

THE DESERET NEWS.

Truth and Liberty.

VOL. V.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1855.

NO. 40.

[Copyright Secured.]

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

AUGUST, 1842.

Aug.—Friday, 26.—At home all day. In the evening in council with some of the Twelve and others. I gave some important instructions upon the situation of the Church, showing that it was necessary, that the officers who could, should go abroad through the States, and inasmuch as a great excitement had been raised, through the community at large, by the falsehoods put in circulation by John C. Bennett and others, it was wisdom in God that the elders should go forth and deluge the States with a flood of truth; setting forth the mean, contemptible, persecuting conduct of Ex-Governor Boggs, of Missouri, and those connected with him in his mean and corrupt proceedings, in plain terms, so that the world might understand the abusive conduct of our enemies, and stamp it with indignation.

I advised the Twelve to call a special conference on Monday next, to give instructions to the elders and call upon them to go forth upon this important mission, meantime, that all the affidavits concerning Bennett's conduct be taken and printed, so that each elder could be properly furnished with correct and weighty testimony to lay before the public.

Great distress prevails in England on account of the dull state of trade.

Saturday, 27.—In the Assembly Room with some of the Twelve and others, who were preparing affidavits for the press.

"Nauvoo, Aug. 27, 1842.

To his Excellency Governor Carlin—Dear Sir:—

I received your letter of the 24th in due time, and now tender you the sincere gratitude of my heart, for the interest which you have felt in my peace and prosperity; and I assure you, that every act of kindness, and every word of consolation have been thankfully received, and duly appreciated by me and my friends also; and I much regret your ill health, and still hope that you will avail yourself of sufficient time to investigate our cause, and thoroughly acquaint yourself with the illegality of the prosecution instituted against Mr. Smith. And I now certify that Mr. Smith, myself, nor any other person, to my knowledge, has ever, nor do we at this time wish your honor to sever from your duty, as an Executive in the least.

But we do believe that it is your duty to allow us in this place, the privileges and advantages guaranteed to us by the laws of this State, and the United States; this is all we ask, and if we can enjoy these rights unmolested, it will be the ultimate end of all our ambition; and the result will be peace and prosperity to us, and all the surrounding country, as far as we are concerned. Nor do we wish to take any undue advantage of any intricate technicalities of law; but honorably and honestly to fulfil all of the laws of this State, and of the United States, and then, in turn, to have the benefits resulting from an honorable execution of those laws.

And now, your Excellency will not consider me assuming any unbecoming dictation; but recollect that the many prosecutions that have been got up unjustly and pursued illegally against Mr. Smith, instigated by selfish and irreligious motives, has obliged me to know something for myself; therefore, let me refer you to the eleventh section of our City Charter, "All power is granted to the City Council, to make, ordain, establish and execute all ordinances, not repugnant to the Constitution of the State, or of the United States, or, as they may deem necessary for the peace and safety of said City." Accordingly there is an ordinance passed by the city council to prevent our people from being carried off by an illegal process, and if any one thinks he is illegally seized, under this ordinance, he claims the right of Habeas Corpus, under section 17th of the charter, to try the question of legality, which is strictly constitutional.

These powers are positively granted in the charter over your own signature; and now, dear Sir, where can be the justice in depriving us of these rights which are lawfully ours, as well as they are the lawful rights of the inhabitants of Quincy and Springfield and many other places, where the citizens enjoy the advantages of such ordinances, without controversy.

With these considerations, and many more which might be adduced, give us the privilege, and we will show your Honor, and the world besides if required, that the Mr. Smith referred to in the demand from Missouri, is not the Joseph Smith of Nauvoo, for he was not in Missouri; neither is he described in the writ according as the law requires; and that he is not a fugitive from justice. Why then be so strenuous to have my husband taken, when you know him to be innocent of an attempt on the life of Governor Boggs, and that he is not a fugitive from justice?

It is not the fear of a just decision against him, that deters Mr. Smith from going into Missouri, but it is an actual knowledge that it was never intended he should have a fair trial.

