

DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MAY 14, 1879.

GRAND RECEPTION TO GEN.
D. H. WELLS.A POPULAR DEMONSTRATION OF
RESPECT.

A MONSTER OVATION.

THE hastily prepared demonstration in honor of Counselor Daniel H. Wells was eminently successful. Early yesterday morning the Stars and Stripes were run up to the top of the flag-staffs on the City Hall, the County Court House, the Tabernacle, the Temple, the Theatre, Z. C. M. I., the President's Office and a large number of business houses and private dwellings. Teams came in from the north and the south, the east and the west, with loads of people of all ages and both sexes, anxious to participate in the proceedings and show their esteem for the man who preferred to suffer bonds rather than violate his sacred covenants. The morning was bright and beautiful but the roads were dusty and a slight breeze made traveling somewhat unpleasant.

The trains from the north and the south had brought in a large number of Presidents of Stakes, High Councilors and other leading men from Bear Lake, Cache, Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Utah and Juab counties, including the Mayors and City Councils from the different municipalities in those counties, with several bands of music.

The instructions of the Committee of Arrangements, as published in Monday evening's NEWS, had been carried out, and the schools, with the members of the different quorums and organizations, gathered at the ward school-houses and were marched to East Temple Street, where the Marshal of the Day, Capt. Andrew Burt, and fifty mounted aides arranged them in the order designed.

At 9 o'clock a. m. the carriages to convey President John Taylor and the escort were drawn up in front and in the vicinity of the President's Office, and started out to receive Counselor Wells. First was the Tenth Ward Brass Band in their splendid uniform, in a large band-carriage drawn by four spanking grays. Next came a carriage with the Committee, then a barouche drawn by four white horses, containing President John Taylor, Mayor Feramorz Little, President of the Stake Angus M. Cannon, and Presiding Bishop Edward Hunter; next, carriages with Elders C. C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, F. D. Richards, Joseph F. Smith and Albert Carrington of the Apostles, then followed carriages with the mayors and city councils of this and ten other municipalities, territorial and county officers, representatives of the press, the various quorums of the priesthood, relief societies, young men's and young ladies' mutual improvement associations, with several bands, and then a long train of vehicles containing ladies and gentlemen from various localities, and a company of horsemen.

The cortege proceeded along South Temple to Third East Street, thence south to Col. J. R. Winder's farm, thence west to the State Road, thence north to Col. R. T. Burton's farm, where Gen. Wells had stayed over night after his release from the penitentiary. The dust along this route was blinding, a lively wind, with the motion of the teams, carrying a dense cloud over the escort and covering all who were in open vehicles.

The honored guest was here received and the following extemporaneous speech made by

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR.

President Wells: In behalf of the community who feel outraged by the treatment you have received, I propose to present to you the confidence, the respect, the honor and the esteem of the people whose hearts, feelings and affections are with you.

We do not come here to interfere with any matters pertaining to the action of courts; we leave an intel-

ligent public to act upon that matter and to judge according to their wisdom and discretion. But we have come to exhibit to you our esteem and to show you that whilst you are true to your friends, your principles, your country, and your God, that your friends are equally true to you. You see exhibited before you the spontaneous feeling of this vast people who have come to meet and to honor the man who, rather than submit to betray his friends, his country and his God, would permit himself to be deprived of liberty and be imprisoned in prison. We have come, General Wells, to wipe away a stain sought to be heaped upon you by the bigoted, unreflecting and thoughtless, and this demonstration is the spontaneous impulse and action of a generous, patriotic, kind-hearted and friendly people. For this purpose we have assembled here to-day; and in behalf of this whole community, I tender to you our sincere regards and our most heartfelt sympathy."

To which the following impromptu response was made by

GEN. D. H. WELLS.

