

## FOURTH OF JULY, 1855.

## CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, AT GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY.

## COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS:

H. S. Eldredge, S. W. Richards,  
H. B. Clawson, L. W. Hardy,  
J. C. Little.

HALF PAST FOUR A.M.—Ere the morning star had been able to announce the presence of the king of day to the inhabitants of this peaceful vale, the serenity and quietude of the morning at this early hour, gave way to the simultaneous music of the bands, ringing of bells, firing of cannon, and hoisting of colors. Captain D. Ballo's band was stationed on the observatory of the Governor's mansion, where was unfurled the territorial flag of Utah; the Nauvoo Brass Band on the balcony of Major General Grant's house, with their unique banner; and the Martial Band on the observatory of the Council House. Cannon stationed on the Temple Block, where a mammoth U. S. flag was hoisted.

From T. S. Williams and Co's. new flagstaff was unfurled the stars and stripes, and from each window of the two upper stories hung out beautiful and appropriate mottoes. First, *UNITY*, represented by a bundle of sticks—"We are one," edged with blue. Second, *UTAH COURAGE*; "A Lion on the alert—the spirit of '76"—bordered with red. Third, "Peace reigns here"—Lion and Lamb—edged with pink. Fourth, "The Mormons defend the rock"—a rock in the ocean and the Constitution lying on it; "Who can prevail against it?"—edged with green. Fifth, a hand reaching from the clouds, giving a scroll bearing the words, "Constitution of the U. S.—Woe to its violators"—edged in purple. Sixth, "The Clerks' Own"—four quarters to the friends of the Union; no quarter to its enemies"—edged in blue velvet. On the windows were displayed three transparencies—"Utah policy to white and red," "the policy of love," "A nut to crack," "Ladies or no homestead?"—"The ladies"—the truce, with "Liberty of conscience, of the press, and our present Governor." This firm had also a cannon stationed in front of their house, near their flag, which belched forth volumes of fire and smoke in honor of this national day.

Livingston, Kinkead & Co., at their flagstaff, displayed the stars and stripes, and hung around, and unfurled in front of their store, beautiful mottoes. Large red flag in front, with white letters, "July 4, 1776." "Hall—the birthday of American freedom." Blue flag, on the top of the house, one large white star in the centre, "STATE OF DESERET." White flag on each front window, with motto, "The Constitution, 1789, esto perpetua." "The Declaration of Independence, 1776." Small red flags with mottoes, "Liberty or death," "Industry the means, and plenty the result."

The stores of Messrs. Howard, Goddard, Townsend, Nixon, Stewart, Jarvis and Hockaday, hoisted our national colors; which also floated from the observatory of Col. J. C. Little's residence. At the front of Mr. Goddard's were hung several elegant banners; also at Thomas and Pugh's; and at Mr. Hockaday's, "1776" was executed in massive silver, encircled with stars.

The morning was beautiful, and when the king of day emerged from behind our snow-capped mountains, undimmed by a single cloud, the scene was lovely to behold. The eye and the ear were charmed, and the heart was made sensibly to feel that our Heavenly Father had poured out upon the inhabitants of Utah, a large portion of his Spirit, with which he endowed our fathers, by the influence of which they had declared their independence, and scorned to submit to injustice and oppression. Thirteen rounds of cannon fired, bells rang one hour, and bands continued playing until six a.m.

EIGHT A.M.—The Nauvoo Legion began to form, concentrating near the Council House. The escort of the Governor and suite formed east of the Council House.

HALF PAST NINE.—The Legion, under the respective commandants of regiments, marched to the parade ground, and were stationed, under the command of Brigadier General Horace S. Eldredge, in order for review.

## ORDER OF ESCORT.

1.—Battalion of Life Guards, under command of Major R. T. Burton.

2.—Captain D. Ballo's band, in a carriage drawn by six bay horses, mounted by six boys in uniform of white pants, fancy tunics, and turbans, in charge of Mr. Chas. Decker.

3.—Committee of arrangements.

4.—The escorted party, viz:—Governor Brigham Young, Hon. Secretary Almon W. Babbitt, Hon. Chief Justice John F. Kinney, Hon. John M. Bernhisel, Major Garland Hurt, Indian agent, Hon. Heber C. Kimball, Major General Jedediah M. Grant, Hon. Orson Pratt, Hon. Wilford Woodruff, Hon. Edward Hunter, Colonel Albert Carrington.

A car was fitted up expressly for the occasion, 16 feet by 7 1-2 inside; 6 feet high to ceiling. Above the ceiling was a beautiful blue silky canopy, glittering with stars, studded all round. From the centre of the canopy on the top, a flag staff was put up about 10 feet high, from which the stars and stripes floated in the breeze. The sides of the car were open from a few inches above the back of the seats to the ceiling; below, the sides were ornamentally fitted up with green, blue, and red damask; the floor richly carpeted. Inside, a bar was erected, and Mr. William C. Staines waited on the party to ice cream and ice water.