And now, Sir, if you were not aware of the fact, I will acquaint you with it now, that there were lying in wait, between this place and Warsaw, twelve men from Jackson county, Missouri,

for the purpose of taking Mr. Smith out of the hands of the officers who might have him in custody. Also those two men from Missouri that were here with Messrs. King and Pitman divulged the most illegal and infernal calculations concerning taking Mr. Smith into Missouri, the evidence of which, we can furnish you at any time if required.

And dear Sir, our good feelings revolt at the suggestion that your Excellency is acquainted with the unlawful measures taken by those engaged in the prosecution. Measures, which if justice was done to others, as it would be done to us, were we to commit as great errors in our proceedings, would subject all concerned in the prosecution to the penalty of the law, and that without mercy.

I admit, Sir, that it is next to an impossibility, for any one to know the extent of the tyranny, treachery, and knavery of a great portion of the leading characters of the State of Missouri; yet it only requires a knowledge of the Constitution of the United States and statutes of the State of Missouri, and a knowledge of the outrage committed by some of the inhabitants of that State upon the people called Mormons, and that passed unpunished by the administrators of the law; to know, that there is not the least confidence to be placed in any of those men that were engaged in those disgraceful transactions.

If the law was made for the lawless and disobedient, and punishment instituted for the guilty, why not execute the law upon those that have transgressed it, and punish those who have committed crime, and grant encouragement to the innocent, and liberality to the industrious and peaceable.

And now I entreat your honor to bear with me patiently while I ask what good can accrue to this State or the United States, or any part of this State, or the United States, or to yourself, or to any other individual, to continue this persecution upon this people, or upon Mr. Smith; a persecution that you are well aware, is entirely without any just foundation or excuse?

With sentiments of due respect, I am your most obedient servant,

EMMA SMITH.

Happiness is the object and design of our existence, and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God; but we cannot keep all the commandments without first knowing them, and we cannot expect to know all or more than we now know, unless we comply with or keep those we have already received! That which is wrong under one circumstance, may be, and often is, right under another.

God said, thou shalt not kill; at another time he said, Thou shalt utterly destroy. This is the principle on which the government of Heaven is conducted, by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire. If we seek first the kingdom of God, all good things will be added. So with Solomon; first he asked wisdom, and God gave it him, and with it every desire of his heart; even things which might be considered abominable to all who understand the order of Heaven only in part, but which in reality, were right, because God gave and sanctioned by special revelation.

A parent may whip a child, and justly too, because he stole an apple; whereas, if the child had asked for the apple, and the parent had given it, the child would have eaten it with a better appetite; there would have been no stripes; all the pleasure of the apple would have been secured, all the misery of stealing lost.

This principle will justly apply to all of God's dealings with his children. Every thing that God gives us is lawful and right, and it is proper that we should enjoy his gifts and blessings, whenever and wherever he is disposed to bestow; but if we should seize upon those same blessings and enjoyments without law, without revelation, without commandment, those blessings and enjoyments would prove cursings and vexations in the end, and we should have to lie down in sorrow and wailings of everlasting regret. But in obedience there is joy and peace unspotted, unalloyed; and as God has designed our happiness, the happiness of all his creatures, he never has, he never will, institute an ordinance or give a commandment to his people that is not calculated in its nature to promote that happiness which he has designed, and which will not end in the greatest amount of good and glory to those who become the recipients of his law and ordinances. Blessings offered, but rejected, are no longer blessings, but become like the talent hid in the earth by the wicked and slothful servant; the proffered good returns to the giver; the blessing is bestowed on those who will receive, and occupy; for unto him that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundantly, but unto him that hath not, or will not receive, shall be taken away that which he hath, or might have had.

Be wise to-day; 'tis madness to defer!
Next day the fatal precedent may plead;
Thus on till wisdom is pushed out of time
Into eternity.

