

When I arrived there, John Williams, the son of said Levi Williams, aged about 28 years, abused me for placing confidence in Joseph Smith and the people of Nauvoo; he then took me by the back of my neck and pushed me away, and said he would not have such stuff in his house; the second time he pushed me by the neck, and his foot to my back; he pushed me several times, and kicked me; again when in the street he kept kicking and pushing me, and abusing me with his tongue. I am sixty-one years old; I did not say anything to him to cause this abuse; but it was all on account of my believing that Joseph Smith and the people of Nauvoo would do nothing but what was according to law.

ALVAH TIPPETS.

Subscribed and sworn to this 20th day of June, 1844, before me,
L. S. AARON JOHNSON,
Justice of the Peace."

I had sent orders to Captain Almon W. Babbitt, commander of the company at Ramus, to come immediately with his company to Nauvoo and help to defend the place, and this morning my brother in law, William McLeary, informs me that when the letter was read to the company, Babbitt refused to come, and said it was a foolish move, and objected to any of the company coming. The company were marshaled into line, when Babbitt said if any of you go, not one will ever get to Nauvoo alive; when immediately my uncle John Smith stepped in front of the line and said, "every man that goes at the call of the Prophet shall go and return safe, and not a hair of his head shall be lost, and I bless you in the name of the Lord."

The company immediately threw the command on Uriah H. Yager, who accepted of it, and started for Nauvoo, although many of them were destitute of boots or shoes; the company had not traveled five miles before they suddenly came upon double their number of the mob, who had two red flags flying, and who had paraded their company, and taken a position in a wood that commanded the road. The company from Macedonia opened fire about 10 feet apart, and marched past them within rifle shot, while the mob fired several guns at them, the balls whizzing past their heads. They came here at daybreak this morning, and I directed the Quarter Master to furnish those who needed with shoes.

I wrote the following letter:—
"Nauvoo, June 20th, 1844.

Brothers Ballantyne & Slater:—

On information from you by J. McIlrick, I would advise that your families remain where they are and be quiet, as the mob will not be likely to disturb them; but any amount of wheat or provisions you may have, you had better remove without delay to Nauvoo, as it will be better for you to bring it here and have your pay, than to leave it for the mob to consume and destroy.

I remain, your brother in Christ Jesus,
JOSEPH SMITH.

Ballantyne & Slater,
Doyle's Mills, near Plymouth, Ill."

I here insert the affidavit of John P. Greene and John M. Bernhisel:—
"State of Illinois,
City of Nauvoo,
County of Hancock,

On the 20th day of June, 1844, personally appeared before me, Aaron Johnson, a justice of the peace within and for said county, John P. Greene, marshal of said city, and John M. Bernhisel; and after being duly sworn, depose and say, that a body of citizens in a mass meeting convened on the 13th inst. at Carthage, resolved to exterminate the Latter Day Saints of the said city of Nauvoo, and that for that purpose, according to the purport of the Warsaw Signal Extra, dated June 14th, 1844, bodies of armed men are coming from the State of Missouri, and also from the Territory of Iowa, and that cannon and ammunition are being transported from the State of Missouri to Illinois for the purpose of utterly exterminating the Latter Day Saints. And your affiants would further state that these bodies of armed men, cannon, arms, and munitions of war are transported in steam boats navigating the waters of the United States, and that the name of one of these boats is the 'Die Vernon'.

JOHN P. GREENE.

JOHN M. BERNHISEL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of June, 1844.
L. S. AARON JOHNSON, J. P."

Dr. Richards wrote the following:—
"Mayor's Office, Nauvoo,
June 20th, 1844.

Dear General—

Yours of the 14th of April was received at a late date; a multiplicity of business on account of the peculiar state of affairs has prevented a reply till now. Your views about the nomination of Gen. Smith for the Presidency are correct; we will gain popularity and extend influence; but this is not all, we mean to elect him, and nothing shall be wanting on our part to accomplish it; and why? Because we are satisfied—fully satisfied, that this is the best or only method of saving our free institutions from a total overthrow.

You will discover by this day's extra Nauvoo Neighbor, and previous papers which I shall forward with this, that we are already being surrounded by an armed mob, and if we can believe a hundredth part of their statements, we have no alternative but to fight or die. All the horrors of Missouri's murders are crowding thick upon us, and the citizens of this county declare in mass meetings, 'no peace till the Mormons are utterly exterminated from the earth.' And for what?

