

# THE DESERET NEWS.

96441

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NUMBER 1.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1857.

VOLUME VII.

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## HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

OCTOBER, 1843.

Sunday, October 1.—I copy the following from the Times and Seasons of this date:—  
"WHO SHALL BE OUR NEXT PRESIDENT?—This question we frequently hear asked, and it is a question of no small importance to the Latter Day Saints.

We as a people have labored, and are still laboring under great injustice from the hands of a neighboring state. The Latter Day Saints have had their property destroyed, and their houses made desolate by the hands of the Missourians; murders have been committed with impunity, and many in consequence of oppression, barbarism and cruelty, have slept the sleep of death. They have been obliged to flee from their possessions into a distant land, in the chilling frosts of winter, robbed, spoiled, desolate, houseless, and homeless; without any just pretext or shadow of law; without having violated the laws of that State, or of the United States, and have had to wander as exiles in a strange land, without as yet being able to obtain any redress for their grievances.

We have hitherto adopted every legal measure; first, we petitioned to the State of Missouri, but in vain. We have memorialized Congress, but they have turned a deaf ear to our supplication and referred us again to the State and justice (!!!) of Missouri. Doubtless many of the members of that honorable body were not sufficiently informed of the enormity and extent of the crimes of our persecutors, nor of the indelible stain which our national escutcheon has received through their inhuman daring. They have been allowed to revel in blood, and luxuriate in the miseries of the oppressed, and no man has laid it to heart.

The fact is, that gentlemen of respectability and refinement, who live in a civilized society, find it difficult to believe that such enormities could be practised in a republican government; but our wrong cannot slumber; such tyranny and oppression must not be passed over in silence; our injuries, though past, are not forgotten by us, they still wrangle in our bosoms, and the blood of the innocent yet cries for justice; and as American citizens, we have appealed, and shall still continue to appeal to the legally constituted authorities of the land for redress, in the hopes that justice, which has long slumbered, may be aroused in our defence; that the Spirit which burned in the bosoms of the patriots of seventy-six, may fire the souls of their descendants, and though slow, that their indignation may yet be aroused at the injustice of the oppressor, and that they may yet mete out justice to our adversaries, and step forward in the defence of the innocent.

We shall ask no one to commit themselves on our account; we want no steps taken but what are legal, constitutional, and honorable—but we are American citizens, and as American citizens we have rights in common with all that live under the folds of the 'star spangled banner.' Our rights have been trampled upon by lawless miscreants, we have been robbed of our liberties by mobocratic influence, and all those honorable ties that ought to govern and characterize Columbia's sons have been trampled in the dust. Still we are American citizens, and as American citizens we claim the privilege of being heard in the councils of our nation. We have been wronged, abused, robbed, and banished, and we seek redress. Such crimes cannot slumber in Republican America. The cause of common humanity would revolt at it, and Republicanism would hide its head in disgust.

We make these remarks for the purpose of drawing the attention of our brethren to this subject, both at home and abroad; that we may fix upon the man who will be the most likely to render us assistance in obtaining redress for our grievances—and not only give our own votes, but use our influence to obtain others, and if the voice of suffering innocence will not sufficiently arouse the rulers of our nation to investigate our case, perhaps a vote of from fifty to one hundred thousand may rouse them from their lethargy.

We shall fix upon the man of our choice, and notify our friends duly."

I published the following in the same number of the Times and Seasons:—

"To all the Saints and honorable men of the earth, to whom the Lord has given liberally of this world's goods—greeting:—

Our worthy brother, Elder George J. Adams, has been appointed by the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Nauvoo, to present to them the importance, as well as the things connected with his mission to Russia, to introduce the fulness of the gospel to the people of that vast empire, and also to which is attached some of the most important things concerning the advancement and building up of the kingdom of God, in the last days; which cannot be explained at this time; but as the mission is attended with much expense, all those who feel disposed to bestow, as God has blessed them, shall receive the blessings of Israel's God; and ten fold shall be added unto them, as well as the prayers of the Saints of God.

