

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NUMBER 34.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1857.

VOLUME VII.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PAGE 265.—History of Joseph Smith.
PAGE 266.—History of Joseph Smith.
PAGE 267.—History of Joseph Smith continued—Remarks by Pres. H. C. Kimball, Tabernacle, Oct. 18—Discourse by Elder Amasa Lyman, Oct. 18.
PAGE 268.—Discourse by A. Lyman, concluded—Remarks by Pres. B. Young, Oct. 18.
PAGE 269.—Remarks by Pres. B. Young, concluded—Boston—Editorial: Company from Carson—Fruit Trees—Reapers and Mowers—Drowning—Scarlet Fever.
PAGE 270.—Poetry: The Yankee Tea Party—Remarks by Elder L. Snow, Oct. 7—By Elder A. Lyman, Oct. 7.
PAGE 271.—Remarks by Amasa Lyman, concluded—Letter from Elder E. T. Benson—Eggs—Advertisements.
PAGE 272.—Poetry: Differences—Methodism—Railroads—Society Islands—Bread—Prize List—Information—Died.

[Copyright Secured.]

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JUNE, 1844.

Saturday, 22—I wrote the following letter—
"Nauvoo, Saturday morning, }
June 22nd, 1844. }

To His Excellency Thomas Ford, Governor:—
Dear Sir:—I this morning forward you the remainder of the affidavits which are ready to present to you, by the hands of a gentleman who is fully competent to give you information on the whole subject which has been the cause of the origin of our present difficulties. I would respectfully recommend the bearer, Col. Woodworth, as one of my aides, and a man whose testimony can be relied upon.

I presume you are already convinced that it would be altogether unsafe for me or any of the City Council to come to Carthage, on account of the vast excitement which has been got up by false report and libelous publications. Nothing would afford me a greater pleasure than a privilege of investigating the whole subject before your Excellency in person, for I have ever held myself in readiness to comply with your orders, and answer for my proceedings before any legal tribunal in the State.

I would hereby respectfully pray your Excellency to come to Nauvoo, if congenial with your feelings, and give us a privilege of laying the whole matter before you in its true colors, and where abundance of testimony can be forthcoming to prove every point by disinterested persons, men of character, and of worth and notoriety—strangers—who were here all the time. But I am satisfied your Excellency does not wish men to expose the lives of the citizens of this place by requiring them to put themselves into the power of an infuriated blood-thirsty mob, a part of whom have already several times fired upon our people without the least shadow of cause or provocation.

I am informed this morning that some gentleman has made affidavit that he had a private conversation with me, in which I stated that I had secret correspondence with you, &c. If any person has been wicked enough to do this he is a perjured villain, for in the first place I do not suffer myself to hold private conversation with any stranger, and in the second place, I have never even intimated any thing of the kind as having secret correspondence with your Excellency.

Our troubles are invariably brought upon us by falsehoods and misrepresentations by designing men; we have ever held ourselves amenable to the law, and for myself, sir, I am ever ready to conform to and support the laws and constitution even at the expense of my life. I have never in the least offered any resistance to law, or lawful process, which is a well known fact to the public; all of which circumstances make us the more anxious to have you come to Nauvoo, and investigate the whole matter.

Now, sir, is it not an easy matter to distinguish between those who have pledged themselves to exterminate innocent men, women and children, and those who have only stood in their own defence, and in defence of their innocent families, and that too in accordance with the constitution and laws of the country as required by the oaths and as good and law abiding citizens?

In regard to the destruction of the press the truth only need to be presented before your Excellency to satisfy you of the justice of the proceedings. The press was established by a set of men who had already set themselves at defiance of the law and authorities of the city, and had threatened the lives of some of its principal officers, and who also made it no private matter that the press was established for the express purpose of destroying the city, as will be shown by the affidavit of Joseph Jackson, and as they stated to me in their threats.

Mr. Babbitt informs me that reports are in circulation that we have taken property which belongs to the Mr. Laws and others. There has been no property meddled with, to my knowledge, belonging to any person, except property we have purchased of the rightful owners.

Mr. Law turned over some property to a Mr. Hicks to pay a debt. This I purchased of Mr. Hicks, and I am responsible to him for the amount. We have been especially careful to preserve the property of those who are exciting the public against us, inasmuch as we know that every means would be used which could be invented to raise excitement, and we have appointed the police to watch this property, and see that no harm was done to it by any person as they had tried to fire their own building, and was detected in the act; the fire was extinguished by the policemen, and no property damaged.