A band of thieves, counterfeiters, bogus makers, gamblers, debauchees, murderers, and

all that's vile, established a printing press in this city for the purpose of carrying on all their hellish plans, and overthrowing every principle of righteousness; and after publishing one number called the 'Nauvoo Expositor,' filled on every column with lies and libel the most dark and damnable it were possible for men or demons to invent on the earth or in the shades of Gehenna, calculated to destroy every chartered right to our peaceful city, and constitutional principles to our nation, being destitute of every vestige of truth, and without one redeeming quality either in the paper or the characters of its publishers.

The City Council on the 10th inst., ordered the press and fixtures to be abated as a nuisance, which order was executed by the proper authorities without delay, without noise, tumult, or confusion.

The proprietors immediately evacuated their houses and the city, and the night following fired one or more of their buildings, just as they did in Missouri, thinking to raise the hue and cry that *Mormons* had done it, and by that means bring a mob on us without a moment's delay; but our vigilant police discovered the fire and abated that also.

Chagrined at their disappointment, and drunk with madness, they next went to Carthage, the county seat and head quarters of mobocracy, and swore that Joseph and about seventeen others had committed a riot, and sent a warrant for their apprehension. They offered to go before any magistrate in the vicinity and answer to the charge; the officer would not consent, but would take them to Carthage; they had threatened their lives at Carthage, and did not consider it safe to go thither, and prayed out a writ of habeas corpus from the municipal court, and were set free.

This only enraged the mob the more, and another writ was issued by a county magistrate in the vicinity, not a Mormon, before whom they were brought, and every exertion made to convict them, but the magistrate discharged them.

This does not satisfy them; they are determined to have 'Jo Smith' brought before themselves for trial at the head quarters of mobocracy, swearing that all they want is to get him out of the city, and they will shoot the 'damned rascal.'

Cannon, ammunition, and men are passing over the Mississippi from Missouri to Illinois, and the mob is collected by hundreds at different points in the county, swearing everlasting vengeance; and when their oaths and writs will end, God knows.

We have sent messengers to the Governor, but had no returns, and shall dispatch messages to the President of the United States next boat.

If the virtuous part of the community, the state, the nation, will come to the rescue of innocence, and the rights our fathers bled to purchase, that our peace and happiness may be secured to us in common with others, it is all we ask; but if they will not, and the mob goes on, we say a dishonorable life is worse than an honorable death, and we are ready for the onset; and we call upon all patriots far and near to lend a helping hand to put down the mob and restore peace.

If this is not done immediately, and the mob attempts to execute their threats, you may soon have the opportunity of beholding that glorious 'vision in the west' you have so sublimely contemplated in your letter.

I write you at this time at the request of the Prophet, and I invite you to come to our assistance with as many volunteers as you can bring, and if the mob cannot be dispersed, and the government will not espouse our righteous cause, you may soon—very soon, behold the second birth of our nation's freedom; for to live without the free exercise of thought, and the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of our consciences, we will not! We will die rather, and go where the wicked cease to trouble; but we firmly believe there are virtuous men and patriots enough yet left to sustain those principles which alone are worth living for. Will you come?

Here is Oregon. Here is California. Where is your ambition? Patriotism? Your 'separate and independent empire,' if you sit calmly still, and see the most virtuous and noble people that ever trod upon the footstool of Jehovah ground to powder by a miscreant mob, and not stretch forth your potent arm for their defence in all the majesty of a God? If you do not, your turn may come next, and where will it cease?

Let the first blow be struck upon us from this hour, and the field is open for every honest patriot from the east to the west sea, and from the river Mississippi to the ends of the earth.

General, will you stand neutral?—Come, and you will know for yourself.

I close in haste, with good wishes to yourself and family,

Gen. J. A. Bennett,
Arlington House, N. Y."

I write to those of the Twelve Apostles who are absent on missions, to come home immediately, viz.: Brigham Young, Boston; Heber C. Kimball, Washington; Orson Hyde, Philadelphia; Parley P. Pratt, New York; Orson Pratt, Washington; Wilford Woodruff, Portage, N.Y.; William Smith, Philadelphia; George A. Smith, Peterboro'; John E. Page, Pittsburgh; and Lyman Wight, Baltimore. Also to Amasa Lyman, Cincinnati, O., and George Miller, Richmond, Madison Co., Ky. I sent the letters by express by Aaron M. York to the Illinois river, on account of the stoppage of the mails.

At 8 p.m., Thomas Bullock came and read to me the affidavits of Isaac Morley, Gardner Snow, John Edmiston, Edmond Durfee, Solomon Hancock, Allen T. Waite, James Guymon, Obadiah Bowen, Alvah Tippetts, Hiram B.

