

# THE DESERET NEWS.

Truth and Liberty.

VOL. V.

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NO. 3.

## DESERET NEWS:

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[From the Millennial Star.]

Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-five.

"He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear."—Rev. h. 7.

BY JOHN JACQUES.

The last year's page

In the voluminous book of Time is found!  
A few stray pictures, cheering as the beams  
Of the bright morning sun, with multitudes  
Of sadder cast, and many too as dark  
As blackest night, appear, indelibly  
Daguerreotyp'd, and faithfully describ'd  
That all may see, and read, and, if they choose,  
May profit too.

Another page unfolds to view, without  
A mark, or spot, or blemish on its face,  
White as pure snow, clean as an angel's garb.  
With fervid haste a thousand voices ask—  
"What will the burden of this new page be,  
When fill'd with current history? Will health,  
"And peace, and universal comity,  
"And prosperous times appear in bold relief?  
"Or will disease, and pestilence, and hate,  
"And war, and desolation claim the space?"

A still small voice now gently whispers thus—  
"Are ye, who ask, all children of the light?  
"If so, then listen, and I will reveal  
"Some portion of the new year's history.  
"The Lord Almighty has look'd down from heaven,  
"And seen the wickedness of man on earth,  
"His vile corruption and foul tyranny,  
"His constant scorning of the light of heaven,  
"And persecuting hatred of His Saints,  
"And has decreed the overflowing scourge  
"Shall stalk at night and no-day through the earth,  
"And lay its thousands low to rot, and curse  
"The womb that gave them birth. And further still,  
"The land he will depopulate. A dearth  
"Of food shall pinch the vitals of mankind.  
"Old Ocean's waves shall gush the gallant ship,  
"With all its precious freight of life and wealth  
"The quaking earth shall open fearful mouths,  
"To swallow up corruption from its face.  
"While man's fell hate and strife, with fire and sword,  
"And war's dire terrors, shall fill up the scene.  
"But let the Saints not fear. There is prepar'd  
"A goodly place of refuge in the West,  
"Wall'd safely in by everlasting hills,  
"Where righteousness and truth may reign supreme,  
"And peace, and love, and liberty prevail.  
"There can the pure in heart repair, and there  
"Escape from ill, and hide in evil days,  
"While Jacob's mighty God will be their shield,  
"Their tower, their bulwark, and their strong defence.  
"Think it not strange, for this is Zion. Has  
"It not been handed down from olden times—  
"In latter days deliverance shall be  
"In Zion and Jerusalem? Then hear  
"In Zion now, Jerusalem by and bye.  
"There, there alone, are peace and safety sure."

Again the voice essays—

"Be ye, who ask, not children of the light?  
"Then wherefore shall I answer, for ye sight  
"My speech, and all whom I inspire. Yet still  
"My words are held from none who will receive,  
"And warning take. I know your keen desire  
"To learn the future—whether this or that  
"Shall prosper in your hands, or come to naught.  
"Is dear to you as love of life to see  
"Ahead the working of your darling plans  
"For self aggrandizement, conceiv'd in hope,  
"More fondly cherish'd than regard for truth,  
"Justice or righteousness. Then learn from me  
"If learn you will. But if you disbelieve,  
"And ridicule my warning whisperings, yet  
"You have this consolation—wait and see.

Thus speaks the Spirit, and the wise in heart  
Will ponder well the words of wisdom given,  
Foresee the evil, to the refuge fly,  
And in the mountains' side till judgment's past,  
Then walk forth in Heaven's name, possess the land,  
And Edenize the desolated earth,  
Filling the world with truth, life, love, and joy,  
With praise and adoration to the Great I AM,  
And Hallelujahs to the Lamb once slain  
To bring man back to immortality.  
Whereas the fool will summer heedless on,  
Fall in the snare, and meet just punishment.  
He that hath ears to hear, then let him hear.  
West Derby, Jan. 1, 1855.

## HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

MAY, 1841.