In the escort, Lieutenant General Daniel H. Wells and staff were in uniform, mounted on horse.

The car was drawn by eight matched grey horses, in splendid trappings, led by eight grooms in beautiful eastern livery, in charge of Mr. Andrew Moffatt.

5.—Captain L. W. Hardy's Rifle Company.

6.—Captain Hess' Company of Mounted Rangers.

The whole under command of Colonel J. C. Little, marshal of the day.

After the reception of the escorted party, the procession proceeded to the parade ground. The Life Guards, Hess and Hardy's companies taking their appropriate positions in the line; the bands also being stationed at the head of the regiments. Here the Governor and suite passed the Legion in standing review, and inspected the Legion's passing review, which, after having passed, formed on the rear of the escort, and marched through the city by South Temple—second West—third South and East Temple Street, to the Governor's residence.

This division of the Nauvoo Legion made an excellent turn out on the occasion; and in consequence of the ambition displayed by several of the Regiments, in forming in such handsome style, the review presented a grand and imposing display.

7.—A national salute.

HALF PAST TWELVE P.M.—Escort, Legion and procession dismissed.

## AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

HALF PAST TWO P.M.—The inhabitants of the city gathered in the new Bowery, erected immediately north of the Tabernacle, which is estimated to seat 12,000. The board roof not being finished, willows were substituted to shade the congregation.

Meeting called to order by the Marshal of the day.

Music by Captain Ballo's Band: "The star spangled banner."

The following prayer was then offered by the Chaplain of the Legion:—

## PRAYER BY COL. EZRA T. BENSON.

O thou Great and Eternal God in the name of Jesus Christ we present ourselves before thee this afternoon, may this meeting prove edifying and strengthening to us all. We feel grateful before thee for the many privileges and blessings we enjoy in the valleys of the mountains, and for the privilege we have enjoyed this day in celebrating the Anniversary of American Independence.

We realize this blessing to flow from thy great and bountiful hand, that we can make our demonstrations of joy for the blessings of liberty thou hast bequeathed to us through our fathers, and for the favor of worshipping thee the God of our salvation where none dare molest or make us afraid.

Let thy Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts, and enlighten our understandings that we may appreciate our blessings and rejoice this day in the liberty thou hast guaranteed unto us in these peaceful vales. We thank thee for food, for raiment, and for the enjoyment of the society of each other from day to day, and we pray that the blessings of thy Holy Spirit may be extensively poured upon each one of us, that thy people may be blessed and rejoice continually, and continue in the things of thy spirit, and the blessings of thy Holy Gospel delivered to us in these last days.

We ask thee to bless thy servant Brigham whom thou hast appointed to be the President of thy Church, and the Governor of this Territory; may thy peace rest upon him, and his heart be filled with thy Good Spirit, to enlighten his mind, and heal all the infirmities of his body, that his days may be lengthened out, and that he may continue to be a blessing to his brethren, and to thy Church and Kingdom on the earth. Endow his Counselors with the pure spirit of counsel to counsel with him upon the things which pertain to thy Holy Kingdom that it may prosper exceedingly under their administration, that all things may be consummated which have been spoken by the mouths of thy servants the prophets since the world began.

We pray thee to bless their families, their wives, and their children, and all that has been committed to their charge.

Bless thy servants—the Twelve Apostles, with every other Quorum of thy Kingdom, may they be knit together, and move as one man to fulfil thy will, and bring to pass thy purposes.

Remember the institutions of Zion upon all the earth—upon the islands of the sea, and upon the continents; bless all who shall put forth their hands to favor Zion, and bestow upon them favor according to their works, and the amount of good they may do in rolling forth thy Kingdom in every land.

We pray thee to bless the military department in this Territory. We feel grateful for what our eyes have beheld this day, and for the joy, and gladness which our hearts have felt; that we can meet in peace under the banner of liberty which thou hast permitted to be unfurled in our day.

We ask thee to bless all the authorities of this Territory, both military, ecclesiastical, and judicial; bless the judges, the General Government has sent to us, that they may act like men of God awarding even-handed justice to all men that they may do us good, and have no power to do us harm.

We ask thee to hear our prayers, O Lord, and do us all the good we need.

Confound the enemies of thy people among all nations that they may have no power to bring anything against them to injure them, and retard the progress of thy work, and the gathering of thy poor Saints from the nations afar off.

Remember the sick, the poor, and the destitute among thy people, and incline our hearts to administer to their wants, that we may be prospered in the land thou hast given unto us. Bless us, O Lord as a people, bless our habitations, our wives and our children, our flocks and our herds, and every thing over which thou hast made us stewards.