Mount, and John Cunningham, with the affidavits; and afterwards the affidavits were all sworn to before Aaron Johnson, Esquire.

Ten p.m., John Pike and Henry Gates went to the quarters of the Major General, and informed him they had seen a number of men driving about 300 head of cattle in the direction of the mob camp; the drovers reported themselves as having come from Missouri, and were about nine miles from Nauvoo.

I gave directions to Theodore Turley to commence the manufacture of artillery; he asked me if he should not rent a building, and set some men to repairing the small arms which were out of order; I told him in confidence that there would not be a gun fired on our part during this fuss.

I extract the following from a letter from R. D. Foster, dated "Carthage, June 20th, 1844," to John Proctor, sen., Nauvoo:—

"We have a hundred barrels of flour here for the folks, and Nauvoo has no means to live only from the country, and that is cut off sure; there are thousands of armed men ready now, and thousands more coming from Missouri, and the country around. Tell John to sleep in the barn, and take care of fire and robbery, and all my things there, as I shall be home soon. Tell Amos Davis to keep his eyes open, as we learn that consecration law will soon commence on him; this we know, and he had better look out sharp; let him read this sheet. Tell Norton Gibbs and all my boys that I should be glad to see them a minute, but I cannot come; they must be patient and faithful and I will be there, and reward every man according to his desert; and I won't forget the perjured villains there either."

I advised my brother Hyrum to take his family on the next steamboat and go to Cincinnati. Hyrum replied, "Joseph, I can't leave you;" whereupon I said to the company present, "I wish I could get Hyrum out of the way, so that he may live to avenge my blood; and I will stay with you and see it out."

Friday, 21.—About 10 a.m., I rode out with my guard up Main Street, past the Major General's quarters, and reviewed the Legion. I returned to headquarters about 2½ p.m., having met Col. Elam S. Freeman and Mr. Bartlett, who came as express from the Governor who had arrived at Carthage this morning, and they delivered me the following letter:—

"Head Quarters, Carthage,
June 21st, 1844.
To the Hon. the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Nauvoo:

Gentlemen:—Having heard of the excitement in this part of the country, and judging that my presence here might be necessary to preserve the peace and enforce the laws, I arrived at this place this morning. Both before and since my arrival, complaints of a grave character have been made to me of certain proceedings of your honorable body. As chief magistrate it is my duty to see that impartial justice shall be done, uninfluenced either by the excitement here or in your city.

I think before any decisive measure shall be adopted that I ought to hear the allegations and defences of all parties. By adopting this course I have some hope that the evils of war may be averted; and at any rate I will be enabled by it to understand the true merits of the present difficulties; and shape my course with reference to law and justice.

For these reasons I have to request that you will send out to me at this place, one or more well informed and discreet persons, who will be capable of laying before me your version of the matter, and of receiving from me such explanations and resolutions as may be determined on.

Col. Elam S. Freeman will present you this note in the character of a herald from the Governor; you will respect his character as such, and permit him to pass and repass free from molestation.

Your messengers are assured of protection in person and property, and will be returned to you in safety.

I am, gentlemen, with high consideration, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
THOMAS FORD,
Governor and Commander in Chief."

I immediately notified the City Council to meet in session at 4 p.m. About 11 a.m., a rumor was circulated at Gen. Dunham's head quarters, that Joseph H. Jackson was seen at Davidson Hibberd's. He ordered out a posse to arrest him, which went accordingly, but returned without success.

At 4 p.m., I met with the City Council, when the affidavits of the following persons were read, viz.: Isaac Morley, Gardner Snow, John Edmiston, Edward Durfee, Solomon Hancock, William Gardner, John G. Lofton, Allen T. Waite, James Guymon, Obadiah Bowen, Alvah Tippetts, Hiram B. Mount, John Cunningham, Cyrus Canfield, Gilbert Belknap, Anson Call, David Evans, William E. Horner, Stephen Markham, Thomas G. Wilson, John P. Greene, John M. Bernhisel, Truman Gillett, jr., Carlos W. Lyon, and H. T. Hugins; when Dr. J. M. Bernhisel, Councilor John Taylor, and Dr. Willard Richards were appointed by the Council to return with the express to the Governor at Carthage, and carry said affidavits with the following letter:—

"Nauvoo, June 21st, 1844.
Sir:—The affidavits and hand-bills herewith connected are submitted for your Excellency's consideration.

Respectfully, I have the honor to be
Your obedient servant,
JOSEPH SMITH.

