

# DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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## THE GARDO HOUSE.

It is now nearly three years since a vote was taken at the General Annual Conference, that a suitable building should be selected as a place of residence for the President of the Church, and should be properly furnished under the direction of a committee, whom the Apostles should appoint; and further, that a steward should be selected to take charge of this residence, who should furnish the table and other household requirements, and that the cost and expenses of so doing should be met by appropriations from the funds of the Church.

While I was deeply moved with the generous and munificent offer thus tendered to me at the General Conference, I felt considerable delicacy in placing myself in a position of being the recipient of the favors suggested in the above motion, which was sustained by so large and unanimous a vote. I felt then as I do now, that I and my brethren were one; and that this oneness ought not to be in name or theory alone, but in reality, and that while many of my brethren necessarily could not participate in the munificent generosity proposed to be conferred upon me, the acceptance of this would have a tendency to put me in a position which might be construed as placing a barrier between me and them, which idea I could not entertain. Again, I found that my family, which is very natural, preferred their old homestead and its surroundings, and felt the same repugnance to dependency that I myself had entertained. For these reasons I have put off the acceptance of this offer for so long a time, not out of any disrespect to the kindly feelings so freely and generously expressed by the Saints, but because I felt reluctant to assume anything like dependence, or to accept of anything that might seem to place a barrier between me and my brethren, or which would in any wise tend to alienate those fraternal feelings and principles of fellowship and union which ought always to exist among the Saints of God. On the other hand I have not been unaware of the statements made by the prophets that Zion should become the praise of the whole earth, and that we in this land should take a prominent and leading part in the arts, sciences, architecture, literature, and in everything that would tend to embellish and beautify, to exalt and ennoble Zion, and that it was not for us to be led by others, but to lead in everything that pertained to beauty, purity, intelligence, virtue, grace and refinement; and that according to the order and usages of the Church, having been appointed and elected President thereof, it became my duty to take the lead in everything that is calculated to bring about these desirable results and place Zion where she ought to be, first and foremost among the people.

Understanding that this was the sentiment that pervaded the minds of my brethren, especially the more experienced and intelligent, I thought it proper to lay aside those rigid conventional sympathies and usages which more or less govern the honorable among men, and submit myself and my feelings to those high and noble principles indicated by revelation, and comply with the spirit dictated therein, as well as with the views and feelings of my brethren, and to accept their munificent liberality in the generous tender that they made me in the above named resolution, that I might not retard the march of improvement, but lead the van in that progress which the prophets have so beautifully and graphically indicated, and in which thousands and tens of thousands of my brethren

in due time are expected to participate. For Zion is destined, as spoken of by the prophets, to be the praise and glory of the whole earth. This is not a dream or a phantom of the imagination, but a reality which will most assuredly take place.

And while I am very sensitive in parading my personal affairs before the public, yet my brethren, I am sure, will pardon me for the frank expression of my feelings in this matter. I think it proper that in all public matters of this nature, we ought all of us to be ingenuous and act openly and without reserve, that we may comprehend each other's feelings and positions; and while I thank my brethren for their kindness and sympathy, I would not forget to tender my thanks to our Heavenly Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, for His kindness and interposition in my behalf, for I do feel that I and all of us are dependent upon Him for every blessing we enjoy pertaining to this world and the world to come, and therefore wish, in all humility, to acknowledge His hand in all things.

I have received from my brethren in all parts of the Territory, and from other Territories, their congratulations and prayers for my welfare and happiness in the New Year upon which we have just entered, both from individuals and communities, all of which I beg leave most heartily and sincerely to reciprocate. And in my late travels through the Territory I have received very many acts of kindness, courtesy and consideration from the Presidents of the Stakes, the Bishops, and other officers, as well as from the people themselves, wherever I and my brethren journeyed and met with the Saints, and for all acts of kindness and generosity, I feel to thank them, and to tender my most grateful acknowledgments, for I know that they are sincere in their congratulations and expressions of kindness, and I most cordially wish them all a happy New Year.

I tender my hearty thanks to all who have assisted in the erection of the Gardo House. To the architects who designed it, and to all the artisans, laborers, etc.,—to the humblest laborer as well as the most intelligent and talented mechanics and artisans who have assisted in its erection. I cannot but appreciate the taste, ingenuity and intelligence displayed by President Young in the conception and design of the building, and its adaptability for the uses intended; and in the arrangement of the whole edifice his talent and ability are conspicuously exhibited.

There is much credit due to the Committee who provided the furniture, carpeting, tapestry, and other fittings and furnishings; also to the Committee of Ladies (Mesdames Jennings, Barratt and Staines, and other ladies who assisted them), who suggested, supervised and placed the finishing touches upon the internal arrangements and equipments, and who provided the rich, chaste, elegant and beautiful ornaments there exhibited. To these and all persons who have in any way assisted in the erection, adornment and ornamentation of the building I tender my cordial acknowledgments.

