

THE DESERET NEWS.

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"Expedition Against Utah."

Strange as it may seem, office holders and administrators of a Republican Government have, with but few exceptions, forgotten the principles so dearly established by our Revolutionary sires, and are violating the very genius of the free institutions they are sworn to maintain. And it is a curious fact that the very tyranny thrown off by the thirteen original States has all the while been measurably fastened upon our Territories through 'taxation without representation', through appointing officers in opposition to the well known choice of the people and without their being allowed a vote or even voice in the matter, and through direct and unconstitutional legislation (in organic acts) for internal regulations over which they alone have the right to legislate, until at length, emboldened by success, bloated with imaginary power, rotted by cliques and parties and fired with the spirit of despotism, the very Government, whose Constitution absolutely forbids the passage of a law 'prohibiting the free exercise of religion', are designedly prosecuting a movement against their own citizens in one of the Territories, solely with a view to utterly crush out that dearest right of all, religious freedom. Who does not wish to enjoy the rights equally guaranteed to all citizens by our Constitution? But it appears that the Government have at last thrown off the mask and are making unmistakable efforts to deprive of that privilege a large class of Americans previously disfranchised, exiled, and now settled amid rocks and deserts to whose conquest they furnished an inhumanly required excessive quota of troops, and where no others would of choice make their homes.

The term Government, when unqualified in this article, is invariably used as synonymous with the exercise of governmental authority, or with the administrators of the Government, and in contradistinction to the Constitution of the United States, which the Saints ever have most strictly and cheerfully obeyed and sustained and intend so to do, as also all Constitutional laws, for they in nowise curtail a single act which a Saint desires or expects to perform.

From the day in which Joseph Smith the Prophet began to receive revelations from Jehovah, earth and hell have been moved to compass the overthrow and extermination of the Latter Day Saints. State after State—Ohio, Missouri and Illinois—has mobbed, tarred, feathered, killed, plundered, and expelled them, while the Government has chuckled over such illegal and inhuman treatment. And worse still, while saying 'your cause is just, but we can do nothing for you', they have actually operated against us. And while suffering a State to kill, oppress and expel a part of its citizens, because, forsooth, neither the legislature nor the executive of that State had applied for protection 'against domestic violence', upon what principle did the Government invariably side with the oppressor? That cursed and suicidal operation—the administrators trampling under foot the Constitution and laws they were intrusted and sworn to administer—did not manifest itself so plainly while the Saints were in Ohio, for they were then few in number, and their enemies, entirely ignorant of the power of those pure principles by which the servants of the Most High are actuated, fondly imagined that expulsion from that State would effect their utter overthrow. But in Missouri all could plainly see that the Government themselves were openly hostile to the Saints, as will appear most obvious in the consideration of a few questions.

Who controls the United States mails? The Post Office Department in Washington, under authority from Congress which has the power 'to establish post offices and post roads.' Who stops those mails? That same Department, for no other person has the right. And while the Saints were being mobbed in Missouri the mails were prohibited from carrying letters to them when letters were carried as usual to their enemies, thus lending Governmental aid to mobs so far as was then deemed politic, and affording the patriotic (?) spectacle of a majority of the leading men of our nation siding with the oppressor, and proving beyond question that a Government founded by the blood of our fathers, as a sure refuge for all lovers of freedom, had thus early and openly began to give stones instead of bread and scorpions instead of fish, through treasonably abetting religious intolerance. Has not the Govern-

ment acted with mobs in killing, distressing and driving an innocent people? Yes, every time. Talk about treason, rebellion, and resistance to law! Why, with but few exceptions which now scarcely dare to even whisper, the very office holders and administrators of our Constitution and laws are and for long years have been tearing at the very vitals of our free institutions. And corruption has now gained such an ascendancy that if any one so much as raises his voice against it, though in a style as plain as noon, priests, editors, politicians, blacklegs and the devil raise a joint howl throughout the length and breadth of our land, and it is caught up and repeated by the London Times and their other coadjutors throughout the world. Verily does parson Brownlow write most truly when he states, 'and if the present generation of men' (particularly the majority of office holders and office seekers in our nation) 'could see themselves in the Gospel glass, they are as black as hell.'

In Nauvoo, Illinois, the same Governmental mail-stopping upon the Saints was adopted some two or three times, and for several weeks at a time during the mobbings which terminated, for a brief period, in the fiendish assassination of the Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum Smith. We have all the time known the designs and plans of the Government, and now for them to talk about the 'Expedition against Utah' being peaceful! Fudge. If they wish us to believe such cursed nonsense, why not first re-instate us in those rights and privileges they deprived us of in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri, and use a little show of effort to bring the assassins of Joseph and Hyrum to justice? Have they ever done so? All the world know that they have not. And all Saints know full well that from the beginning they wickedly feared and hated Joseph, and that they did not rest until they had destroyed his life from the earth, and that too while he had the pledged faith of a sovereign State for his protection during an imprisonment to which he had been dragged solely under mere color of law, for he had committed no crime.