With sentiments of high esteem, we subscribe ourselves, your friends and brethren in the new and everlasting covenant,

JOSEPH SMITH,  
HYRUM SMITH,

Presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints."

I attended meeting this morning, and adjourned it in consequence of the cold and rain; the afternoon being more pleasant, the people assembled, and were addressed by Elders Marks, Charles C. Rich and Bishop Jacob Foutz.

Council met in the evening same as on Thursday previous.

Monday, 2.—At home.

Tuesday, 3.—Elders Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, George A. Smith, Wilford Woodruff and Jedediah M. Grant, spent the day in visiting the Saints in Philadelphia. In the evening they partook of an oyster supper, on the invitation of Mr. Jeffreys.

The brethren assembled with their wives, to the amount of about one hundred couple, and dined at the Mansion as an opening to the house;—a very pleasant day, and all things passed off well.

The following is extracted from the Neighbor:—

"PLEASURE PARTY AND DINNER AT 'NAUVOO MANSION,' OCTOBER 3, 1843."

General Joseph Smith, the proprietor of said house, provided a luxurious feast for a pleasure party, and all having partook of the luxuries of a well spread board, the cloth was removed, and a committee appointed to draft resolutions suitable to the occasion. They adjourned for a few moments and returned, when R. D. Foster was appointed chairman.

The object of the meeting was then briefly stated by the chairman; after which a hymn was sung, and prayer by Elder Taylor. The chairman then arose and made some appropriate remarks for the occasion, touching upon the rise and progress of the city, the varied scenes through which the Saints had to pass, the persecutions and abuses the prophets had to undergo, &c., &c.; after which he read the following resolutions and toasts, which were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, 1st. That a vote of thanks be presented to General Joseph Smith and lady, through the medium of the Nauvoo Neighbor, for the very bountiful feast by them provided, for the accommodation of this party of more than one hundred couple, at their Mansion.

Resolved, 2d. General Joseph Smith, whether we view him as a Prophet at the head of the Church; a General at the head of the Legion; a Mayor at the head of the city council; or as a landlord at the head of his table, if he has equals he has no superior.

Resolved, 3d. Nauvoo, the great emporium of the West, the centre of all centres, a city of three years growth—a population of 15,000 souls, congregated from the four quarters of the globe, embracing the intelligence of all nations, with industry, frugality, economy, virtue, and brotherly love; unsurpassed in any age of the world—a suitable home for the Saints.

Resolved, 4th. Nauvoo Legion, a well disciplined and faithful band of invincibles; ready at all times to defend their country with this motto, 'Vive la Republique.'

Resolved, 5th. Nauvoo Charter, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, an unalterable decree by a patriotic band of wise legislators for the protection of the innocent.

Resolved, 6th. Thomas Ford, Governor of Illinois: fearless and faithful in the discharge of all official duties, long may he live, and blessings attend his administration.

Col. F. M. Higbee was then called to the stand, who addressed the audience in a very spirited and appropriate manner for the day.

Professor O. Spencer was then called, who arose, and in his usual easy and eloquent manner highly entertained the company for near half an hour.

Next called was Elder John Taylor, who alone was capable of putting on the top stone of the entertainment; his address was highly interesting, combining, like a Lacon, a volume in every gesture.

Gen. Smith then arose, and in a very touching and suitable manner, tendered his thanks to the company, for the encomiums and honors conferred on him. He recited the many woes through which he had passed, the persecutions he had suffered, and the love he had for the brethren and citizens of Nauvoo. He tendered his gratitude for the pleasing prospects that

surrounded him, to the great Giver of all good. He said he thought that his case was similar to that of old Job's; that after he had suffered and drank the very dregs of affliction, the Lord had remembered him in mercy, and was about to bless him abundantly.

After he had done, Mrs. Emma Smith presented her thanks, through the chair, to the company present; after which a motion was made and carried to adjourn, whereupon the company were called to their feet. Benediction by Elder Taylor, and the party retired with the most perfect satisfaction and good humor, as was ever witnessed on such occasions.