There have been no prisoners taken in this city, neither any person held as hostage, only some who are residents of this place, who had broke the laws. No stranger has been interfered with, nor detained in the city, under any circumstances.

In haste, I have the honor to remain, dear sir,
Your most obedient servant,
JOSEPH SMITH.

Lieut. Gen. N. L."

This letter was accompanied by other affidavits, and sent by Lucien Woodworth, who was delegated to go in place of Dr. Richards. He started at noon in company with Squire Woods of Burlington.

Legion met as usual, and after receiving instructions, were dismissed until 6 p.m., when they met again. At 7 p.m., I instructed Gen. Dunham to cause the regiments of the 2nd cohort to turn out to-morrow, and work by turns three or four hours each with intrenching tools, and to take the best measures in case of attack. I also gave orders that a standard be prepared for the nations.

Almon W. Babbitt arrived from Carthage this morning, having come at the request of the Governor, who thought it not wisdom to have Richards, and Phelps, and others of the City Council go to Carthage.

Edward Robinson made the following affidavit:—

"State of Illinois, }
City of Nauvoo, }

On the 22nd day of June, 1844, came before me, W. W. Phelps, clerk of the Mayor's Court in said city, Dr. Edward Robinson, who after being duly sworn, deposed and saith, that while at Carthage, on the 18th and 19th inst., I heard several persons, who had assembled together for warlike purposes (having their arms and one cannon with them,) say that they were gathering together for the purpose of destroying the property of General Joseph Smith, or as they said, 'Joe Smith,' and his followers, and the City Council, with the exception of one, and finally said that they would destroy the town, and exterminate the Latter Day Saints.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of June, 1844.

W. W. PHELPS, Clerk M. C."

James Olive made the following affidavit:—

"State of Illinois, }
Hancock County, }
City of Nauvoo, }

Personally appeared before me, Aaron Johnson, a justice of the peace in and for said county, James Olive, who being first duly sworn, deposed and saith that on Friday afternoon, the 21st inst., about 3 o'clock, he was at his own house about two miles from Appanoose, in a south-easterly direction, he saw a four horse wagon with some men before it, all traveling towards Appanoose. They went about a quarter of a mile beyond my house, there met a two horse wagon, and a company of men about fifteen in number. Both parties then took the road towards the Big Mound; a part of the men were mounted, and a part were on foot; the mounted men were forward, and after passing my house, they wheeled and rode back to the footmen, who were some little distance behind, and said to them, 'there are some fellows on the Mound, you had better hurry on and we will take those fellows and carry them to Carthage;' they used profane language. I watched them until they got near the mound, and saw the guard on the mound turn and run towards Nauvoo. After that the company went on to the mound, and halted near the spot where the guard had run from.

On the same evening about sundown there was a man by the name of Milton Hamilton came into my house, and told me he had come to tell me to arm and equip myself according to law, and stand in readiness; that the Governor had demanded Joseph Smith according to law, and that he would not come it; (meaning that Joseph Smith would not surrender); that the General had issued orders for the militia to be in readiness to take said Smith. I asked him what General, and he observed that he believed it was Colonel Williams. I asked him if it was done by orders of the Governor, and he said that was the understanding. He told me he acted under the orders of Capt. McAuley; and further saith not.

JAMES OLIVE.

Subscribed and sworn to this 22nd day of June, 1844, before me,
AARON JOHNSON, J. P."

Phebe Levett states that she saw Finch, Rollison, Foster, and Squire McAuley in the company who fired on the guard on the La Harpe road.

George G. Johnstone made the following affidavit:—

"State of Illinois, }
Hancock County, }
City of Nauvoo, }

Personally appeared before me, Aaron Johnson, a justice of the peace in and for the county of Hancock, George G. Johnstone, living on Spring Creek in McDonough County, who being first duly sworn deposed and saith, that yesterday Napoleon Hardin came to your deponent, and said that the Governor had sent orders for the militia to be called out for to-day at four o'clock, p.m., and to start on 22nd to Carthage, there to wait until all were ready from

the different counties in the State, and then they should march out to the prairie, they should stop on the prairie, and send in a flag of truce to Nauvoo, and demand the body of General Joseph Smith; if the people of Nauvoo refused to give him up, then they should exterminate the whole of them.

