passage of this act. Let us examine it a little. An act already framed by the Gov. and Judges, passed in the congress of Gov. Harding's sitting room, is forwarded to Washington with a request that it be passed. Now suppose it should, what would be the result? As I have stated, we suppose that we possess the rights of franchise, this is a mistake, we do not, we only think we do. The Governor has already taken that from us. How so? Have we not the privilege of voting for our own Legislators, our own representatives in the Legislative Assembly? Yes. And do they not pass laws for us? Yes. But the Governor possesses the power of veto. This old relic of Colonial barbarism ingrafted into our Territorial organization was always in existence among us; but never was so foully abused as in the person of our present Governor; he has done all he could to stop the wheels of government, and to produce dissatisfaction, and has exercised his veto to the fullest extent of his power. As an instance of this, there were only twenty laws passed the Legislative Assembly, only six of which