R. D. FOSTER, Chairman.  
In the evening, Mr. William Backenstos and Clara M. Wasson were married at the Mansion. I solemnized the marriage in presence of a select party.

Wednesday, 4.—I extract the following from the Neighbor of this date:—

"ANTI-MORMONISM.—With respect to the Carthage meeting, I take upon myself to deny the charges in toto, and challenge them to the proof. If we harbor horse-thieves among us, as is basely asserted, let the man that has lost his horse publish his name and the name of the villain, or how he knows him to be a Mormon, and where he is harbored, that we may have something more than vague assertions. They well know that no such proof can be produced, but that the charges had their birth in the minds of one or two artless scoundrels, thirsting for revenge for their late disappointments. The whole of the charges are a tissue of falsehoods, got up with the idea of intimidating a peaceable body of citizens; but, sir, we set such designing knaves at defiance, and laugh at their threats, treating them with utter contempt, but ever ready to abide by the truth."

JOHN GREENHOW.  
Elder Reuben Hedlock wrote the following letter:—

"Liverpool, Oct. 4, 1843.

To the First Presidency and Quorum

of the Twelve Apostles, greeting:—  
Dear and much esteemed Brethren:—I hasten to inform you of my arrival in Liverpool on the 30th day of Sept., in company with Elders John Cairns, James Sloan and wife, James Houston and William G. Jermon. We left six of the Twelve in the city of New York, the 2nd day of September, and came on board of the ship 'Columbus,' our passage money was five dollars; we had a very hard passage. We were very much crowded in the steerage; there were 236 persons, Dutch, Irish, English and Scotch, and as dirty as any I ever saw; we were not much sick, the weather was cold; had it been otherwise, we should have suffered more. A steamer leaves for New York to-day, and I thought I would announce to you my arrival by this opportunity, and such information as I was in possession of; there is a ship to sail on the 14th inst., by which I shall write you again.

I found Elders Hiram Clark, Thomas Ward and Amos Fielding in Liverpool, and they were well, and as far as I was informed by them, that the church is in a good state and on the increase, it numbers somewhere between eight and nine thousand members. There is a great want of laborers in the vineyard. Many of the first elders have left this for Nauvoo, leaving their places vacant. I presented to the presidency here your decision relative to the printing; Elders Ward and Fielding received it, and manifested a desire to abide by it. Elder Fielding wept when I showed him your decision concerning him and his coming to Nauvoo by the first ship to see you face to face. The brethren say here that he has been too hasty in some things, and has given some an offence; but I do not as yet know anything derogatory to his character that I could say ought against him. I shall write you all the particulars as fast as I come in possession of them. As it regards the printing in this land, we shall stop it after the next number is published: in it we wish to publish the news from Nauvoo for the benefit of the Saints, and to announce our arrival in this country.

Permit me here to give you my opinion as it regards the printing in this land, and I will cheerfully abide your advice notwithstanding. After we stop the Star, we shall have during the shipping season to advertise, and give general information in the emigration business to the Saints scattered abroad. I think it would be best to republish the Times and Seasons for the benefit of the Church. The duties on books are £2 10s. per hundred weight; and there is now 1600 Stars circulated here at the present, and the demand for our publications are on the increase. The duties would almost reprint the Times and Seasons, and then we could do our advertising on the last page, if thought advisable. We could afford it as cheap as the present Star, and pay you something for the privilege of publishing, as well as to pay it to the crown. I have not yet learned the amount of funds remaining here subject to your order. I have not had much time as yet to inquire into those matters, in consequence of the multitude of business in unloading our freight from ship board.

The brethren that came with me wish me to say to those whom it may concern, that they are well, and will in a few days leave for their fields of labor.

I shall write to you once a month, no preventing Providence, and should be glad to have

you write to me as often, and give me your advice and counsel relating to those things you in your wisdom may think beneficial to the Saints and emigration in this land.