Our heavenly Father is more liberal in his views,

and boundless in his mercies and blessings, than we are ready to believe or receive, and at the same time, is more terrible to the workers of iniquity, more awful in the executions of his punishments, and more ready to detect every false way than we are apt to suppose him to be; he will be enquired of by his children; he says, ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find; but, if you will take that which is not your own, or which I have not given you, you shall be rewarded according to your deeds; but no good thing will I withhold from them who walk uprightly before me, and do my will in all things; who still listen to my voice and to the voice of my servant whom I have sent; for I delight in those who seek diligently to know my precepts, and abide by the law of my kingdom; for all things shall be made known unto them in mine own due time, and in the end they shall have joy.

Sunday, 28.—At home. James Whitehead, Peter Melling, Tarlton Lewis, and Ezra Strong were received into the High Priests Quorum at Nauvoo.

The British Convict Ship, "Waterloo," was wrecked at Cape Town, during a gale, and 200 lives lost.

Monday, 29.—This being the day appointed for the conference, referred to on the 26th instant, the elders assembled in the Grove near the Temple. About 10 o'clock in the forenoon President Hyrum Smith introduced the object of the conference by stating "that the people abroad had been excited by John C. Bennett's false statements, and that letters had frequently been received inquiring concerning the true nature of said reports; in consequence of which it is thought wisdom in God, that every elder who can, should go forth to every part of the United States, and take proper documents with them, setting forth the truth as it is, and also preach the gospel, repentance, baptism, and salvation, and tarry preaching until they shall be called home. They must go wisely, humbly setting forth the truth as it is in God, and our persecutions, by which the tide of public opinion will be turned."

There are many elders here doing little, and many people in the world who want to hear the truth. We want the official members to take their staff and go East (not West), and if a mob should come here, they will only have women and children to fight with. When you raise churches send the means you get to build the Temple, and get the people to take stock in the Nauvoo House. It is important that the Nauvoo House should be finished that we may have a suitable place wherein to entertain the great ones of the earth, and teach them the truth. We want the Temple built that we may offer our oblations, and where we can ask forgiveness of our sins every week, and forgive one another, and offer up our offering and get our endowment. The gospel will be turned from the Gentiles to the Jews. Sometime ago almost every person was ordained; the purpose was to have you tried and ready to receive your blessings. Every one is wanted to be ready in two or three days, and I expect there will be a liberal turn out."

Near the close of Hyrum's remarks I went upon the stand, I was rejoiced to look upon the saints once more, whom I have not seen for about three weeks. They also were rejoiced to see me, and we all rejoiced together. My sudden appearance on the stand under the circumstances which surrounded us, caused great animation and cheerfulness in the assembly. Some had supposed that I had gone to Washington, and some that I had gone to Europe, while some thought I was in the city; but whatever difference of opinion had prevailed on this point, we were now all filled with thanksgiving and rejoicing.

When Hyrum had done speaking I arose and congratulated the brethren and sisters on the victory I had once more gained over the Missourians. I had told them formerly about fighting the Missourians, and about fighting alone, I had not fought them with the sword, or by carnal weapons; I had done it by stratagem, by outwitting them, and there had been no lives lost, and there would be no lives lost if they would hearken to my counsel.

Up to this day God had given me wisdom to save the people who took counsel. None had ever been killed who abode by my counsel. At Hauns Mill the brethren went contrary to my counsel; if they had not, their lives would have been spared.

I had been in Nauvoo all the while, and outwitted Bennett's associates, and attended to my own business in the city all the time. We want to whip the world, mentally and they will whip themselves physically. The brethren cannot have the ticks played upon them that were done at Kirtland and Far West, they have seen enough of the tricks of their enemies and know better. Orson Pratt has attempted to destroy himself and caused all the city almost to go in search of him. Is it not enough to put down all the infernal influences of the devil, what we have felt and seen, handled and evidenced of this work of God? But the devil had influence among the Jews after all the great things they had witnessed, to cause the death of Jesus Christ, by hanging him between heaven and earth. They would deliver me up Judas like, but a small band of us shall overcome.