Tuesday, 4.—"Head Quarters, Nauvoo Legion. City of Nauvoo, Ill., May 4, 1841. General Orders.—Pursuant to an act of the Court Martial, the troops attached or belonging to the Legion will parade at the place of general rendezvous, in the city of Nauvoo, for drill, review, and inspection, on Saturday, the 3rd day of July, at half past nine o'clock, a.m., armed and equipped according to law. At 10 o'clock the line will be formed, and the general officers conducted to their posts, under a fire of artillery. The commandants of the 1st and 2nd companies, 2nd battalion, 1st regiment, 2nd cohort, are directed to enroll every man residing within the bounds of their respective commands, and not attached to any other company of the Legion, between the ages of 18 and 45 years, and notify them of their attachment to the service, and their legal liabilities.

As will be seen by the following legal opinion of Judge Douglass, of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, than whom no man stands more deservedly high in the public estimation, as an able and profound jurist, politician, and statesman; the officers and privates, belonging to the Legion, are exempt from all military duty not required by the legally constituted authorities thereof. They are, therefore, expressly inhibited from performing any military services not ordered by the general officers, or directed by the court martial.

"City of Nauvoo, Ill., May 3, 1841.

General Bennett:—Dear Sir: In reply to your request, I have examined so much of the Nauvoo City Charter, and legislative acts, as relate to the "Nauvoo Legion," and am clearly of opinion, that any citizen of Hancock County who may attach himself to the Nauvoo Legion, has all the privileges which appertain to that independent military body, and is exempt from all other military duty, as provided in the 25th section of the City Charter; and cannot therefore be fined by any military or civil court, for neglecting or refusing to parade with any other military body, or under the command of any officers who are not attached to said Legion. The language of the laws upon this subject, is so plain and specific as to admit of no doubt as to its true meaning and intent. I do not consider it necessary therefore to enter into an argument to prove a position, which is evident from an inspection of the laws themselves.

I am very respectfully, your friend,

S. A. DOUGLASS.

The Legion is not, as has been falsely represented by its enemies, exclusively a Mormon Military Association, but a body of citizen soldiers organized (without regard to political preferences or religious sentiments) for the public defence, the general good, and the preservation of law and order,—to save the innocent, unoffending citizens from the iron grasp of the oppressor, and perpetuate and sustain our free institutions against insurrection, anarchy, and mob violence—no other views are entertained or tolerated. The general parades of the Legion will be in the city of Nauvoo, but all other musters will be within the bounds of the respective companies, battalions, regiments, and cohorts.

The 8th sec. of "an Act for the organization and government of the Militia of this State" in force July 2, 1833, provides that "when any person shall enroll himself in a volunteer company, he shall forthwith give notice in writing to the commanding officer of the company in which he was enrolled, &c., and that the commanding officer of a regiment or battalion, may in a certain contingency "dissolve such company;" and some of the petty, ignorant and impudent militia officers maintain that such is still the law; but those blind leaders of the blind are informed, that the 11th sec. of "An Act encouraging volunteer companies" approved March 2, 1837, reads as follows, "So much of the 8th section of an act entitled 'An Act for the organization and government of the Militia of this State,' in force July 2, 1833, as requires a volunteer to give notice in writing to the commanding officer of the company in which he was enrolled, and authorizes commandants of regiments to disband independent companies, be and the same is hereby repealed."

If officers act upon the obsolete laws of the "little book" which have been repealed years since, it will be sweet to the taste; but "make the belly bitter;" and should any civil or military officer attempt to enforce the collection of any military fines upon the members of the Legion, excepting when such fines are assessed by the court martial of the Legion, such persons are directed to apply to the master in chancery, for Hancock County, for an injunction to stay the illegal proceedings.

The militia companies of Hancock County, and citizens generally, are respectfully invited to unite with the Legion, and partake of its privileges.

All officers are required to enforce the most rigid discipline on all days of public parade. Persons holding enrolling orders are directed to act with energy; consummate their trust, and make prompt returns to the office of the Major-general.