I wish Elder Taylor would forward to me the amount of the number that will make the volume of the Times and Seasons complete by the first opportunity; by so doing I can sell the 200 volumes to advantage. I will try to forward to him what I can obtain for the Times and Seasons already here. If it should be thought wisdom to reprint the Times and Seasons here, I wish brother Taylor would be particular to send, so that we could obtain them, if possible. I am informed by Elder Ward that they have not received any intelligence from you since last February.

I wish you would write me your mind concerning the printing immediately on the receipt of this sheet, so that our communication with the Saints in England may not be stopped long.

I am as ever, your humble servant in the bonds of the N. E. C.

REUBEN HEDLOCK."

I was at the Mansion preparing some legal papers.

Justin Butterfield, Esq., U. S. Attorney for Illinois, arrived this afternoon, and I spent the rest of the day in riding and chatting with him.

Council of the Quorum met and adjourned to Sunday evening, my brother Hyrum's child being sick.

The Quorum of the Twelve started from Philadelphia for Pittsburgh.

Thursday, 5.—This morning I rode out with Esquire Butterfield to the farm, &c.

In the afternoon rode to the prairie to shew some brethren some land. Evening, at home, and walked up and down the streets with my scribe. Gave instructions to try those persons who were preaching, teaching, or practising the doctrine of plurality of wives; for according to the law, I hold the keys of this power in the last days, for there is never but one on earth at a time on whom the power and its keys are conferred—and I have constantly said no man shall have but one wife at a time, unless the Lord directs otherwise.

Friday, 6.—I attended special conference; but as few people were out in consequence of the weather proving unfavorable, the organization of the conference was adjourned until to-morrow, or the first pleasant day.

After giving notice that President Rigdon's case would be considered, &c., I walked towards home, and gave instructions to my scribe to cause all the papers relating to my land claims in the Half Breed Tract in Iowa, to be placed in the hands of Esquire Butterfield.

Saturday, 7.—I attended conference.

Sunday, 8.—Slight frost last night. Conference convened in the morning, but as it rained, adjourned till Monday, at 10 a.m.

Prayer meeting at my house in the evening; quorum present; also in addition, sisters Adams, Elizabeth Ann Whitney, my aunt Clarissa Smith, and my mother.

My brother Hyrum and his wife were blessed, ordained, and anointed.

The Twelve arrived in Pittsburgh at 10 a.m., and again left by the steamer "Raritan," at 11 a.m., en route for Nauvoo.

Monday, 9.—Attended Conference, and preached a funeral sermon on the death of General James Adams; a brief synopsis of which, as reported by Dr. Richards, will be found in the minutes below.

I here insert the conference minutes from the Times and Seasons:—

## "MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CONFERENCE

Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held in the city of Nauvoo, commencing on the 6th of October, 1843.

Friday, October 6, 10 o'clock, a.m.

The weather proving unfavorable, the organization of the conference was postponed until the next day at 10 o'clock, a.m.

Saturday, 10 o'clock, a.m.

Conference assembled and proceeded to business.

President Joseph Smith was called to the chair, and Gustavus Hills chosen clerk.

Singing by the choir, and prayer by Elder Almon W. Babbitt.

The President stated the items of business to be brought before the conference, to be,

1st. The case and standing of Elder Sidney Rigdon, Counselor to the First President.

2nd. The further progress of the Temple; after which, any miscellaneous business.

Elder Sidney Rigdon addressed the conference on the subject of his situation and circumstances among the Saints.

President Joseph Smith addressed the conference, inviting an expression of any charges or complaints which the conference had to make. He stated his dissatisfaction with Elder Sidney Rigdon as a counselor, not having received any material benefit from his labors or counsels since their escape from Missouri. Several complaints were then brought forward in reference to his management in the post office; a supposed correspondence and connection with John C. Bennett; with Ex-Governor Carlin, and with the Missourians, of a treacherous character; also his leaguings with dishonest persons in endeavoring to defraud the innocent.