GEO. G. JOHNSTONE.

Subscribed and sworn to this 22nd day of June, 1844, before me,
AARON JOHNSON, J. P."

Gideon Gibbs made the following affidavit:—
"State of Illinois, }
City of Nauvoo, }

On the 22nd June, 1844, came before me, W. W. Phelps, clerk of the Mayor's Court for said city, Gideon Gibbs, and after being duly sworn deposed and saith, that on the afternoon of the 21st inst., about a half mile south east of the big mound on the La Harpe road, a party of about eight or ten men in a warlike attitude, in company with two teams, passed your said affiant, and one of them said he fired at two men near the big mound—thought he killed them both, and your deponent saith no further.

GIDEON GIBBS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of June, 1844.

W. W. PHELPS, Clerk M. C."

Luman H. Calkins made the following affidavit:—

"State of Illinois, }
City of Nauvoo, }

Personally appeared before me, George W. Harris, an alderman acting in and for the city of Nauvoo, Luman H. Calkins, and being first duly sworn deposed and saith, that about seven weeks ago, I came on the steamboat 'Ohio' from St. Louis to Nauvoo, when William Nesbit, who was on board, entered into conversation with your deponent.

I asked him if he knew any thing about the conspiracy in Nauvoo to kill Joseph and Hyrum, and all that believed on them; he said he did—it was intended that they all should be killed between then and the 1st July.

I asked him who was at the head of the conspiracy; he replied he was sworn not to tell who the head one was. I asked him if there were any in Nauvoo concerned; he replied there was, and named the two Laws, two Posters, two Higbees, Charles Ivins, and several others. I asked if it was to be made a public thing; he replied the first blow was to be struck in Nauvoo by those who were opposed to Joseph. I asked how many they could rely on in Nauvoo; he said they could rely on five hundred, if they could only get arms for them.

He said as soon as the first blow was struck in Nauvoo, there were about 7,000 men ready in Missouri to join them to exterminate all who believed on Joseph Smith. He also told me that the 'Die Vernon,' when she came on her pleasure trip to Nauvoo, that there were none but spies, and who came on purpose to see the places in order to know how to strike, when the time comes to strike; and he also said 'the Reformers' had got spies continually passing Nauvoo, in order to spy out all that took place, and there was not a thing took place in Nauvoo but what was made known to them in St. Louis as soon as a steamboat landed.

I told him I should think he would be afraid to stop here; he said he should stay in Nauvoo, and carry on his butchering as usual, as if there was nothing taking place; that he had as good a gun as any man ever put to his face, and that the first shot he should fire would be to kill Joseph and Hyrum; said I, the people will surely kill you then; he replied he would rush through a thousand people to wash his hands in Joseph's blood, and especially in Hyrum's, if he was to be immediately cut into a thousand pieces; he said he should be willing to die, as soon as he had killed them.

About five weeks since I had another conversation with William Nesbit, when he confirmed the whole of the foregoing conversation; and he also said, he had made arrangements with Mr. Bostwick of St. Louis to send him a brace of the best pistols, for the purpose of being ready when he wanted them; he also said that he would kill Hyrum any time that he could get an opportunity without being detected. I then asked him, if Hyrum could be put in his way so that no man would mistrust him, would you kill him? He said, 'By God I would.' I asked if he would not be afraid to kill him in cold blood; he replied, 'No, I would not, I would do it in a moment if I could get an opportunity.'

The day following I left for Galena, and returned on Tuesday, 18th inst., and on the 19th I saw William Nesbit in the ranks, and I cautioned Richard Brazier to keep an eye on Nesbit, for he had sworn to wash his hands in Joseph's and Hyrum's blood.

LUMAN H. CALKINS.

Subscribed and sworn to this 22nd day of June, 1844, before me,

GEO. W. HARRIS,

Alderman of the City of Nauvoo."

At 12 noon orders were sent to the different guards and pickets to let persons pass and re-pass without hailing them until further orders.

I issued the following:—

GENERAL ORDERS.