But are Missouri and Illinois the only regions in which the Government have most outrageously abused the Saints in regard to mail facilities? The Post Office Department knows that Utah from its first settlement has been imposed upon by mail contractors, and yet, just so soon as the mail for the first time began to be carried speedily, regularly and safely between this City and Independence, that Department trumped up a shallow pretext for taking away the contract and stopping the mail, for no apparent cause except that it was for once being carried speedily, regularly and safely, (and likely to be so carried,) and that the contract was legally in the hands of a 'Mormon'. Does not that afford another positive proof that a Government professing inability to sustain the Saints in their equal and just rights, can at the same time do all against them that a rotten public opinion will countenance? Solely through the fault of the Department in sending Mr. Kimball a notification of the acceptance of his bid by a route on which they knew the mail was not regularly carried, that notification did not reach him until last March. A newspaper notice of the awarding of the contract had arrived a short time previous, and so great was the anxiety that efficient mail service mutually beneficial to all should be speedily put upon the route, that steps were at once taken for that purpose and a mail sent out in February. And so energetically were operations prosecuted, that Mr. John R. Murdock took the July mail to Independence in the unprecedentedly short period of FIFTEEN days traveling time, and having been only sixteen and a half days on the road. The contract price for such arduous, prompt, reliable, safe, and heretofore unheard of speedy mail service was only some \$23,000 a year, a miserable pittance for the service being performed. And after thousands upon thousands of dollars had been freely expended in so placing men, animals and vehicles upon the route as to speedily gain one half upon the schedule time, with a fair prospect of soon being able to perform the trip in twelve or even ten days, the Post Office Department was so dastardly mean as to tyrannically annul the contract, wilfully reckless of the rights and interests of that class of American citizens nicknamed 'Mormons'.

The conduct of the Post Office Department towards the Saints has been dwelt upon at some length, not because it particularly injures us, for it does not injure us so much as it does those who indulge in and countenance such unjust and unconstitutional treatment, but chief-

ly because that conduct most unequivocally indicates a long continued and persistent system of oppression on the part of the Government. And by and by, when they shout to father Abraham to send Lazarus with a few drops of water to cool their parched tongues, the poor, miserable curses will find out that there is no mail running between Abraham and them.

After the Saints had paid scores and hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Government Treasury for public lands, did the Government ever indicate the least disposition to protect them in the peaceful occupancy of those lands, or to reinstate them after they had been ruthlessly driven from their homes on American soil? No, did they not, but rejoiced over their expulsion all the day long. We are now occupying a country settled by us when, save a few rude mountaineers, nought but wild animals and untamed savages roamed over dreary wastes then under the dominion of Mexico. Did we come here of choice? No, the tender mercies of the civilization of the 19th century, backed by the support of the Government, disfranchised and exiled us to seek new homes where best we could, or to perish in the attempt, a result which would have been the more highly gratifying to our enemies. And after it is widely known that we have almost miraculously improved a region hitherto rejected and avoided, supplanting wild beasts and taming wilder savages by a population peaceful, orderly, industrious, virtuous and patriotic above all others, has Congress had the justice to extend to us those pre-emption laws so invariably enacted for all other Territories? No, notwithstanding we have improved American soil, that no others would subdue, after having furnished a far larger quota of troops for its conquest than did any other State or Territory, and that too under a most inhuman requisition. Is such usage equal? Is it Constitutional? The Government know that it is neither, but what do they care, so it but serves to oppress the 'Mormons'? And the Government were so miserably corrupt that they even refused to fairly pay the 'Mormon' Battalion, which so promptly complied with so illegal a requisition and rendered service highly commended by the United States officers in command.

Talk about treason in Utah! where the Constitution and every applicable Constitutional and Territorial law has been honored, and where the rights and privileges of all have been invariably respected and maintained, regardless of sect or party. Such talk comes with an ill grace from our enemies, for they had better look a little nearer home where statesmen and priests cry out that there is a higher law to be observed superior to the Constitution; where party after party and State after State have openly condemned a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, severely commented upon the majority of the Judges in that Court and promised and advocated resistance to their decisions; where the Governor of a State utterly and with impunity disregarded a decision of that Court; where civil war has raged in a Territory and a Vigilance Committee held sway in a State; where one State is threatening war upon another; where Lynch law executed ten victims in a new State between April and July last; where a Speaker of the House of Representatives exclaimed, 'let the Union slide'; where demagogues, priests and lying editors are lashing the people beyond all legal restraint; where influential speakers and writers are striving to violently array the people of a populous city against those of the State in which it is located, and so forth and so on, for the detail is so discreditable to the privileged citizens of our proud Republic, and is also so thoroughly understood by readers and thinkers, that it is not pleasing to go into minute specifications of the many abominations practiced by our enemies under all manner of cloaks, garbs and pretexts, to the almost utter discardment of justice, freedom and truth.