We dedicate and devote ourselves unto thee, and all we possess, praying that thy spirit may be with us to keep us as thy servants and handmaidens from this time henceforth and forever, that we may live unspotted before thee and before each other that we may reap, as our reward, glory, honor, and exaltation in thy Kingdom, which blessings we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

"Hail Columbia," by Nauvoo Brass Band.

General Daniel H. Wells read the following resolutions adopting the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States:—

## RESOLUTIONS.

## RESOLVED:—

That in the declaration of American Independence, and the Constitution of the United

States, we recognize those great principles of freedom and liberty, which, being firmly maintained and efficiently carried out with the light of revelation, will disenchant the inhabitants of the earth from oppression and tyranny, priestcraft and bigotry, superstition and ignorance. They form the bulwarks of our liberty, and the protection of the poor, the down-trodden and the meek of the earth. We commend the spirit thereof to the patriotism of the great and the good of the nation, and spurn with contempt all who withhold its benefits, or seek by disunion or otherwise to destroy that sacred legacy of our fathers.

## RESOLVED:—

That we celebrate this day in commemoration of the fourth day of July 1776; as the anniversary of that day upon which our honored and patriotic fathers threw off the shackles of tyranny and oppression, and sought the welfare of themselves and posterity by an Independent Appeal to the world, and with a firm reliance upon the Lord of Hosts to sustain them in the cause of right and justice, and the rectitude of their intentions.

## RESOLVED:—

That while we extol their fame and commend their patriotism, we will seek to emulate their virtues, profit by, and follow their example, and faithfully maintain and transmit to our latest posterity those principles of Liberty and Independence which cost them so great a struggle, fraught with so much consequence to us; and we deplore the prevalence of that spirit of insubordination and disunion which threatens to destroy our free institutions, and plunge the nation into the most inextricable scenes of anarchy and confusion.

## RESOLVED:—

That the same spirit which actuated our forefathers in the day which "tried men's souls," actuates us, and that we are as sensitive to oppression and tyranny as they were, and that while we live, we will claim the extension unto us of free institutions, liberal policy, and free-men's rights; regardless alike of the cool indifference of pretended friends, the malignant hatred and bitterness of enemies, or corruption and influence of time-serving politicians. Those institutions were ours, are ours; we received them as a sacred legacy and rich inheritance from our fathers, and we intend to secure the blessings thereof to ourselves and our children, regardless of the consequences or aspersions of any sect or party.

Which, on motion of General Grant, were adopted unanimously by the congregation, and greeted by the roaring of artillery.

Overture, "H Tancred," by the Orchestral Band.

Colonel George A. Smith delivered the following:—

## SPEECH BY GEORGE A. SMITH.

[REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.]

My friends, I arise on the present occasion to address you with my heart filled with emotions that are not easily described, apart from feelings which pervade my mind resulting from the present celebration of the anniversary of our country's independence. It is with a high degree of pleasure that I witness such an immense assembly, and compare it with celebrations of this ever memorable day which I have attended in my native state, in my early life. The anniversary of the day on which our fathers declared the independence of the American States, I have ever felt a disposition to celebrate, whenever circumstances and situation would possibly admit of it, as the day on which our Fathers declared the independence and freedom of millions of people, yet unborn. It was a great step for a few colonies to take, to attempt to wring from the hands of the King of the most powerful nation upon the face of the earth their liberties, the right of self government, of choosing their own rulers, those inalienable rights which belong to man, and are the boon of his creator, and which kings had held in their grasp for ages. Our revolutionary fathers were unwilling longer to be ground down by iron rules and cast iron notions of one stupid and corrupt ruler, that oppressed them, and struggled for their freedom. Under the guidance and fostering care of the God of heaven, these colonies were made free, free to act in obedience to all those principles he has given the sons of men their agency to act upon.

This is a great illustration of the importance and power of the principle union. When the signers of the declaration of independence put their names to that heaven born instrument, they were perfectly aware that the success of their cause depended upon their being united, it was absolutely necessary that they should all hang together, for if they did not, they were perfectly sensible they would all hang separately. The united colonies at that time were ready to sustain the leader of the revolution almost in mass; there were a few districts where division took place, and those divisions caused more cruelty, bloodshed, and sorrow, than any other circumstance pertaining to the whole revolutionary struggle.

By this grand step, our fathers secured to us the right of self government; however much wicked men may have opposed and abused the institutions the revolutionary fathers have established and put in motion, whatever corrupt office holders may have done in violation of them, the great point is gained which enables the American people to choose their own rulers and produce such a form of government, and such protection as is necessary for their growth, their freedom, and their continual well being.

