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## THE MASS MEETING.

The meeting of the citizens at the Tabernacle in this city, on Monday last, the report of the proceedings of which occupy a wide space in this number, was one of the largest political assemblages ever held in the Territory. The hall was filled at an early hour, and how many there were on the outside who did not gain admission we had no means of ascertaining, as, anticipating the rush, we secured a seat in good season, and at the close of the proceedings, egress was not obtained till it was too late to ascertain how many had been standing without, or who of the thousands who were moving from the inclosure had been so fortunate as to get within doors on the important occasion.

There was much enthusiasm manifested, not of that wild nature sometimes seen in democratic assemblages, but exhibiting unmistakably the feelings and sentiments of all present in reference to the subject of forming a State Government to supersede the Territorial organization provided by Congress for the rule of the people and the control of governmental affairs in this far off and inland portion of the continent, ill suited to the wants of the people and subversive of their inherent rights. There was not a dissenting voice to the proposition to call a convention, to adopt a Constitution and form of State Government, and then, should it be ratified by the people, to ask Congress respectfully but firmly for admission into the Federal family on an equal footing with the original States. Everything was conducted strictly according to republican principles and with a unanimity elsewhere unknown.

We have attended many political meetings in former years but never one where there was as much firmness of purpose and general good feeling manifested as there was at the meeting of the sovereigns of Great Salt Lake on the 6th inst., at the Tabernacle. All seemed interested in the matter and anxious to deplace the Territorial yoke and to institute, in place thereof, one less oppressive in its nature and of home manufacture.

## The Telegraph.

The overland telegraph line, by which our city is in daily communication with the Atlantic and Pacific States and the British North American Provinces, is one of the greatest and grandest institutions of recent construction. There have been a few interruptions to the regular transmission of news since it went into operation in consequence of the breaking of the wires, and of other casualties occurring to the line across the wide extended plains and over the high hills intervening between the Missouri and the Pacific; but the operations of the war in Missouri through which the wires were stretched from the Mississippi to St. Joseph, have caused the greatest hindrances—the Secessionists seemingly having a great aversion to such institutions, especially to those in which they are not interested. That difficulty has recently been removed by the construction of a line across the State of Iowa, which went into operation on Friday last, by which Great Salt Lake City is now in direct communication with Chicago without passing through the ill-fated State of Missouri.

A dispatch from New York at 8 p.m. on Saturday last, repeated at Buffalo and Chicago, was received here at 7 1/4 p.m., which would, of course, be a mystery to those not knowing the difference in time between the two points, and unacquainted with the properties of electricity.

The workings of the telegraph are very satisfactory to the citizens generally, in addition to which, the gentlemanly demeanor of those who had charge of its construction and of the operators and others connected with the institution, now in our city, is a matter of general commendation.

## THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Minutes of a mass meeting of the citizens of Great Salt Lake City, held January 6th, 1862, in the Tabernacle, at 12 o'clock m., to take into consideration the propriety of electing delegates to a Convention to be held in the Court House in this city, on the 20th inst., for the purpose of adopting a Constitution and form of State Government, preparatory to admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States.

While the citizens were assembling, "Bal-lo's band," who occupied the platform of the orchestra, performed in good style, "Hail Columbia," after which,

The assembly was called to order by Col. J. C. Little, City Marshal, who briefly stated the object of the meeting.

Hon. Edward Hunter was elected Chairman, and William Clayton, Secretary, by unanimous vote.

A committee of five was then elected to draft resolutions, etc., expressive of the sense of the assembly, viz.: Hons. Daniel H. Wells, William H. Hooper, John Taylor, George A. Smith and Abraham O. Smoot.

President Brigham Young offered up a very appropriate prayer, after which, the committee retired, for the purpose of attending to the duties assigned them.

During the absence of the committee, the audience were entertained by a very impressive address by President Brigham Young, followed by a song from Mr. Dunbar, and music by the band.

After a lapse of three-quarters of an hour, the committee returned, and reported an Address, Preamble and Resolutions, which were read by the Secretary, as follows:

## ADDRESS.

## FELLOW CITIZENS:

It is now over eleven years since the Congress of the United States passed an act organizing and establishing a Territorial government for this Territory, when the Government began to exercise the prerogative of selecting, appointing, and sending to our Territory from distant States, men as officers and representatives of "Federal power."

At that time, the people of this Territory had, for some four years, lived in the full enjoyment of a Provisional State government, having a constitution republican in its form and operation, providing for the free election by the people of the officers, distributing the powers of government into separate departments, Executive, Judicial and Legislative.

Up to this time no "representative of Federal power" had appeared in our midst, and yet we had a government working for the interest of the people, shaping their policy, promoting their interest, preserving law and order, punishing crime, and defending the people against the inroads of the savage foe; and all this without aid, counsel or favor from the parent, or any other State or government.

