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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JUNE, 1844.

A council was held by the brethren, at which Messrs. Wood and Conyers from Quincy were present, also Col. Richardson, lawyer from Rushville. The council again expressed their determination to preserve the peace in the city, and requested those gentlemen to use their influence to allay the excitement abroad, which they promised to do.

Col. Richardson agreed to use all his influence to stay all illegal writs, and all writs for the present.

Gen. Dunham requested a guard might be sent to Golden's Point, to protect the people there from the mob.

Father John Smith was present, and spoke of the destruction of crops by the Mc Donough troops.

We extract from Elder Woodruff's Journal:—

"The Boston branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and many elders from various parts, met in conference in Franklin Hall, Boston, on the 29th day of June, 1844.

Present: a majority of the Quorum of the Twelve, viz., Prest. B. Young, presiding; Elders H. C. Kimball, O. Hyde, O. Pratt, Wm. Smith, W. Woodruff and L. Wight.

Conference opened by prayer.
Elder O. Hyde occupied the forenoon in an interesting manner.

Elders Young, Kimball and Wight severally addressed the meeting in the afternoon, much to the edification of the people.

Resolved that James H. Glines and William Henderson be ordained elders: they were ordained under the hands of Elders B. Young and H. C. Kimball.

Conference adjourned till Sunday morning.

The Twelve met in council in the evening.
30th. 10 a.m. Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

Elder O. Pratt addressed the meeting, and ably removed the objections generally urged against new revelation.

In the afternoon, Elder L. Wight preached on the immortality of the body and the spirit, and also the principle of charity, connecting it with baptism for the dead.

In the evening Elder W. Woodruff preached from the words of Jesus: 'Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.'

The house was full through the day and evening, and much instruction was given during the conference by those who spoke."

Monday, July 1.—A. Jonas and Col. Fellows arrived in Nauvoo, with a message from the Governor to the City Council. We copy their instructions:—

"Colonel Fellows and Captain Jonas are requested to proceed by the first boat to Nauvoo, and ascertain what is the feeling, disposition, and determination of the people there, in reference to the late disturbances, ascertain whether any of them propose in any manner to revenge themselves, whether any threats have been used, and what is proposed generally, to be done by them.

They are also requested to return to Warsaw and make similar inquiries there; ascertain how far false rumors have been put afloat for the purpose of raising forces; what is the purpose of the militia assembled, whether any attack is intended on Nauvoo.

Ascertain also, whether any persons from Missouri or Iowa intend to take part in the matter, and in my name forbid any such interference, without my request, on pain of being demanded for punishment.

THOMAS FORD."

June 30th, 1844."

They wrote as follows:—

"Nauvoo, July 1, 1844.

"To the City Council of Nauvoo:—

Gentlemen:—With this you will receive a copy of instructions, from Gov. Ford to us. You will understand from them what we desire from you in action on your part,—as the only authorities of your city now known to the country, of such a character as will pacify the public mind and satisfy the Governor of your determination to sustain the supremacy of the laws, which will, we are sure, be gratifying to him, and as much so to.

Yours respectfully,

HART FELLOWS,

A. JONAS."

We copy from the Times and Seasons:—

"At a meeting of the City Council, held in the Council room, in the city of Nauvoo, on the first day of July, 1844, having received in-

structions from Gov. Ford, through the agency of A. Jonas, Esq., and Col. Fellows, it was unanimously,

Resolved, For the purpose of ensuring peace, and promoting the welfare of the county of Hancock, and surrounding country, that we will rigidly sustain the laws, and the Governor of the State, so long as they, and he, sustain us in all our constitutional rights.

Resolved, secondly, That to carry the foregoing resolutions into complete effect, that inasmuch as the Governor has taken from us the public arms, that we solicit of him to do the same with all the rest of the public arms of the State.

Resolved, thirdly, To further secure the peace, friendship and happiness of the people, and allay the excitement that now exists, we will reprobate private revenge on the assassins of General Joseph Smith and General Hyrum Smith by any of the Latter Day Saints. That instead of 'an appeal to arms,' we appeal to the majesty of the law, and will be content with whatever judgment it shall award; and should the law fail, we leave the matter with God.

Resolved, unanimously, That this City Council pledge themselves for the city of Nauvoo, that no aggressions by the citizens of said city, shall be made on the citizens of the surrounding country, but we invite them, as friends and neighbors, to use the Savior's golden rule, and 'do unto others as they would have others do unto them,' and we will do likewise.

Resolved, lastly, That we highly approve of the present public pacific course of the Governor to allay excitement, and restore peace among the citizens of the country, and while he does so, and will use his influence to stop all vexatious proceedings in law, until confidence is restored, so that the citizens of Nauvoo can go to Carthage, or any other place, for trial, without exposing themselves to the violence of assassins, we will uphold him, and the law, by all honorable means.

