

whether this be true or not, I have no knowledge. I wish to be informed on the subject, that we may know how to act in regard to the Legion.

A short time ago, I was told by a friend of mine (not a member of the Church) that some of the Missourians were conspiring to come up to Nauvoo and kidnap me, and not doubting but that it might be true, I consulted with General Bennett upon the most proper course to be pursued. We concluded to write to you on the subject, and I requested him to do so. I understand he has written to you, but I know not in what manner, and I should be very much pleased if you would write to me on receipt of this, giving me the contents of his communication.

I have also heard that you have entertained of late very unfavorable feelings towards us as a people, and especially so with regard to myself, and that you have said I ought to be shot, &c. If this be true, I should be pleased to know from yourself the reason of such hostile feelings, for I know of no cause which can possibly exist that might produce such feelings in your breast.

It is rumored, and strong evidence exists, that Bennett and David and Edward Kilbourn have posted bills in Galena, calling upon the people to hold meetings, and have themselves in readiness at a moment's warning to assemble and come here, and mob us out of the place, and try to kidnap me; we know not as to the truth of this report, but we have conversed with some transient persons who had the report from a gentleman who lately came from there, and had seen those handbills posted in Galena.

In case of a mob coming upon us, I wish to be informed by the Governor what will be the best course for us to pursue, and how he wishes us to act in regard to this matter.

JOSEPH SMITH,  
Lieut. General, Nauvoo Legion."

There was a severe shock of an earthquake at Antigua.

Saturday, 25.—Transacted business with Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Babbitt, and sat for a drawing of my profile to be placed on a lithograph of the map of the City of Nauvoo.

Messrs. Stephens and Catherwood have succeeded in collecting in the interior of America, a large amount of relics of the Nephites, or the ancient inhabitants of America, treated of in the Book of Mormon, which have recently been landed in New York.

Sunday, 26.—President Brigham Young preached on the law of consecration, and union of action in building up the city, and providing labor and food for the poor.

I attended meeting, and council at my house at 6 o'clock p.m.; present, Hyrum Smith, George Miller, N. K. Whitney, William Marks, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards, to take into consideration the situation of the pine country, and lumbering business, and other subjects of importance to the church; after consultation thereon, the brethren united in solemn prayer, that God would make known his will concerning the pine country, and that he would deliver his anointed, his people from all the evil designs of Governor Boggs, and the powers of the State of Missouri, and of Governor Carlin and the authorities of Illinois, and of all Presidents, Governors, Judges, Legislators, and all in authority, and of John C. Bennett and all mobs and evil designing persons, so that His people might continue in peace and build up the City of Nauvoo, and that his chosen might be blessed and live to man's appointed age, and that their households, and the household of faith might continually be blessed with the fostering care of heaven, and enjoy the good things of the earth abundantly. Adjourned to Monday evening.

Monday, 27.—Transacted a variety of business. Borrowed money of brothers Woolley, Spencer, &c., and paid Hiram Kimball for the mound.

When the council assembled in the evening, brothers Hunter, Ivins, Woolley, Pierce, and others being present, the adjourned council was postponed till Tuesday evening, and I proceeded to lecture at length on the importance of uniting the means of the brethren for the purpose of establishing manufactories of all kinds, furnishing labor for the poor, &c. Brothers Hunter and Woolley offered their goods towards a general fund, and good feelings were generally manifested.

This morning little Frederick G. W. Smith told his dream to all the house, "that the Missourians had got their heads knocked off."

Tuesday, 28.—Paid brothers Woolley and Spencer. Brother Hunter's goods were received at the store, and brother Robins consecrated his goods and money to the general fund.

The adjourned council of Sunday evening met in my upper room, and were agreed that a reinforcement go immediately to the Pine country, led by brother Ezra Chase, and after uniting in solemn prayer to God for a blessing on themselves and families, and the Church in general, and for the building up of the Temple and Nauvoo House and city; for deliverance from their enemies, and the spread of the work of righteousness; and that brother Richards (who was expecting to go east to-morrow for his family) might have a prosperous journey, have power over the winds and elements, and all opposition and dangers, his life and health be preserved, and be speedily returned to this place with his family, that their lives and healths might be preserved, and that they might come up in peace to this place, and that brother Richards might be prospered according to the desire of his heart, in all things in relation to his household, and the Church, and that the Spirit of God might rest upon him continually, so that he may act according to the wisdom of Heaven. The council dispersed.

Previous to the council, I, in company with Bishop Miller, visited Elder Rigdon and his family, and had much conversation about John C. Bennett and others, much unpleasant feeling was manifested by Elder Rigdon's family, who were confounded and put to silence by the truth.