"I will simply say that I should feel exceedingly sorry for myself if I felt, for a single moment, that any of my friends supposed or could entertain the idea that I could do otherwise than I have done. I would be sorry for myself to feel, or to even think for a moment, that I could swerve from my integrity to the covenant which I have had the privilege, yes, the inestimable privilege, of making with my God. I can well afford to suffer bonds, fines and imprisonment, and even death if necessary—which by the way has no terrors for me—but to forfeit my fellowship with you, my brethren, or a single particle of that confidence which is reposed in me by the people of God, through violating the sacred and holy covenants we have entered into, I could not afford. That would indeed be a source of sorrow and regret, not only through time but for all eternity.

My treatment, at the hands of the United States officers during my imprisonment has been civil and courteous.

I feel happy and well; and am rejoiced to meet you, though I did not expect any such demonstration as this. I thank you heartily; but not, however, so much for myself as the expression of your feelings to sustain the principle. I know that you are my friends and that you are the friends of the Most High God; and I pray that I may ever be worthy of your confidence and esteem, and be the friend of the Lord. I will not detain you; but in the fulness of my heart I say, God bless you forever; and again thank you for this expression of your kindness and love.

Brother Wells then entered the carriage with President Taylor, and with stirring music the cortege, at a fast trot, came on to the city, turning along Sixth South to East Temple Street, where, on each side were formed in order the Sunday Schools, Relief Societies, Improvement Associations, High Priests, Seventies, Elders, Bishops, Priests, Teachers and Deacons, the City Fire Brigade in uniform with their implements, Scandinavians and German citizens, and a vast concourse of people, some on the streets and others filling the balconies and standing on the roofs. Most of the principal stores were closed, and hundreds of flags, banners, mottoes and streamers, with appropriate sentiments some of which were published in Monday evening's NEWS, fluttered in the breeze, and gave additional animation to the scene. The enthusiasm of the populace was immense, and Gen. Wells was greeted with deafening cheers as the procession moved at a walk up East Temple Street to the Council House, the various organizations falling into line in the order designed and according to the programme prepared by the committee of arrangements, the sub-committees and ward, bishops having worked to it with admirable fidelity. Over three hundred carriages, by actual count, were in the procession, and, after the long line of men, women and children on foot, followed a number of wagons, three deep, too numerous to count. The large number of ladies in the cortege was a noticeable feature of the demonstration.

Turning west from the Council House, the vast concourse filed into the Large Tabernacle, which was

quickly filled in every part and many thousands could not find admittance. It was a magnificent sight. Seven bands of music were seated in the choir; the firemen sat together in the body of the building to the left; the banners, flags and mottoes were arranged around the gallery, and when Counselor Wells appeared on the stand deafening cheers resounded through the great house, ladies waved their handkerchiefs, the banners and streamers were set in motion, and the enthusiasm for several minutes was unrestrained.

After music by Capt. Beesley's martial band, the Boys' martial band from Fort Herriman, the Tenth Ward brass band led by Capt. Symons, Capt. Mark Croxall's brass band, the Logan brass band led by Capt. W. Haslam, the Nephi brass band led by Capt. J. S. Hawkins, and the Provo combined brass bands led by Captains Bee and Bushard, the congregation was called to order by President Taylor, and the following prayer was offered by

ELDER F. D. RICHARDS.

Our Father who art in heaven, we desire at this time to appear before thee in humility and in the faith of the everlasting gospel, realizing that thou art the Author of every blessing and benefit conferred upon mankind, and especially upon all those whom thou hast promised to care and provide for in the earth.

We have come together at this time to worship before thee in the joy and gratitude of our hearts for thy loving-kindness and tender mercy unto us as a people until this present moment of time. We thank thee that thou hast promised to fight our battles for us; that no weapon formed against thy Saints shall prosper, and that they who set snares and traps for the feet of thy people shall be taken therein, while those who devise mischief concerning thy faithful servants shall perish by the weapons they employ.

Look upon us thy children this morning, forgive our sins and our short-comings before thee, and pour out upon us richly of thy Holy Spirit, that we may realize thy goodness and appreciate with becoming gratitude all thy mercies.