It was through the most flagrant violation of these sacred rights and principles of the constitution of our country by perjured officers, who were sworn to do their duty and suppress mobs and violence, that the rights of free men, which were bequeathed to us as a priceless legacy, sealed with the blood of our fathers, that the Latter Day Saints were driven, en masse, from their peaceful homes, in the United States, and were obliged to flee, destitute, into a desolate

wilderness, where we are laying a foundation for a state in the great Federal Union, where we can enjoy our own religious institutions, and form a government, and when we are organizing our own community, agreeable to the general constitution of our country, that we may be made partakers of the blessings which are actually guaranteed unto us by that sacred instrument; under these circumstances we rest; until the day shall come that shall so revolutionize our American Government, as to put every treacherous scoundrel where he ought to be, to reap the reward of perjury and corruption, that he may have the privilege of being banished by his maker, that he may enjoy the society of the father of lies until he is satisfied with that kind of fare. (At this point of the speakers remarks, a small round table that had been brought for the Honorable Judge Kinney to lay his papers upon, fell from the stand, upon which the speakers were sitting, and was broken by the fall), so, the end cometh suddenly, the day of corruption is short, and its downfall is sure (great laughter); the old fabric of corruption is getting so rotten, it will fall of itself and crumble to dust without any effort to overthrow it, and the pure principles of good government, justice, righteousness, and purity will become so clearly unfolded, that we shall wonder that it was ever possible such a mass of corruption ever shrouded our country, or that so great a number of the rulers of the American States, should ever give countenance to the rule of mobs, or the destruction of the people's rights by any common convention of scoundrels.

The circumstances and pleasures of the day which have so far passed, would have been without alloy or a pang of grief; but I behold on this platform the vacant seat of one, who was associated with us on the last celebration, one who addressed us on that occasion, with such a flow of natural eloquence and pathos of feeling; and to whose talents and instruction we were indebted for a great portion of the interest of that occasion; the Honorable Leonidas Shaver, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and Judge of this judicial district, has been suddenly called from the busy scenes of this life into eternity; a worthy man, and profound jurist, who by his straightforward and upright course, has honored his profession. His studious attention to his duty, his fine intellect, polished education, and gentlemanly bearing, have won for him the universal admiration and respect of this community. It was only necessary to be acquainted with him to love him. Our worthy instructor and expositor of the law has been called from our midst suddenly. He not only administered the law, but honored it himself. Hear it O ye judicators of the law and pattern after him. And we this day look round upon those that surround us with the solemn reflection, that but a short season can pass, until it will be our turn to follow him.

This circumstance should caution us against sin of every description, and prompt us to live uprightly, walking in accordance with all the laws and principles of human right, and divine revelation that we may be prepared for so great and solemn an event when it shall come—when it shall be our turn to participate in the realities of death.

It is well understood that the principles of truth are bound to prevail, it makes no difference what the opposition may be, nor what length of time that opposition may continue; or how much sin is perpetrated to prevent it, or rivers of blood and millions of treasure wasted to oppose it. Yet, truth will ultimately prevail; and the day will come when a Mormon can be respected in other portions of the world as much as any other man. Yes, exactly as much as though he professed any other religion. Why? Because Mormonism is truth, and truth will prevail; those principles which are laid down in the very formation, and genius of the general government of the United States, knew no religious sect, all were alike, and when these principles can prevail as our fathers handed them down to us, freedom will not be a name; and the day is approaching, and it is not far distant when when all the corruption, and wickedness which serve to bring distress and misery upon a considerable portion of the community will be done away; that order of things will vanish, and this people will have the opportunity of enjoying all their privileges and rights in every portion of their loved country, that they can in these mountains.

If ever William Tell was happy when he found himself free from the grasp of his enemies, so this people felt to rejoice when they were excircled within these vast deserts, and almost impenetrable mountain walls. It was not the beauty of the country, the barren deserts, the rocky mountains, this isolated position, that invited us here; we came here simply because it was the only place of refuge which offered to us security from the hands of our persecutors, where we could actually enjoy our constitutional rights. We are here, thank God, enjoying all the privileges of American freemen, and all the blessings, and ordinances, and powers, which lead to an eternal exaltation in the celestial kingdom of our God.

And I will tell you my friends what I hope; I hope that the first mob that rises in these valleys will experience the same sensation (and worse if possible) that a certain gentleman, a leader of a mob in Jackson county, Missouri, did, whose name was James Campbell, who had been long famed among his comrades as one of the brave t men in that county. It was on the occasion of the battle of the Blue, he gathered up his men, and fired 53 rifles into a small party of the Mormons that were hastily gathered together for mutual protection. There were only fifteen or sixteen guns among the Mormons, they returned the fire, at which many of Campbell's comrades left in a hurry, but he concluded to stay and tussle it out with the Mormons. There was an old revolutionary soldier, named Brace, in the Mormon company, who had fought in many battles under Washington, in the war of independence, he fired his musket at Campbell without effect, and he fired at the old soldier, also without effect, but Campbell being able to load quicker than he could,