GEORGE W. HARRIS, Prest. pro tem.

Willard Richards, Recorder."

"A. Jonas, Esq., and Col. Fellows:—

Messrs.:—In reply to your communication to the City Council of the city of Nauvoo, on behalf of His Excellency Gov. Ford, I have been instructed by the Council to communicate the foregoing resolutions which I respectfully solicit for your consideration, and at the same time would inform you that a public meeting of our citizens will take place at the stand, east of the Temple, at 4 p.m., and solicit your attendance.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. RICHARDS."

"PUBLIC MEETING.

At a meeting of a large portion of the citizens of Nauvoo, convened at the stand, in the afternoon of July 1, 1844, after hearing the above instructions, and resolutions of the City Council read, and being addressed by A. Jonas, Esq., and others, the meeting responded to the same with a hearty AMEN!

The citizens then passed a vote of thanks to the Governor's agents for their kindly interference in favor of peace among the citizens of Hancock county and elsewhere around us.

They also passed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Woods and Reid, the counsel for the Gens. Smith for their great exertions to have even-handed justice meted to the Latter Day Saints, and they also passed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Chambers and Field, the former, one of the editors of the 'Missouri Republican,' and the latter, one of the editors of the 'Reveille,' of St. Louis, for their honorable course of coming to Nauvoo for facts, instead of spreading rumors concerning the Latter Day Saints.

Mr. Chambers made a very appropriate speech, containing innuendos for the benefit of our citizens; that appeared as the wise man said, 'LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN PICTURES OF SILVER.'

They also passed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Wood and Conyers, mayor, and ex-mayor of Quincy, for their friendly disposition in establishing peace in this region, and we are happy to say that all appears to be PEACE AT NAUVOO."

"TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

Deeply impressed by the welfare of all, while mourning the great loss of President Joseph Smith, our 'prophet and seer,' and President Hyrum Smith, our 'patriarch,' we have considered the occasion demanded of us a word of consolation.

As has been the case in all ages, these saints have fallen martyrs for the truth's sake and their escape from the persecution of a wicked world, in blood to bliss, only strengthens our faith, and confirms our religion, as pure and holy.

We, therefore, as servants of the Most High God, having the Bible, Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, together with thousands of witnesses, for Jesus Christ; would beseech the Latter Day Saints, in Nauvoo and elsewhere, to hold fast to the faith that has been delivered to them in the last days, abiding in the perfect law of the gospel.

Be peaceable, quiet citizens, doing the works of righteousness, and as soon as the Twelve and other authorities can assemble, or a majority of them, the onward course to the great

gathering of Israel, and the final consummation of the dispensation of the fulness of times will be pointed out; so that the murder of Abel, the assassination of hundreds, the righteous blood of all the holy prophets, from Abel to Joseph, sprinkled with the best blood of the Son of God, as the crimson sign of remission, only carries conviction to the bosoms of all intelligent beings, that the cause is just and will continue; and blessed are they that hold out faithful to the end, while apostates, consenting to the shedding of innocent blood, have no forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come.

Union is peace, brethren, and eternal life is the greatest gift of God. Rejoice, then, that you are found worthy to live and die for God: men may kill the body, but they cannot hurt the soul, and wisdom shall be justified of her children: Amen.

W. W. PHELPS,

W. RICHARDS,

JOHN TAYLOR."

"July 1, 1844.

The following appropriate and expressive poetry, we copy from the Times and Seasons:—

"THE ASSASSINATION

Of Generals Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith, First Presidents of the Church of Latter Day Saints: who were massacred by a mob, in Carthage, Hancock County, Ill., on the 27th June, 1844.

BY MISS ELIZA R. SNOW.

'And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar, the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also, and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."—Rev. 6: 9, 10, 11.

Ye heav'ns, attend! Let all the earth give ear!

Let Gods and seraphs, men and angel hear—

The worlds on high—the universe shall know

What awful scenes are acted here below!

Had nature's self a heart, her heart would bleed

At the recital of that horrid deed;

For never, since the Son of God was slain,

Has blood so noble flow'd from human vein

As that which now, on God for vengeance calls

From 'freedom's ground'—from Carthage prison walls!

Oh! Illinois! thy soil has drank the blood

Of Prophets martyr'd for the truth of God.

Once lov'd America! what can atone

For the pure blood of innocence, thou'st sown?

Were all thy streams in teary torrents shed

To mourn the fate of those illustrious dead,

How vain the tribute, for the noblest worth

That grac'd thy surface, O degraded earth!

Oh wretched murderers! fierce for human blood!

You've slain the prophets of the living God,

Who've borne oppression from their early youth,

To plant on earth, the principles of truth.

Shades of heroic fathers! Can it be,

Beneath your blood-stain'd flag of liberty;

The firm supporters of our country's cause,

Are butcher'd while submissive to her laws?