Thou, O God, canst cast down kings and overthrow their mighty dominions, and make them to eat grass like the ox. Thou dost exalt the humble from the dust, ashes and potsherds, and place them on high, multiplying to them kindred, flocks and herds, with great possessions.

We know that thou art the God of the whole earth, and hast commenced to deal with the children of men. Thou hast given to thy people thy holy word, with the right to ask and receive at thy hand. We thank thee, O Lord, for this thy goodness to the human family.

Wilt thou receive our thanks to-day, that thy servant Daniel was inspired to preserve the sanctity and honor of those sacred things which were committed unto him in thine holy House, and that he rather suffered himself to be fined, imprisoned or subjected to any other persecution than to betray his friends, his religion, his country and his God. May the same integrity and purpose of heart be firmly established in the souls of thy covenant people.

While the wicked know thee not, neither thy ways, and in their hearts think to distress thy people and tempt them to dishonor thee, strengthen thou thy servants and handmaidens that they may be able to maintain the sacred covenants of thy holy priesthood inviolate, and that we may wait before thee with patience for thy deliverance and thy great salvation, even as thou wilt. O Lord, thou knowest that the government have enacted laws whereby to make us transgressors because we keep thy commandments; and that the courts have also ruled determining to make us criminals, in the eyes of this nation and of the nations of the earth.

O God, our Father, we this morning in the solemnity of prayer which thou hast taught unto us, appeal our cause unto Thee, the Most High, in whose bosom dwells the fulness of justice, equity, truth and power, and ask that thou wilt vindicate thy word, the honor of thine ordinances, and sustain thy servants who abide therein.

We ask, O God, that thou wilt have mercy upon and restrain the rulers of this nation—the President, the Cabinet, the Congress, the governors of States, the judges of

courts and all they who hold the destinies, the peace, the liberties and happiness of the people, that they may not be overthrown and destroyed. If possible, give unto them, hearts of repentance; but, if they will not repent, prepare thy saints that they may stand fast in the faith, and be ready for any and every dispensation of thy providence, remaining true and faithful even to death.

We dedicate this meeting unto thee—let thine hand be seen, thy deliverance be made manifest, thy name honored, thy people delivered and we experience such disposition of thy providence as shall sanctify us and make us meet for the society of the saints in light. We dedicate ourselves unto thee, asking thee to bless thy servant President John Taylor, with his brethren the Apostles, and all the authorities of thy Church, that the vine which thou hast planted in the earth may grow and increase in power and strength that ere long the fowls of heaven may come and lodge in its branches.

May the doings of this day be sanctified to the good of many people; and we ascribe all honor, praise and power to thee now and forever, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

The Logan band played "O Zion."

The following brief speech was then delivered by

COUNSELOR D. H. WELLS.

My Friends, my Brethren, my Sisters and Fellow Citizens:

I sincerely thank you for this demonstration of your love, sympathy and respect; probably this is a demonstration of such a character as never was seen before. No words can express the indignation and resentment which burns within our bosoms, unutterable! Has it come to this that in free America a man cannot keep his covenant with his God, nor worship him in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience without suffering the penalties of bonds, fines, imprisonment and death? Oh tell it not in Britain, nor publish it in the streets of Rome or Spain! Acts speak louder and are more expressive than words. Therefore, after again thanking you, in the name of insulted freedom, and in accordance with the dictates of wisdom, we will soon close these proceedings and retire in silence to our happy and undisturbed homes. And now may the peace of heaven and the blessing of Israel's God rest in rich abundance upon you all, and upon everyone whose soul responds to the sound, the echoes of truth and integrity, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Captain Croxall's band played "Hail Columbia."

The following extempore address was then delivered by

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR.

If the congregation will be still, I will try to make a very few remarks.

We are not assembled here to-day for any other purposes than those of peace. We have no quarrel with our Government; we have no quarrel with our judiciary, nor with the United States; we have no quarrel with any people upon the face of the earth. Our mission is, "Peace on earth and good will to all men." And although men have sought to interfere with our religious faith and to control our consciences, it is understood by us that God and His laws have never been palatable to the great mass of mankind generally. And therefore if men in the different ages have had to endure persecution and prosecution for the sake of the eternal truths of God, it is nothing strange that we should have to partake a little of the same thing.