"Mayor's Office & Head Quarters of }
the Nauvoo Legion. }
Nauvoo, June 22nd, 1844. }

To Col. Jonathan Dunham, }
Acting Major Gen. Nauvoo Legion, }
Sir:—You will proceed without delay with

the assistance of the Nauvoo Legion to prepare the back ground of said city for defence against an invasion by mobs, cause the Legion to be furnished with tents, and make your encampment in the vicinity of your labors.

JOSEPH SMITH,

Mayor of the City of Nauvoo, and Lieut. Gen. of the Nauvoo Legion.

To Col. Jonathan Dunham,
Major Gen. in command, Nauvoo Legion."
At 6 p.m., I prophesied that in the sickly seasons sickness would enter into the houses of the mob and vex them until they would fain repent in dust and ashes; they will be smitten with the scab, &c.

At 7 p.m., I received the following:—
"We, the undersigned citizens of Hancock County, respectfully request General Joseph Smith to preach on to-morrow, and that we have liberty of seats near enough to the stand to hear, inasmuch as we have an opportunity to hear him but seldom, and some of us have not heard him at all. Yours respectfully,
JAMES HAMILTON and Co., Capt. at the Liberty Branch.

NATHANIEL CASE, Capt. 7th Co., 4th Reg., 2nd Cohort, N. L., from La Harpe.

URIAH H. YAGER and Co., Capt. at the Branch of Macedonia, 2nd Cohort. HIRAM CLARK, 1st Lieut. at the Miland Branch Company.

Z. D. WILSON'S COMPANY. ALVAH L. TIPPETT'S do.

S. HANCOCK, Major of the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment.

WARREN SNOW, Capt. and Co., 4th Reg., 2nd Cohort of N. Legion."

At 10 p.m. I received the following letter by the hands of Captain Yates, who accompanied Elders John Taylor and John M. Bernhisel on their return from Carthage:—

"Head Quarters, Carthage, }
June 22nd, 1844. }

To the Mayor and Council of

the City of Nauvoo:—

Gentlemen:—After examining carefully all the allegations on the part of the citizens of the country in Hancock county, and the defensive matters submitted to me by the committee of your citizens concerning the existing disturbances, I find that there appears to be but little contradiction as to important facts; so that it may be safely assumed that the immediate cause of the existing excitement is the destruction of the press and fixtures of the Nauvoo Expositor, and the subsequent refusal of the individuals accused to be accountable therefor according to the general laws of this State, and the insisting, on your parts, to be accountable only before your own municipal court and according to the ordinances of your city.

Many other facts have been asserted on both sides as tending to increase the excitement, but as they mostly relate merely to private persons, and committed by individuals, and tend simply to show the present state of affairs, I will not further notice them in this communication.

The material facts to be noticed are, that a newspaper called the 'Nauvoo Expositor' was established in Nauvoo; that this newspaper was deemed offensive to the people of that city; that the common council without notice or process to the owners, entered into a trial, and heard statements not under oath, and evidence which was under oath, in relation to the character of that paper, and in relation to the character, conduct and designs of the owners and editors of the press; that upon hearing such statements and evidence the common council passed an ordinance or resolution declaring said press and paper to be a public nuisance, and ordered the same to be abated as such; that a writ was issued by the mayor to the marshal of the city for that purpose; that a military order was issued at the same time by the mayor, who is also Lieutenant General of the Nauvoo Legion, to the Major General in command of that Legion, for a force sufficient to ensure the execution of the writ aforesaid.

It appears also the press was destroyed in obedience to the foregoing ordinance and writ according to a return on the same by the marshal in the following words: 'The within press and type is destroyed and piled according to order on this 10th day of June, 1844, at about six o'clock p.m.—J. P. GREENE, C. M.'

It appears also that the owners of the press obtained from a justice of the peace at Carthage a warrant against the authors of this destruction for a riot; that the constable charged with the execution of this process arrested some of the persons accused, who immediately obtained writs of habeas corpus from the municipal court of your city, by virtue of which they were tried in Nauvoo, and discharged from arrest, and that they have ever since refused to be arrested, or to submit to a trial at any other place, or before any other court except in the city, and before the municipal court aforesaid.

It has also been reported to me that martial law has been declared in Nauvoo; that persons and property have been and are now forcibly imprisoned and detained there, and that the Legion has been ordered under arms to resist any attempt to arrest the persons accused. I have not particularly enquired into the truth of these latter reports; for although they may become matters of GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE SEQUEL, they are not necessary to be ascertained and acted upon at present.