

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

NAUVOO AND THE MORMONS.

For some time past the Peoria, Ill., note, Journal has been publishing reminiscences of early days in Illinois, and on one occasion in particular had some alleged recollections with reference to the Latter-day Saints which were so far from the truth that we felt impelled to call attention to their inaccuracy. In its issue of April 23rd is another of these reminiscence articles which is given under the title at the head of this article and which has in it much more that is accurate than some others have. The Illinois veteran who furnishes the narrative says he was employed in a cooper shop in Rushville, Schuyler county, in 1843 and 1844, and often saw the Prophet Joseph and leading Mormons as they stopped at Lambert's tavern, the Rushville hostelry, en route to and from Springfield, the state capital. Of the proceedings in the years named he says:

You must remember that I was only a boy then and I am not now very proud of the part I took in the anti-Mormon excitement. It was as a boy that I participated in different movements and always under the leadership of older and more wise heads.

With this preface to his remarks he goes on to describe Joseph as "a tall, raw-boned, sallow-complexioned person. He had dark hair and always dressed very neatly. In fact he used to wear clothes that we would then have been satisfied with as our Sunday dude. There was nothing peculiar or eccentric in his manner of either talking or acting, nor did his garb indicate that he was the far-famed Prophet. He used to have considerable business, time and again, in Springfield, the capital of the state, and Rushville was on his route. It was at the time while he was on these trips that I saw him and heard him talk."

The narrator then told how that, in those days, there was much lawlessness going on, and said:

Everybody knew about the Mormons and their methods, or at least everybody thought they did. Not a horse was stolen or a deed of unlawfulness committed that was not laid at the door of the Latter-day Saints. They grew constantly more obnoxious and distasteful all the time. I now feel that much of the crimes accredited to them were unjust, but at the time, being a mere boy, I fell in with the popular belief.

He then stated that finally things reached such a critical stage that companies began to be organized in different parts of the state to drive out the Mormons. One of them was formed in Rushville, and he joined it. They marched to the rendezvous at Carthage. Farmers along the line of march who refused to give them food were considered pretty mean men. They reached Carthage and by that time something like 2,000 men were assembled from all parts of the north-west. "Understand that I now realize we were only rabble, a mob unlawfully assembled," says he; "our company was captained by Charley Lambert, son of the tavern keeper at Rushville,

and every company had its chaplain." At Carthage they were met by Governor Ford, who told them they were "good, loyal, patriotic, noble citizens, and delivered a perfect eulogy" on them, advising them to go home, which they did.

A few months later there was another gathering. "Word was passed from mouth to mouth," says he, "to gather at Carthage with five days' rations; that there was to be a big wolf hunt. Well, gather we did, and there must have been 3,000 of us gathered. You see the way the movement would start was this: Some leader would get up on the public square and make a speech denouncing the Mormons, then some other fellow would do the same thing and it would all wind up by calling for volunteers and then we would all fall in line."

They again met Governor Ford, who advised them to disperse, but most of them were too much worked up to go back without having accomplished something. The Journal account then says of what followed:

No one not an eye-witness to those scenes of excitement can realize how worked up the people were and to what extent they were ready to go. Joseph Smith was in the jail at Carthage and supposed to be under the protection of a local military company, the Carthage Grays. Well, some of the fellows who had not started for home when ordered to do so attacked the guards and jail. I guess the guards didn't resist very much. Joseph tried to escape and jumped from a second-story window when the crowd gathered about the place. He was shot dead. There must have been a dozen bullets fired into his body, and one man, as if to make sure of the work, stuck a bayonet into the body. I was about a mile from Carthage when it happened and hurried into town. I saw Smith. He lay on the ground just outside the building.

It is further stated that the excitement did not die out with the Prophet's death, but "that event only served to increase the agitation against the Mormons, and every particle of lawlessness was attributed to them," culminating in driving them out of the state. Then the narrator closed with the remark:

I want to say that I am not at all proud of my experience and participation in the Mormon agitation. I would much rather talk of other matters in the early history of our state.

There is no doubt of this condition of mind on the part of most of those who acted with the mob in those times; they are ashamed of their work because they have come to learn how wicked it was. And their feelings upon this point give one of many indications that not long hence the assassination at Carthage jail will be condemned in history as the awful crime of shedding the blood of the Prophets that it actually was.

RUSSIA IN ASIA.

The coronation of the czar of Russia, next month, may possibly mark an epoch in the history of the eastern world. At no time since the founda-

tion of the gigantic empire below the Arctic ocean have its rulers had the wealth, the power, the influence they have today. To the present czar, though young and not regarded as a very bright or strong representative of the Romanoffs, the crown that is about to be placed on his head is the symbol of a power that largely commands the destinies of two continents. European statesmen turn to St. Petersburg, as the pivot to the eastern sky, for signs of approaching storms.

But China's fate will also soon be entrusted to the keeping of the rulers of Russia. It is generally believed that the visit of Li Hung Chang to Moscow will bring about this result. For, notwithstanding official denials, he is supposed to bring with him plenary powers, by which virtually one-half of China is ceded to Russia as the price of protection for the other half. Rumor has it that Mongolia and Manchuria are to be opened up to Russian occupancy, and that the Chinese empire will be confined to the territory south of the great wall and from the sea to Tibet.

Should this rumor prove correct, the arrangement must be most unwelcome to at least two powers—England and Japan. The latter is already making preparations on a scale much larger than when the last war with China was planned. The army is being strengthened with the addition of thousands of soldiers and the navy is being enlarged by formidable men of war built in England and cruisers of Japanese construction. Russia has also decided to reinforce her already powerful oriental squadron with not less than seventeen vessels, and England's appropriation for new ships is apt to be looked upon as being prompted by the situation in eastern Asia. It, as seems tolerably certain, Russia's policy now is to acquire supremacy in Asia and predominance over the Pacific ocean, Great Britain and Japan will probably have to join in defense of their interests.

After the coronation festivities the world will know better what the eastern situation is, but that some great scheme is being laid can hardly be considered doubtful.

UNITING ALL IN ONE.

The proposition to have Governor Levi P. Morton, of New York, on Sunday night, touch an electric button at the electrical exposition in New York City that will fire simultaneously cannons in St. Paul, Boston, New Orleans and San Francisco, is a suggestion of how closely the developments of the nineteenth century are binding together as it were the four quarters of the earth. The country within the lines indicated by the four cities named covers a vast area; and if we look back to the methods of a century ago it would take months for communication between St. Paul on the north and New Orleans on the south, or between that eastern center of progress, Boston, and the western metropolis, San Francisco. Now the feat may be accomplished in a fraction of a second; and the probability that the remotest parts of earth will be brought within the almost instantaneous elec-