To Utah, where Governor Young and the people have at great expense pursued a kind and pacific policy towards the Indians, a few thousand dollars have been grudgingly doled out by the Indian Department in Washington, to keep up an outward show of fairness. When refractory Indians have at times disregarded the most humane treatment and destroyed the property and lives of her citizens, Utah has fought her own battles at her own expense, though hundreds of thousands of dollars are wantonly appropriated for and expended in Territories and at least in one State for the suppression of Indian hostilities wherein, by the admission of the whites themselves, the Indians are more sinned against than sinning.

And often when Indian Agents in Utah draw drafts upon Government in payment for labor employed, farming utensils purchased, other officially legitimate and proper expenditures, and even for their own salaries, those drafts are recklessly dishonored by the Department and become of no more worth than paper rags.

What other Territory has ever received anything like such cursed abuse and deprivation of just rights and dues? Not one. Such treatment is not here mentioned because Utah desires the public funds and patronage lavished by Government to subserve favoritism, partyism, oppression, rottenness and the speedy destruction of the Union, for right thriftily has Utah flourished in this most isolated and barren region, notwithstanding the neglect, oppression and hatred of those who should have been her warmest friends. But such treatment is noticed to show to the world that our Government, with here and there a few exceptions, has rendered no assistance to Utah, except to destroy her inhabitants, and but little to the Indians within her borders, and has ever sought every opportunity and clutched at every unhallowed pretext for doing all against her that public opinion would warrant. Such has most obviously been the course pursued by five out of the seven Departments of our General Government, and by the whole seven so far as they are united in Cabinet Council. And that the Navy Department may also have a fair opportunity for openly taking a hand in oppressing an innocent and ever loyal people, we suggest, inasmuch as a U. S. A. Captain in San Diego has been instructed to forthwith examine the Colorado touching its facilities for navigation, that that department take early steps for chartering the Great Eastern Steamer, since its immense size would afford ample accommodation for the transportation of large numbers of men and vast stores of munitions for the invasion of fellow citizens who are at the defiance of the world and the devil to prove wherein they have ever infringed in the least upon the Constitution and Constitutional laws of our country, or upon any good and wholesome law and regulation whatever. The very success and prosperity of our settlements, under a cruel and murderous disfranchisement and exile, under the oppression of a powerful Government ever lending its aid to mobs against the Saints, absolutely prove the prevalence of pure and correct principles throughout our borders, for no people accused of what we are by our enemies, could by any possibility have accomplished what the Saints have accomplished and are daily accomplishing in Utah and wherever they are the wide world over.

When did Government ever before send troops to one of its Territories to protect civil officers, when it was well known that no such troops were needed? And worse still, when have the Government ever fitted out an expedition so promptly and at such lavish waste of the people's means, even unto boasting thereof by the blinded, as they have fitted out the present 'expedition against Utah'? Never. And in the most treasonable manner have they concocted their plans, stopped the mails and laid their wires to hold a free and innocent people still while, under sham of law, vexatious writs should be issued on perjured requisitions and our principal men arraigned and tried by the rakings of hell. And if the people would not hold still under such fiendish despotism and suffer the hot iron of rottenness and spiritual and temporal death to be thrust to their vitals, then indeed would arise the preconcerted hue and cry of treason and the call upon troops who have been ordered from the Swamps of Florida, the threatened frontiers of Minnesota and from the length and breadth of the land to attempt an utter extermination of the known most peaceful and really praiseworthy citizens in the Union, because they are worshipping and striving to worship the 'God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob'. Tell it not in the ears of the least intelligent and virtuous, for such conduct puts to the blush that of the antediluvians, that of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, and is nearly akin to that of the Jewish nation, for which they have been a hiss and a by-word for centuries. How long, think you, can a Republic exist, when it first sides with mobs and then leads their van, using a standing army as cat's paw for carrying out devilish designs, by ordering them to a region where all is peace and good order, with the carefully arranged plan for all hell to follow after?

That this view of the subject is the only correct one is most obvious, for even the leading papers have admitted that the pretexts founded upon newspaper columns of lies have failed, that we are law-abiding, and that the Constitution affords not the least shadow of author-