JOHN TAYLOR.  
Salt Lake City,  
January 3rd, 1882.

## A HOME FOR THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

In response to the vote of the Latter-day Saints at the General Conference April 9, 1879, President John Taylor has taken up his residence in the Gardo House. It was considered by a number of our leading men that the President of the Church, who is frequently called upon by distinguished people of various nations, should be so situated as to be able to receive them suitably, and also that he should be at least as well housed and cared for as prominent men in Church and State here or elsewhere. The matter being presented to the Saints in Conference assembled, a vote was taken. It was unanimous, and the President has now responded to it.

Anything that is worth doing at all is worth doing well. The Gardo House is an elegant structure, the interior being arranged with a view to comfort and convenience, and the finish and decorations being suitable and substantial. It has been furnished and fitted with excellent taste.

There is nothing extravagant about it, but everything is of a durable character and harmonious with the surroundings.

Some remarkable guesses have been made about the cost of the fitting up of the Gardo House. We are able to state, from information obtained direct, that it will not exceed the sum of \$15,000. The carpets, furniture, hangings and appointments have been selected by competent persons, and while solid, enduring and good, are not by any means either gaudy or pretentious. They are intended for service rather than show, and each article in every room is in keeping with the surroundings.

That the Church should provide a suitable abode for its President, is in keeping with the revelation concerning the Nauvoo House, in which Joseph Smith, by the word of the Lord, was to have place with his generations after him. In these times of general prosperity there is no need for niggardliness in such a matter, and while we are about the business of making a home for our chief, it is fitting that it should be a good one of which no one need be ashamed.

Zion is yet to be the joy of the whole earth, and among her other material attractions will be the buildings erected and adorned by the skill and handiwork of the Saints until, in the words of the Psalmist those who come from afar to view her rising glory, will exclaim: "Walk round about Zion. Tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generations following."

We are pleased to see that one of the veterans of the latter-day work, who has traveled from land to land and from sea to sea, who has suffered with the exiles and bled with the martyrs, forsaken all things for the truth, taken joyfully the despoiling of his goods, ministered to the Saints at home and abroad, shared in the hard times and stood as the Champion of Right for nearly half a century, is now surrounded with comfort, and has a place to lay his head and to receive his friends, that his brethren and sisters may be proud of as an abode for their leader.

President Taylor has the hearty good wishes of the Latter-day Saints for himself and family, and the DESERET NEWS joins with the thousands of Israel who pray for their President and wish him and all his household many happy New Years at home on earth, and endless felicity in the mansions of our God and Father in the heavens.

## THE "COMMISSION" AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

WE direct attention to a letter we have received from a "Native Born Citizen," asking some questions in relation to the constitutional powers of the national government, in reference to the Commission to make laws for Utah Territory, which Congress is now asked to provide.

Our correspondent is perfectly right in relation to the limited powers of Congress under the Constitution. Each State is to some extent independent. Certain powers were relinquished by them as separate and sovereign commonwealths, and vested in the general government. Those powers are plainly designated in the Constitution, and it is specially provided in that instrument that all other powers except those mentioned therein are reserved to the respective States or to the people. Articles nine and ten of the Amendments to the Constitution put this beyond question.

But has Congress any power, of "exclusive legislation?" Yes, it is provided in section eight of the Constitution that Congress shall have power, "To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district (not exceeding 10 miles square) as may by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress become the seat of the government of the United States, etc." The place thus ceded and accepted is called The District of Columbia, and over that territory Congress has exclusive legislative jurisdiction. This power being specially named and limited, it follows that, constitutionally, Congress has no such rightful power over any other part of the United States.

But a system has sprung up that evidently was not contemplated by the framers of the instrument which is the guaranty of popular freedom. Portions of the public domain outside of the boundaries of the several States were settled by citizens, and some form of government became necessary for their welfare and the public good. Therefore, what are called territorial governments were instituted, designed to give those citizens the protection of the national government while in their weakness, and at the same time secure to them some of the forms and liberties of republicanism.

Previous to the adoption of the Constitution and just after the ratifying of the articles of Confederation, an Ordinance was passed by Congress for the government of the territory of the United States north-west of the River Ohio, which was not included in any of the States that were parties to the agreement of union. It was very sparsely settled. Congress therefore appointed a Governor, Secretary and three Judges to take charge of its affairs until the population "numbered five thousand free, male inhabitants of full age."

During the period previous to this, the Governor and Judges were authorized to "adopt and publish in the district such laws of the original States, civil and criminal, as might be necessary and best suited to the circumstances of the district;" these were to be reported to Congress and to be in force until the population of five thousand was obtained, when a General Assembly was to be elected, and this body should have the power of original legislation and of annulling any or all laws framed by the Governor and Judges.