Nauvoo, June 28, 1842.

To his Excellency Governor Reynolds, of Missouri:

Dear Sir:—You will permit me to ask you to peruse this letter, and the accompanying newspaper, relative to the character and conduct of John Cook Bennett, who associated himself with our religious community near two years ago, he being a man of respectable talents and moderately good literary attainments.

In the judicial organization of our city under the charter granted by the Legislature of Illinois, said Bennett was elected mayor; and continued to hold said office of mayor until within the last two months or less. He having learned that he could no longer maintain a standing as an honorable man in our society, he tendered his resignation, which was accepted.

The object of this communication is, therefore, to inform you of the true character of said John C. Bennett, that he may not injure the innocent, by gaining credence with you, or those over whom your Excellency is placed to govern.

We have learned from respectable sources that said John Cook Bennett has entered into a conspiracy with some of the citizens of your State, to bring a mob upon us, and thereby disturb our peaceful vocations of life, and destroy, and drive us from our homes and firesides.

Believing that your Excellency cannot be influenced by the popular prejudice, almost every where entertained against us, on account of our peculiar religious tenets, I am the more free to write to you without reserve, knowing that the high toned and honorable men of the earth will not be easily carried away by popular opinion or vulgar prejudice; but will always be found on the side of the law abiding portion of the community, and will suppress, so far as in them lies, every movement that tends to abridge the rights, or mar the peace and happiness of any portion of the citizens of our common country.

I have resided in this city near three years, and attached myself to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, soon after their location here; and have had a good opportunity of learning the feelings of the leading members of the said church in regard to the citizens of Missouri, which are of the most friendly nature, ever designing to live in peace, and cultivate friendship with all the citizens of your State, as also all the States, and all mankind generally; it being a principle of our faith to cultivate friendship and live in peace with all mankind; and if Dr. John Cook Bennett, or any other person, may conspire with citizens of your State, to bring upon us mob violence, we confide in you as one who will, under all circumstances, interpose the strong arm of the law, in the suppression of conspiracy or mobs, or any other violation of law, as citizens of the United States we claim the protection of the several States and the United States in all our constitutional rights; and having learned something of your character, we the more confidently expect your protection against all lawless aggressions by any of the citizens of your State.

Whatever may be reported concerning us, we assure your Excellency that our feelings are as I have before stated, of the most friendly nature, and should Bennett or any other person report anything contrary, your Excellency need pay no attention to it; for it is not the truth, and is only designed by wicked men to cause the overthrow of the innocent.

Should any report have already reached your ears, I would esteem it as a great favor, if you would give me information of the same by letter immediately on receipt of this.

I am, yours respectfully,  
GEORGE MILLER."

### The Battle of Bunker Hill.

The sound of drum and trumpet, the clatter of hoofs, the rattling of gun-carriages and all the other military din and bustle in the streets of Boston soon apprised the Americans, on their rudely-fortified height, of an impending attack. They were ill-fitted to withstand it, being jaded by the night's labor and want of sleep; hungry and thirsty, having brought but scanty supplies, and oppressed by the heat of the weather. Prescott sent repeated messages to Gen. Ward, asking reinforcements and provisions. Putnam seconded the request in person, urging the exigencies of the case.

Ward hesitated. He feared to weaken his main body at Cambridge, as his military stores were deposited there, and it might have to sustain the principal attack. At length, having taken advice of the Council of Safety, he issued orders to Colonels Stark and Read, then at Medford, to march to the relief of Prescott with their New Hampshire regiments. The order reached Medford about 11 o'clock. Ammunition was distributed in all haste—two flints, a gill of powder, and fifteen balls to each man. The balls had to be suited to the different calibres of the guns; the powder to be carried in powder-horns, or loose in the pocket, for there were no cartridges prepared. It was the rude turn-out of yeoman soldiery destitute of regular accoutrements.

In the meanwhile the Americans on Breed's Hill were sustaining the fire from the ships and from the battery on Copp's Hill, which opened upon them about ten o'clock. They returned an occasional shot from one corner of the redoubt, without much harm to the enemy, and continued strengthening their position until about 11 o'clock, when they ceased to work, piled up their intrenching tools in the rear, and looked out anxiously and impatiently for the anticipated reinforcements and supplies.

About this time Gen. Putnam, who had been to headquarters, arrived at the redoubt on horseback. Some words passed between him and Prescott with regard to the intrenching tools, which have been variously reported.

The most probable version is that he urged to have them taken from their present place, where they might fall into the hands of the enemy, and carried to Bunker's Hill, to be employed in throw-

ing up a redoubt, which was part of the original plan, and which would be very important should the troops be obliged to retreat from Breed's Hill. To this Prescott demurred that those employed to convey them, and who were already jaded with toil, might not return to his redoubt. A large part of the tools were ultimately carried to Bunker's Hill and a breastwork commenced by order of Gen. Putnam. The importance of such a work was afterwards made apparent.