We merely revert to this state of affairs at the commencement of our Territorial history to show, that as a people, a community, we combined then, at that early day, all the elements, material, ability and capacity, coupled with the disposition necessary to establish and maintain from our own resources, and from our own community, to satisfy the varied wants of at least the people of this Territory in their government; and of that liberal, free and republican character which should have been satisfactory to the most fastidious, where the whole superstructure was supposed to be based upon the will of the people. We then asked for admission into the Union, feeling that it would be a privilege to have the selection of our own officers and the maintaining of our own government. The Washington Government, choosing to be at the expense themselves, refused our application for admission, and gave us a Territorial form of government in which we acquiesced, and under the provisions of which we have since existed.

No sooner, however, did the "representatives of Federal power" from distant States make their appearance in our midst, than a strife, and we might say, a warfare, commenced between them and the citizens of the Territory, and so far as they could influence it, between the citizens and the parent Government.

These Government officials from distant States have ever come among us as now, the "representatives of Federal power," instead of being the representatives of constitutional law, impartial justice, or as ambassadors of American liberty. They have almost universally disregarded law, trampled under foot the Territorial authority, failed to execute the law when the power was exclusively in their hands to do it, sought to produce distrust and enmity between this Territory and the General Government and people of the United States. They have turned loose upon the community criminals convicted by our juries and confined in our prisons, to again prey upon our property, and incited the savage foe to hostile deeds against us.

Writhing under hardships such as these, and to get rid of them, we held a convention in March, 1856, formed and adopted a constitution, and again by our Delegates knocked

at the doors of Congress for admission, and were again refused, actually spurned away; a deaf ear was not only turned to our complaints, but detraction, misrepresentation and falsehoods followed, set on foot and substantiated by perjured officials, representatives of "Federal power;" until the summer of 1857 witnessed the appointment and outfit of another, and entire new set of representatives of Federal power marching hitherward, backed by Federal steel, which well nigh terminated in civil war, in deadly strife; but which was finally averted without the shedding of blood, though at a vast expense of treasure and trouble to the nation as well as ourselves.

All parties now agree that this crusade was the result of slanderous official reports, made for sinister and corrupt purposes. We have heretofore, and not unfrequently, represented these injuries to the Federal Government, but to no apparent purpose. When we have calmly, persuasively, and mildly stated our views, they have unheeding passed them by. If incorporating more earnestness and force in the expression of our views, they have been considered insulting, and in either case disregarded.

Fellow citizens, what has brought us here to-day? Is it not to consider these matters, and give utterance to the feelings of an outraged people? We speak, Mr. Chairman, for ourselves, and in behalf of this people who are turning out en masse throughout the entire Territory, and in the sovereign capacity, considering the present crisis of their own affairs. We, sir, the people of this Territory are tired of this order of things, and have met to say so, and to let our united voice again go up to the Federal Government, asking for the rights of freemen. We, sir, are exercising this day the undoubted right of freemen, in peaceably assembling together, and taking measures for the redress of our grievances.

As before stated, for over eleven years have we tried this Territorial form of government, and now we are led to ask the General Government, why continue to try it longer, since it has proved so decided, though not so expensive a failure? Does Mr. Lincoln, his Cabinet, or the houses of Congress, think it will prove any different in the hands than in those of former administrations?

Well, let us look and see what are the indications! How stands this matter to-day? His Excellency Governor Dawson, lately arrived from some place in the State of Indiana, presents himself in the Territory as Governor. Without soliciting the appointment of this man to this office, without petition, without any manifestation in his favor by the people; aye more, without their consent, knowledge or desire, he comes, and says that he is the representative of "Federal power," and he comes with "tests of loyalty," averring that some one, or somebody else, has said somewhere, in the distant country where he has come from, that this people had been accused of disloyalty to the Government. He enters upon the duties of his office, a resident of three days; issues his Message; vetoes the first act presented to him passed by the Legislative Assembly, rendering as one of his reasons for so doing, that the Organic Act provides that all laws passed by the Governor and Legislative Assembly shall be presented to the Congress of the United States, and if disapproved by it, that they shall be null and void; and averring there is not time for this act to be so submitted, before it would go into operation.

Now, the Governor, probably, was not aware that his own approval was all that was necessary to make the act effective, and that it would so remain in force until so disapproved by Congress as before stated. Never since this Territory existed, has it transpired that Congress has manifested to any person that it had not disapproved of an act of the Governor and Legislative Assembly, nor indeed of its disapproval of any; and yet our laws have been considered in force, adjudicated upon by the Federal Judges, and executed, and carried into effect by the executives and ministerial officers generally; but, according to this man's theory, they could not be considered in force until it was known whether Congress disapproved them or not!