Connected with this Ordinance, as part of it, was a compact between the original States and the Territory, by which perfect freedom of religious faith and worship, the right of habeas corpus and trial by jury, and other privileges, were secured to the people, and also the organization of not less than three nor more than five States out of the Territory, to be admitted into the Union on the same footing as the original States when either of the former should have a population of sixty thousand free inhabitants, and sooner if consistent with the general confederation. The only condition to such admission besides population being, that the constitution and government of the new States should be republican and in conformity to the principles enunciated in the Ordinance.

When the Constitution was adopted, two months later, the United States was bound by Section four of Article four to "guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government." But a territorial system has been established, which, modeled after the plan of the Ordinance referred to, is in many respects anti-republican. The appointment by the general government of the Governor, Secretary, Judges, Attorney, Marshal, etc., without any consultation of the wishes of the people, also the debarring of the citizens in Territories from the right to vote for President and Vice-President of the United States, and from the right to a vote in Congress by a Representative or Delegate, is all subversive of the fundamental principle of our republican system, which declares that governments "derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

The question is, whence is this arbitrary authority derived? Seeing that the Government obtains its powers from the Constitution by which it is regulated and limited, where are the "chapter and verse" for this jurisdiction? We must state candidly that we do not know of any. But those who claim to do so cite a clause of Section three, of Article four, of the Constitution, which reads as follows:

"The Congress shall have power to dispose of, and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory, or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

This is all there is in the Constitution on which to base the claim for exclusive and supreme control, legislative and otherwise, over the Territories. The most ordinary reader will perceive that this clause relates to land; that it is a question of property, not of persons. And the most learned and erudite will

fail to make the words of the paragraph, grammatically or logically, apply to organized communities. Can Congress "dispose" of the people in the Territories? Are they the "property" of the Government? May they be reckoned as chattels? Is not slavery abolished throughout the Union? The whole arbitrary system is founded on a plain distortion of the text of the section, as it is a palpable violation of the sacred principles on which this government is founded. But it has been adopted and has passed into a recognized principle of our national system, with which, however, it is in violent discord.

The plan now proposed for the government of Utah, which is embodied in the bill fathered by Mr. Willets, of Michigan—who, by the way, being not personally gifted with the powers of legislative paternity, has fathered several ill-begotten things spawned by political adventurers—is a further stride away from republican institutions, a still greater trampling upon popular rights, and a more glaring defiance of the doctrines laid down in the Declaration of Independence. There is no "chapter," there is no "verse" for it in the Constitution. It is subversive of every thought and every rule embodied in that "palladium of liberty." There is no palliation or excuse for such an absurdity and infamy in a free republic, except that which has been manufactured by a few Utah political gamblers, who are playing for a place in the Commission, or position growing out of it. Think of it! Seven or nine persons, appointed by the Government, to make laws for a hundred and fifty thousand people, in opposition to their voice and vote! This by a national power pledged to secure a republican form of government throughout the Union!

The only "precedent" quoted for this—there is nothing to justify it in the Constitution—is the method adopted before the Constitution was ordained, in the northwestern territory. And it will be found on examination that the whole spirit and letter of that Ordinance providing for the management of that territory, are opposed to the scheme now desired by the clique that want to grasp Utah and its finances. Read it and see. Compare the conditions of the time localities and communities—as different as a wilderness from a peopled city. Contemplate the compact made with the inhabitants of certain recognized general rights, and the privileges of statehood, contingent only on a population of which Utah has nearly three times as many as were required for one State. Remember that Utah has a Legislative Assembly which holds chartered powers and vested rights under the Organic Act. And then think of a republican Congress breaking up a system of government which has been in active existence for more than thirty-one years, to give the whole Territory and its people to a seven or nine handed Commission!

How would our "Gentile" friends who have large property here like the change? How many of the respectable and mind your own business non "Mormons" of Utah want such an anomalous and dangerous exercise of power over their affairs? What is sauce for the "Mormons" in this matter, will be just as sour sauce for the "Gentiles." Who would want to invest means in a Territory placed under the sovereign control of seven or nine government officials? The carpet-bag rule of the South would be high-toned democracy compared with such a despotism.

Is there not supervision enough now over the Territory of Utah, without utterly departing from the vital principles of our political system? One man appointed by the President and Senate of the United States, usually a perfect stranger to us and our wants, can veto all the Acts of the Legislature elected by the people. All he has to do is to do nothing, and the laws they pass are void; lacking his august signature they are null. Congress has—or exercises—both negative and positive supreme power over us. That body can either annul our laws or make others for our government, without any voice or vote of ours. Judges and court officers of government appointment execute such laws. What more can be wanted? Nothing, we should suppose, by reasonable people. But howling anti "Mormonism" is not, and never has been reasonable. It is not republican, it is not human. It is born of bigotry and nursed by passion, and is hungry for devastation and destruction. We do not