About noon the Americans despatched twenty-eight barges crossing from Boston in parallel lines. They contained a large detachment of grenadiers, rangers and light infantry, admirably equipped, and commanded by Major-General Howe. They made a splendid and formidable appearance with their scarlet uniforms, and the sun flashing upon muskets and bayonets and brass field-pieces. A heavy fire from the ships and batteries covered their advance, but no attempt was made to oppose them, and they landed about 1 o'clock at Moulton's Point, a little to the north of Breed's Hill.

Here Gen. Howe made a pause. On reconnoitering the works from this point the Americans appeared to be much more strongly posted than he had imagined. He despatched troops also hastening to their assistance. These were the New Hampshire troops, led on by Stark. Howe immediately sent over to Gen. Gage for more forces and a supply of cannon balls, those brought by him being found, through some egregious oversight, too large for the ordnance.

While awaiting their arrival, refreshments were served out to the troops, with "grog" by the bucketful; and tantalizing it was to the hungry and thirsty provincials to look down from their ramparts of earth and see their invaders seated in groups upon the grass eating and drinking, and preparing themselves by a hearty meal for the coming encounter.

The only consolation was to take advantage of the delay while the enemy were carousing, to strengthen their position. The breastwork on the left of the position extended to what was called the Slough, but beyond this the ridge of the hill, and the slope towards Mystic river were undefended, leaving a pass by which the enemy might turn the left flank of the position and seize upon Bunker's Hill. Putnam ordered his chosen officer, Capt. Knowlton, to cover this pass with the Connecticut troops under his command. A novel kind of rampart, savoring of rural device, was suggested by the rustic General.

About six hundred feet in the rear of the redoubt and about one hundred feet to the left of the breast work was a post-and-rail fence set in a low foot-wall of stone, and extending down to Mystic river. The post and rails of another fence were hastily pulled up and set a few feet in behind this, and the intermediate space was filled up with new mown hay from the adjacent meadows. The double fence it will be found proved an important protection to the redoubt, although there still remained an unprotected interval of about seven hundred feet.

While Knowlton and his men were putting up this fence, Putnam proceeded with other of his troops to throw up the works on Bunker's Hill, despatching his son, Capt. Putnam, on horseback to hurry up the remainder of his men from Cambridge. By this time his compeer in French and Indian warfare, the veteran Stark, made his appearance with the New Hampshire troops, five hundred strong. He had grown cool and wary with age, and his march from Medford, a distance of five or six miles, had been in character. He led his men at a moderate pace, to bring them into action fresh and vigorous. In crossing the Neck, which was enfiladed by the enemy's ships and batteries, Capt. Dearborn, who was by his side, suggested a quick step. The veteran shook his head. "One fresh man in action is worth ten tired ones," replied he, and marched steadily on.

Putnam detained some of Stark's men to aid in throwing up the works on Bunker's Hill, and directed him to re-enforce Knowlton with the rest. Stark made a short speech to his men, now that they were likely to have warm work. He then pushed on, and did good service that day at the rustic bulwark.

About two o'clock Warren arrived on the heights, ready to engage in their perilous defence, although he had opposed the scheme of their occupation. He had recently been elected a major-general, but had not received his commission; like Pomeroy, he came to serve in the ranks with a musket on his shoulder.

Putnam offered him the command at the fence; he declined it, and merely asked where he could be of most service as a volunteer. Putnam pointed to the redoubt, observing that he would be under cover. "Don't think I seek a place of safety," replied Warren, quickly: "where will the attack be hottest?" Putnam still pointed to the redoubt. "That is the enemy's object; if that can be maintained the day is ours." Warren was cheered by the troops as he entered the redoubt. Col. Prescott tendered him the command. He again declined. "I have come to serve only as a volunteer, and shall be happy to learn from a soldier of your experience." Such were the noble spirits assembled on these perilous heights. The British now prepared for a general assault.

An easy victory was anticipated: the main thought was, how to make it most effectual. The left wing, commanded by Gen. Pigot, was to mount the hill and force the redoubt, while Gen. Howe, with the right wing, was to push on between the fort and Mystic river, turn the left flank of the American, and cut off their retreat.

Gen. Pigot accordingly advanced up the hill under cover of a fire from field-pieces and howitzers planted on a small height near the landing-place on Moulton's Point. His troops commenced a discharge of musketry while yet at a long distance from the redoubts.