Yes, blameless men, defam'd by hellish lies

Have thus been offer'd as a sacrifice

To appease the ragings of a brutish clan,

That has defied the laws of God and man!

'Twas not for crime or guilt of theirs, they fell—

Against the laws they never did rebel,

True to their country, yet her plighted faith

Has prov'd an instrument of cruel death!

Where are thy far-fam'd laws—Columbia!

where

Thy boasted freedom—thy protecting care?

Is this a land of rights? Stern facts shall say

If legal justice here maintains its sway,

The official pow'rs of State are sheer pretence

When they're exerted in the Saints' defence.

Great men have fall'n, and mighty men have died—

Nations have mourn'd their favorites and their pride;

But two, so wise, so virtuous, great and good,

Before on earth, at once, have never stood

Since the creation—men whom God ordain'd

To publish truth where error long had reign'd:

Of whom the world itself unworthy prov'd:
It KNEW THEM NOT; but men with hatred mov'd

And with infernal spirits have combin'd
Against the best, the noblest of mankind!

Oh! persecution! shall thy purple hand
Spread utter desolation through the land?

Shall freedom's banner be no more unfurled?

Has peace indeed been taken from the world?

Thou God of Jacob, in this trying hour

Help us to trust in thy almighty power,

Support thy saints beneath this awful stroke—

Make bare thine arm to break oppression's yoke.

We mourn thy Prophet, from whose lips have flow'd

The words of life, thy Spirit has bestow'd—

A depth of thought, no human art could reach

From time to time, roll'd in sublimest speech,

From the celestial fountain, through his mind,

To purify and elevate mankind:

The rich intelligence by him brought forth,

Is like the sunbeam spreading o'er the earth.

Now Zion mourns—she mourns an earthly head;

The Prophet and the Patriarch are dead!

The blackest deed that men or devils know

Since Calvary's scene, has laid the brothers low!

One in their life, and one in death—they prov'd

How strong their friendship—how they truly lov'd:

True to their mission, until death they stood,

Then seal'd their testimony with their blood.

All hearts with sorrow bleed, and every eye

Is bath'd in tears—each bosom heaves a sigh—

Heart broken widows' agonizing groans

Are mingled with the helpless orphans' moans!

Ye Saints! be still, and know that God is just—

With steadfast purpose in his promise trust;

Girded with sackcloth, own his mighty hand,

And wait his judgment on this guilty land!

The noble martyrs now have gone to move

The cause of Zion in the courts above."

Nauvoo, July 1st, 1844."

Tuesday, 2.—We extract the following from

Elders Kimball and Wight's letter:—

"June 21st, 1844.

We again resume the pen to give you a few further particulars. We met the church in the city of Philadelphia last evening, pursuant to adjournment, the members being all present. The vote was taken to know whether they would sustain the First Presidency and the Twelve in their calling, and follow their counsel spiritually and temporally; lay aside all their prejudice and fears, and follow them through evil, as well as through good report: There was not a dissenting vote. We think the Church is in a good condition: there will be some added next Sabbath by baptism, and we trust more ere long. For our manner of preaching and instructing the church, we refer you to bros. Forgues and Price.

We leave here to-day at 4 o'clock for the Wilmington conference, many of the brethren and sisters from this place are going with us. We have so many calls in this place, from those in the church and out of it, that we cannot stop a night in a place. We are at this time at sister McMinn's, whose family treat us with all the kindness and attention that the servants of God could ask: they wish to be remembered to the prophet and family, and so do all the Saints in this place, and they are now determined to uphold you by their prayers, in all things. I must confess this was not the case when we came here, with all. We learned that it is too much the case that the Twelve often find their way hedged up by the presiding elders endeavoring to exalt themselves and debase us, but you will find it different with your case in Philadelphia.

June 24, 1844.

Just returned from Wilmington conference, accompanied by several of the brethren and sisters who went from this place. We can truly say that this was one of the most pleasant trips in our life; we went down on the steamer 'Balloon,' and returned by railway.

Our conference commenced on Saturday, the 22nd, the brethren came in from the adjacent country, and after much instruction from bros. Kimball and Wight, we took a vote to know whether they would go withersoever the Presidency, and Patriarch, and Twelve went, should it be to Oregon, Texas or California, or any other place directed by the wisdom of Almighty God. The saints, numbering about 100, rose to their feet and exclaimed, Withersoever they go, we go, without a dissenting voice. This was truly an interesting meeting: we have not the least idea that any one will back out, they are nearly all men of wealth, and have commenced this morning to offer all surplus property for sale, that whenever you say, go, they are ready. We ordained ten as promising young elders as we ever laid hands upon, they pledged themselves to start this week and go through the State of Delaware from house to house, and proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.