Thomas Ford, Governor of Illinois,
Carthage."

Messrs. Taylor and Bernhisel went accordingly; but Dr. Richards tarried to prepare additional documents.

The following affidavit was taken:—
"Nauvoo, June 21st, 1844.

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

Personally appeared, John P. Greene, before me, Willard Richards, Recorder of said city, and after being duly sworn, depose and saith, that on or about the 27th day of May, 1844, while at Hamilton's tavern in Carthage, county aforesaid, in company with Joseph Smith and others, Robert D. Foster called deponent into a private room, and there and then said, 'for God's sake, don't suffer that man, Joseph Smith, to go out of doors, for if he steps outside of the door his blood will be spilt,' to which statement deponent replied he had no such fears; when said Foster confirmed said statements with considerable emotion, and said he knew that Smith could not go out of doors but his blood would be spilt.

Deponent asked Foster who would do it; Foster said he would not tell, but he knew the proud spirit of Jackson—that he would not be insulted, and that he would kill Joseph Smith if he had to die on the spot, and there were many others in Carthage who would assist to do the same thing. Joseph H. Jackson was in the house below at that time.

A day or two previous to the above conversation, while at Carthage aforesaid, deponent heard Joseph H. Jackson say that Joseph Smith was the damndest rascal in the world, and he would be damned if he did not take vengeance on him if he had to follow him to the Rocky Mountains, and said Jackson made many more such like threats against Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith.

JOHN P. GREENE.

Sworn and subscribed this 21st day of June, 1844, before me,
L. S. WILLARD RICHARDS,
Recorder of the City of Nauvoo."

And as this affidavit confirms what was told me in Carthage, I made the following affidavit:—

"June 21st, 1844.

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

Personally appeared, Joseph Smith, before me, Willard Richards, Recorder of the city of Nauvoo, and after being duly sworn depose and saith, that while at Hamilton's tavern at Carthage in the county aforesaid, on or about the 27th day of May, 1844, whither deponent had gone to transact business in the circuit court of the county aforesaid, Charles A. Foster took deponent into a private room and told deponent there was a conspiracy against the life of deponent, and that deponent had not better go out of doors, if he did his blood would be shed. Foster said he was deponent's friend, and did not want to see bloodshed.

JOSEPH SMITH.

Sworn and subscribed this 21st day of June, 1844, before me,
L. S. WILLARD RICHARDS,
Recorder of the City of Nauvoo."

I instructed my clerks, Willard Richards, William Clayton, Thomas Bullock, and John McEwan, to prepare all necessary papers and affidavits ready to be sent to the Governor tomorrow morning.

Joseph Jackson made the two following affidavits:—

"State of Illinois,
City of Nauvoo,

On the 21st day of June, 1844, came before me, W. W. Phelps, Clerk of the Mayor's Court, Joseph Jackson, and after being duly sworn, depose and saith, that on Tuesday, the 11th inst., he was in Nauvoo, when Francis M. Higbee, while speaking of the destruction of the printing press said he was very sorry, for the proprietors had set up that press for the destruction of the city, and that he meant to kill Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith, and he saith no further.

JOSEPH JACKSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of June, 1844.

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

"State of Illinois,
City of Nauvoo,

On the 21st day of June, 1844, came before me, W. W. Phelps, Clerk of the Mayor's Court for said city, Joseph Jackson, and after being duly sworn depose and saith, that on the 19th day of June inst., at his residence near Pilot Grove in the afternoon, about twenty-four persons fired about twenty-six guns at him, and that the balls whistled close by his head; thus, this mob, of which John McKay was one, fired about one hundred guns, but not all at your affiant; and that this mob was very noisy, cursing and swearing that they would kill every damned Mormon, and he says no further.

JOSEPH JACKSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of June, 1844.

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

At 7 p.m., James Emmett went by order of the Sergeant of the Guard at the Stone House to the Major General, and reported the crew of the 'Maid of Iowa' for firing five guns contrary to orders, which were, that any firing of guns was an alarm.

After the news had reached the city of the Governor's arrival at Carthage, an express was sent to Keokuk to stop an express which I had sent to the Governor at Springfield before I had learned of his arrival at Carthage.

An officer of the United States army, having arrested a deserter, came to Nauvoo, and staid at my house all night.

Col. Brewer and lady arrived at the Mansion about 9 p.m.; also James W. Woods, Esq., my attorney, from Burlington.

At 10 p.m., Private — Minor gave information that as he was passing, an hour since, about two miles out of the city to his home, he