The Americans within the works, obedient to strict command, retained their fire until the enemy were within thirty or forty paces, when they opened upon them with a tremendous volley.

Being all marksmen, accustomed to take deliberate aim, the slaughter was immense, and especially fatal to officers. The assailants fell back in some confusion; but, rallied on by their officers, advanced within pistol shot. Another volley, more effective than the first, made them again recoil. To add to their confusion, they were galled by a flanking fire from the handful of Provincials posted in Charleston. Shocked at the carnage, and seeing the confusion of his troops, Gen. Pigot was urged to give the word for a retreat.

In the meanwhile Gen. Howe, with the left wing, advanced along Mystic river, towards the fence where Stark, Read and Knowlton were stationed, thinking to carry this slight breastwork with ease, and so get in the rear of the fortress. His artillery proved of little avail, being stopped by a swampy piece of ground, while his columns suffered from two to three field pieces with which Putnam had fortified the fence. Howe's men kept up a fire of musketry as they advanced, but, not taking aim, their shot passed over the heads of the Americans. The latter had received the same orders with those in the redoubt, not to fire until the enemy should be within thirty paces. Some few transgressed the command. Putnam rode up and swore he would cut down the next man that fired contrary to orders.

When the British arrived within the stated distance, a sheeted fire opened upon them from rifles, muskets and fowling-pieces, all levelled with deadly aim. The carnage, as in the other instance, was horrible. The British were thrown into confusion and fell back; some even retreated to the boats.

There was a general pause on the part of the British. The American officers availed themselves of it to prepare for another attack, which must soon be made. Prescott mingled among his men in the redoubt, who were all in high spirits at the severe check they had given "the regulars." He praised them for their steadfastness in maintaining their post and their good conduct in reserving their fire until the word of command, and exhorted them to do the same in the next attack.

Putnam rode about Bunker's Hill and its skirts to rally and bring on re-enforcements which had been checked or scattered in crossing Charlestown Neck by the raking fire from the ships and batteries. Before many could be brought to the scene of action the British had commenced their second attack.

They again ascended the hill to storm the redoubt; their advance was covered as before by discharges of artillery. Charlestown, which had annoyed them on their first attack by a flanking fire, was in flames by shells thrown from Copp's Hill and by marines from the ships. Being built of wood, the place was soon wrapped in a general conflagration.

The thunder of artillery from batteries and ships; the bursting of bomb-shells; the sharp discharges of musketry; the shouts and yells of the combatants; the crash of burning buildings, and the dense volumes of smoke which obscured the summer sun, all formed a tremendous spectacle. "Sure I am," said Burgoyne in one of his letters—"Sure I am, nothing ever has or ever can be more dreadfully terrible than what was to be seen or heard at this time. The most incessant discharge of guns that ever was heard by mortal ears."

The American troops, though unused to war, stood undismayed amidst a scene where it was bursting upon them with all its horrors. Reserving their fire, as before, until the enemy was close at hand, they again poured forth repeated volleys with the fatal aim of sharpshooters. The British stood the first shock, and continued to advance; but the incessant stream of fire staggered them. Their officers remonstrated, threatened, and even attempted to goad them on with their swords, but the havoc was too deadly: whole ranks were mowed down; many of the officers were either slain or wounded, and among them several of the staff of Gen. Howe. The troops again gave way and retreated down the hill.

All this passed under the eyes of thousands of spectators of both sexes and all ages, watching from afar every turn of the battle in which the lives of those most dear to them were at hazard. The British soldiery in Boston gazed with astonishment and almost incredulity at the resolute and protracted stand of raw militia, whom they had been taught to despise, and at the havoc made among their own veteran troops.—Every convoy of wounded brought over to the town increased their consternation; and General Clinton, who had watched the action from Copp's Hill, embarking in a boat, hurried over as a volunteer, taking with him reinforcements.

A third attack was now determined on, tho' some of Howe's officers remonstrated, declaring it would be downright butchery.

A different plan was adopted. Instead of advancing in front of the redoubt, it was to be taken in flank on the left, where the open space between the breastwork and the fortified fence presented a weak point. It having been accidentally discovered that the ammunition of the Americans was nearly expended, preparations were made to carry the works at the point of the bayonet; and the soldiery threw off their knapsacks, and some even their coats, to be more light for action.

General Howe, with the main body, now made a feint of attacking the fortified fence; but while a part of his force was thus engaged, the rest brought some field-pieces to enfilade the breastwork on the left of the redoubt.

A raking fire soon drove the Americans out of this exposed place into the enclosure. Much damage, too, was done in the latter by balls which entered the sallyport.

The troops were now led on to assail the works; those who flinched were as before galled on by the swords of the officers. The Americans again reserved their fire until their assail-