We have met here, however, to welcome our friend and brother, President Daniel H. Wells, to our midst; to evince a feeling that exists and permeates among the Latter-day Saints and that dwells in their bosoms, as well as in the bosoms of all honorable men, namely, that of maintaining and sustaining their friends that dare be true to God, to their country and its institutions, to their religion and their friends; who have the moral courage and dare to act upon the principles of honor in the face of narrow prejudice, proscriptions, penalties, and the evils which even honorable men have to meet in life, infrequently, from the hands of those whose positions ought to raise them above the narrow limits of bigotry and intolerance; and knowing what the

feelings of the Latter-day Saints were in relation to those things, we wished them to be gathered together to evince that respect to General Wells which, independent of his honorable position for years in our midst, his conduct merits. We wish to evince a disposition to sustain correct principles under all circumstances. We have, as I before marked, no quarrel with the United States. If they have acted foolishly in making laws that are oppressive and at variance with the Constitution, we cannot help that; we ought rather to hope that broader, more comprehensive and statesmanlike views will yet obtain, in the interests of humanity and our common country, and that, upon more mature reflection, our statesmen will comprehend that a great and magnanimous country can well afford to do away with narrow special legislation and mete out equal justice to all. It is a great misfortune for men in high place to entertain vindictive feelings and try to deprive their fellow men equal rights with themselves; a great, growing country like the United States, which possesses freedom, institutions and privileges second to none, to have representatives who are unable to rise to the dignity of their position as statesmen, who bowing to the narrow prejudices of sectarian bias cannot divest themselves of the trammels of religious bigotry; and we hope that a more magnanimous course may yet obtain; and that those men who have been so blind in the National Legislature as not to comprehend the true meaning and genius of our institutions will by and by become more enlightened.

We sympathize with our country whose liberal and generous institutions are thus tampered with, but we do not propose to trample under foot just law; we do not propose to violate the Constitution; we do not propose to place ourselves in antagonism to the Government. We will stand by it and be true to it, and when every other people shall desert it and the Constitution, the Latter-day Saints will be found to be staunch supporters. [Applause.] Whether other people can afford to do right or not, we can. [Applause.] And God is on the side of right and He will bring us through victorious. Nor have we any particular remarks to make about the judiciary, nor any of their acts pertaining to the Reynolds appeal case in Washington—the acts of the Supreme Court of the United States, nor particularly those of this our District Court; only we could have wished for their sakes and the dignity of their position that they could have found a more plausible reason for sending an honorable man to the penitentiary than the color or cut of an apron. All we desire is that they will become a little more enlightened, a little more intelligent; that they will possess broader, more liberal, more just and more equitable principles. And we hope to see, and will live to see the day when every man, no matter what his nation, color or creed, shall be protected under the broad folds of the American flag and the pure principles enunciated in the constitution. [Applause.] We can abide our time and trust in the living God for redress of all grievances.

Do not then, my brethren, let us have any quarrel with these people. Our mission is "peace on earth and good will to men." And if men are in error we will try our utmost to correct them; if they are weak and ignorant or even tyrannical, we will try to bear with them and leave them in the hands of God, for we can afford to wait. There is a God that rules in the heavens. There is an old saying, that "the mills of the gods grind slowly, but that they grind exceeding fine." We can wait the time, the Lord's just time in relation to these matters, placing ourselves in His hands. We appeal to the great God for redress, and let all Israel say "amen" (the vast concourse of people responded, "amen.") We can afford to treat all people right whether they can us or not. The Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Catholics and any people whatever that have come to our borders have always been protected by us and always will be. We are not the judges of their consciences if they profess to be of ours. God has made of one blood all the nations of the earth, and if they do not follow his laws yet he does not destroy them. Let us cherish in our hearts this spirit. He makes his sun to shine on the evil and on