Again, he assigns as another reason, that time sufficient is not given for the people of the Territory to be sufficiently notified so as to have an opportunity of acting intelligently upon the subject matter therein contained. Now, we are not going to find fault with Governor Dawson for giving such flimsy reasons for returning the bill, neither are we going to follow him any further therein; but, we ask you, fellow citizens, what better could we expect of a stranger? He arrives here from a distant State, sojourns two or three weeks, and goes home again some fifteen hundred miles away; as a matter of course, he is unacquainted with our laws, the construction put thereon, the practice of his predecessors, the people and the government. Of course he did not know that the views of the people of this Territory had ripened into a Convention and an application for admission into the Union six years ago; and that the Delegate of the Territory had presented it over and over again, and this he did not know, when he assigned as a reason for not signing the Memorial to Congress, that there was no accompanying constitution. Of what use is such a Governor to either the Territory or the General Government? How can the President, the Cabinet, or Congress expect him to be of any use? It is unreasonable to expect that any man, similarly chosen and appointed, should feel any deep or abiding interest, or be of any benefit, like citizens of the Territory would, whose interest, being identified with the people, would seek their prosperity at

home, and properly represent them abroad. This furnishes one great reason for the discontinuance of a practice so pernicious and subversive of the principles of popular government; and to right this, and many other abuses, have we met in council this day.

Mr. Chairman, it was only a few days since, when another representative of Federal power, from some other distant place, which we do not now remember, suddenly slipped away off into his Judicial district, where he has never resided according to the law of Congress which provides that the Judges shall reside in their respective Judicial districts, and trampling the law of the Territory as well as that of Congress under his feet, released a thief from the Penitentiary, turning him loose to prey upon the community.

Mr. Chairman, we have met to take lawful steps to rid ourselves from such mal-administration; we are together to select our delegates to meet in convention, on the 3d Monday of this month, to form and adopt a constitution and State government, and to memorialize Congress to grant us admission. We wish you, Sir, to instruct those delegates, in our behalf, that we are tired of having officers sent among us, who cannot be presumed to have any knowledge respecting the policy, feelings, ability, character, disposition, interest or welfare of this people, and setting at defiance our laws, or to longer insult us by their unwelcome presence. We wish, Sir, to instruct that convention to say this to the General Government; aye, more; tell them, these are your officers, not ours; and that they misrepresent us; and we would be sorry to believe they do not misrepresent the General Government. Our experience has proven that both you and we can get along better without them than with them.

Is not the Government yet satisfied with the folly and disgrace which it has exhibited to all the world, and which has been entailed upon her by reason of being misled—actually betrayed—by the misrepresentations of those representatives of "Federal power" which it has sent to this Territory. From the disastrous campaign of President Buchanan, in 1857-8, to their inglorious retreat in 1861, when, by the order of the present administration, they destroyed some two hundred tons of guns and other munitions of war, the same as though they had been in the country of alien enemies, when, at the same time, they owed the Territory their quota of public arms, which as yet, has never been supplied. From the promulgation of Col. Alexander's and down to H. M. Fork, the proclamation of Gen. A. S. Johnston refusing to take the oath, to the proclamation of President Lincoln declaring Uinta Valley an Indian reservation—all of which acts, and scores of others of like nature, too tedious to mention, our Government ought to be, and doubtless is, ashamed of, if their high sense of honor and dignity would allow them to acknowledge it—are the result of, and traceable to, the misrepresentations and influence of those unworthy representatives of Federal power, the recipients of Federal patronage.

We ask again, if the Government is not yet satisfied with these misleadings, and of being thus ignobly betrayed into those disgraceful dilemmas, what combination of calamitous circumstances or events can make them so? Would it not be better for the government, its interest, as well as its honor, to remedy these great evils by abolishing the source from which they spring?

If we must have Representatives of Federal power, let them come from our midst, bearing with them the emblems of peace, of equity, of constitutional law, and of American liberty for freemen, for American citizens.

Mr. Chairman, tell that convention to form a government, under the provisions of which we can have the privilege of choosing our own rulers in accordance with the genius of American institutions, and the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let that convention say to the Government, that a delegate to Congress without a vote is no representative and taxation without representation, formed one of the leading causes of revolt from the mother country in the days of the revolution, in the days of an Adams, a Jefferson, and a Washington. Tell them, further, that necessity compels us, for our safety, in order to preserve ourselves from the depredations of the midnight marauder, the assassin, to tie the hands of their Eckles, their Crosby's, their Cradlebaughs, and their Drummonds. Say to them, in your sovereign capacity as Delegates direct from the people, that we gave "tests of loyalty" to the State of Missouri, when they marched us up between two rows of soldiers, and forced us to sign deeds to convey away our property for which we had paid our money to the General Government; when we surrendered our arms into their hands, at the instigation of an infuriated mob; when we surrendered ourselves at the same instigation of mob power into the hands of the authorities of the State of Illinois, under the pledged faith of the State for safety and protection, and were treacherously massacred; when you treated with us, you, representing mobocratic power, and we, holding the laws and constitution of our country in our hands, claiming their protection, to sever the ties of kindred associations of life, and expatriate ourselves from home and country and seek a shelter in the barren wilds; and when upon our journey upon the banks of the Missouri, far beyond your settlements in 1846, in poverty, in sickness, you required five hundred men from our traveling camps to aid you in your war with Mexico, and which were immediately furnished, and then tell them that our tests