

lative Halls of the different States, and the Congress of the United States, just previous to our final expulsion from Illinois, after the accursed Carthage murder, which so deeply stained that State in innocent blood, and laid all this people in mourning and lamentation. Why, the sound scarce died away on their ears, ere the roar of the enemies' cannon thundered on the defenceless and devoted City of Nauvoo; while your fathers, mothers, and daughters, without protection, were scattered through the wilderness, in the Indian Territory, among hostile savages from the Mississippi, to the Missouri and Platte Rivers; fleeing from fire and sword, seeking a place of safety and refuge, God only knows where. And you soldiers of the Battalion, the flower of the Legion, in the service of your country, without your GENERAL, beyond the plains of Santa Fe, on your march over this now conquered Territory, to the shores of the Pacific Ocean; where you planted the same standard that waved over the great Washington at Trenton, at Princeton, at Brandywine, at Monmouth, and Yorktown, where our countrymen so nobly fought and won freedom for themselves and their posterity to the latest generations. Such has been the sufferings of this people, and such the causes which have induced us to seek a new home among these mountains.

As to our enemies, their position is not an enviable one. We are willing they should wear all the laurels they have won by the injuries they have done us. We shall leave them under the load where they are, and let posterity do them justice. We now hail the return of peace and prosperity with delight, and look forward to the future with hopes that are easier felt than described. And here it may be proper to enumerate some of our reasons which have induced us to organize ourselves into a state government at so early a day without the assent of Congress.—

Some five of them are clearly set forth in our preamble and constitution, as follows: 1st, by treaty of peace with the Republic of Mexico, all civil organization originating from that republic became abrogated; 2nd, The United States have failed to provide any form of civil government for the Territory so acquired; 3rd, Civil government and laws are necessary for the security, peace, and prosperity of society; 4th, All political power is inherent in the people, and governments instituted for their benefit, should emanate from the same; 5th, All men should be born equally free & independent, and possess certain natural, essential, and inherent rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending their lives and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness. Those, together with our peculiar situation, located as we are, among savage tribes, are some of the considerations which have induced us to adopt the constitution of the State of Deseret, and petition the Congress of the United States for admission into the Union as a free, sovereign, and independent state, on an equal footing with the original states. If indeed our petition is responded to and our young state permitted to join the confederacy, we shall not fail to say, fellow-citizens of the Union, we yet honor and love you. America, with all thy faults, I love thee still. But if, on the other hand, our admission is opposed, & finally rejected, we shall be equally free, but dependent alone on God and our own slender resources for safety, happiness, and future preservation, as we have ever been up to this day.

In fact, it is of little consequence to us whether we are admitted or not, and it is quite doubtful whether there is sufficient union left to receive us. The North is arrayed against the South, and the South against the North in deadly combat about a question which

may continue to vex the Nation till (divided they fall.)

Men talk of dissolving the confederacy, and forming two constitutions, one for the North, the other for the South. What! dissolve the Union, and destroy the constitution of our fathers? Never; no never, fellow-citizens, united we stand; divided we fall, was the motto our fathers left us. We are united in adopting the constitution of our young and rising state, in celebrating the birth-day of our freedom from bondage, in the support of our officers, civil and military; and especially his excellency, the Governor and General Assembly of our new-born state.—Gentlemen, we give you our heart, our hand, our vote, and sword if necessary; only let us live, while you live, all freemen, till we are gathered to our fathers. Friends, I leave in the midst of the congratulations which celebrate this day, which I doubt not our children will honor with demonstrations of joy, as we do, till long after we have slept with our fathers.

Which was answered by 9 rounds of cannon, and cheers by the people; music by the Band; when a few closing remarks to the forenoon's services were offered by the Governor.

Benediction at quarter past 12, by Elder E. T. Benson; when the Escort was again formed as in the morning, and returned with the escorted party to the Governor's house. Upon returning to the Bowery, the several companies of the Escort repaired to their different rooms of entertainment, while the congregation dispersed to meet again at 2 o'clock.

P. M. PROCEEDINGS:—At 2 o'clock the Bowery was crowded to almost suffocation, the Escort was seated as in the former part of the day, and meeting called to order by Prest. D. Spencer.—Prayer by Elder Eleazer Miller.—Song by W. W. Phelps, was then sung by the Welch Choir:

'Wend ye with the Saints to-day,' &c. Also a Welch song