We don't want or mean to fight with the sword of the flesh, but we will fight with the

broad sword of the Spirit. Our enemies say our charter and writs of Habeas Corpus are worth nothing. We say they came from the highest authority in the State, and we will hold to them. They cannot be disannulled or taken away.

I then told the brethren I was going to send all the elders away, and when the mob came there would only be women and children to fight and they would be ashamed. I don't want you to fight but go and gather tens, hundreds, and thousands to fight for you. If oppression comes I will then show them that there is a Moses and a Joshua amongst us; and I will fight them, if they don't take off oppression from me. I will do as I have done this time, I will run into the woods, I will fight them in my own way. I will send brother Hyrum to call conferences every where throughout the States, and let documents be taken along and show to the world the corrupt and oppressive conduct of Boggs, Carlin, and others, that the public may have the truth laid before them.

Let the Twelve send all who will support the character of the Prophet, the Lord's anointed, and if all who go will support my character, I prophesy in the name of the Lord Jesus, whose servant I am, that you will prosper in your missions. I have the whole plan of the kingdom before me, and no other person has. And as to all that Orson Pratt, Sidney Rigdon, or George W. Robinson can do to prevent me, I can kick them off my heels, as many as you can name; I know what will become of them.

I concluded my remarks by saying I have the best of feelings towards my brethren, since this trouble began, but to the apostates and enemies, I will give them a flashing every opportunity, and I will curse them.

During the address an indescribable transport of good feeling was manifested by the assembly, and about 380 elders volunteered to go immediately on the proposed mission.

Treaty signed between Great Britain and China, Chinese to pay \$31,000,000, throw open five ports for trade, and cede Hong Kong to Great Britain.

GREAT HAIL STORM IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY.—A letter, dated Massena, July 23d, to the Ogdensburg "Republican," says:—

On the 13th July a dark cloud was seen in the northwest, rapidly spreading over the horizon, full of electricity and wind. At 11 o'clock the rain and hail were falling thick and fast, commencing on the south bank of Grass river, four miles above Massena Village, passing thence across to the Racket river, at Massena Springs, thence down between those two rivers and over the first tier of farms on the south side of the Racket, injuring more or less the crops of every farm over which the storm passed.

At about four miles below Massena Village, the storm raged in the greatest fury, literally destroying almost every vegetable with which it came in contact.

Twenty-four hours after the storm the hail stones lay eighteen inches in depth, where they rolled from the house of A. Mears, Esq. One hail stone measured six inches in length and five inches in circumference. In the main, they were from the size of a partridge's egg up to that of a hen's egg.

Fruit trees shared largely in the damage done by the storm. Horses and cattle were much bruised, and many turkeys were killed. The damage done to buildings by breaking glass, &c., was very great.

It is estimated, by those who are acquainted with and best capable of estimating the damage done in the progress of the storm, that it will amount to from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars.

THE RATE AT WHICH WAVES TRAVEL.—A paper was read by Professor Bache before the American Scientific Association, stating that at nine o'clock on the morning of the 23d of Dec., 1854, an earthquake occurred at Simoda, on the island of Nippon, Japan, and occasioned the wreck of the Russian frigate Diana, which was then in port.

The harbor was first emptied of water, and then came an enormous wave, which again receded and left the harbor dry. This occurred several times. The United States has self-acting tide gauges at San Francisco and at San Diego, which record the rise of the tide upon cylinders, turned by clocks; and at San Francisco, 4,800 miles from the scene of the earthquake, the first wave arrived twelve hours and sixteen minutes after it had receded from the harbor of Simoda. It had traveled across the broad bosom of the Pacific at the rate of six and a half miles a minute, and arrived safely on the shores of California, to astonish the scientific observers of the coast surveying expedition.

The first wave, or rising of the waters, at San Francisco was seven-tenths of a foot in height, and lasted for about half an hour.

It was followed by a series of seven other waves of less magnitude, at intervals of an hour each.

At San Diego similar phenomena were observed, although on account of a greater distance from Simoda, (four hundred miles greater than to San Francisco,) the waves did not arrive so soon, and were not quite as high.