The Lieutenant-general desires that all his

FRIENDS should attach themselves to some company, either in the first or second cohort. This will enable them to receive correct military instruction; under the teachings of experienced officers, according to the drill and discipline of the United States' Army—and qualify them for efficient service in the cause of their beloved country and state in the hour of peril.

The eleven companies of minute men will at all times hold themselves in readiness to execute the laws as originally instructed by the general officers.

The officers and troops of the Legion are directed to treat with proper respect and decorum, all other officers and troops in the service of this state, or of the United States.

Officers are ordered to treat their troops with marked respect; and while they discharge their duties with promptitude and boldness as officers, they must not forget or neglect to observe the requisites of gentlemen.

The 2nd company (light infantry), 1st battalion, 1st regiment, 2nd cohort; and the 1st company (hancers), 1st battalion, 3rd regiment, 2nd cohort of the Legion, will act as an escort for the reception of such visiting companies from Illinois and Iowa, as may be present. Should the Governor be present, it will be announced by a fire of artillery by the 1st and 2nd companies, 1st battalion, 1st regiment, 1st cohort, and the 1st company, 1st battalion, 1st regiment, 2nd cohort, when he will be received by the entire Legion, with the honors due so conspicuous a personage as the commander-in-chief of the forces of the state.

Officers receiving copies of these orders, will promulgate the same without delay throughout the bounds of their respective commands.

JOSEPH SMITH, Lieutenant-General.

Thursday, 6.—City of Nauvoo, May 6th, 1841.

To the Editors of the Times and Seasons:—Gentlemen: I wish, through the medium of your paper, to make known that on Sunday last, I had the honor of receiving a visit from the Hon. Stephen A. Douglass, Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of the fifth Judicial Circuit of the State of Illinois, and Cyrus Walker, Esq., of Macomb, who expressed great pleasure in visiting our city, and were astonished at the improvements which were made. They were officially introduced to the congregation, who had assembled on the meeting ground, by the Mayor; and they severally addressed the assembly.

Judge Douglass, expressed his satisfaction of what he had seen and heard respecting our people, and took that opportunity of returning thanks to the citizens of Nauvoo, for conferring upon him the freedom of the city; stating that he was not aware of rendering us any service sufficiently important to deserve such marked honor; and likewise spoke in high terms of our location and the improvements we had made, and that our enterprise and industry were highly creditable to us indeed.

Mr. Walker spoke much in favor of the place, the industry of the citizens, &c., and hoped they would continue to enjoy all the blessings and privileges of our free and glorious Constitution, and as a patriot and a freeman, he was willing at all times, to stand boldly in defence of liberty and law.

It must indeed be satisfactory to this community to know, that kind and generous feelings exist in the hearts of men of such high reputation, and moral and intellectual worth.

Judge Douglass has ever proved himself friendly to this people, and interested himself to obtain for us our several charters, holding at that time the office of secretary of state.

Mr. Walker also ranks high, and has long held a standing at the bar, which few attain, and is considered one of the most able and profound jurists in the state.

The sentiments they expressed on the occasion, were highly honorable to them as American citizens, and as gentlemen. How different their conduct, from that of the official characters in the state of Missouri, whose minds were prejudiced to such an extent, that instead of mingling in our midst and as retaining for themselves our character, kept entirely aloof, but were ready at all times to listen to those who had the "poison of adders under their tongues," and who sought our overthrow.

Let every person who may have imbibed sentiments prejudicial to us, imitate the honorable example of our distinguished visitors (Douglass and Walker), and I believe they will find much less to condemn than they anticipated, and probably a great deal to commend.

What makes the late visit more pleasing, is the fact that Messrs. Douglass and Walker, have long been held in high estimation as politicians, being champions of the two great parties that exist in the state; but laying aside all party strife, like brothers, citizens and friends, they mingle with us mutually disposed to extend to us that courtesy, respect and friendship, which I hope we shall ever be proud to reciprocate.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

JOSEPH SMITH.

Saturday, 8.—Brother William Smith is preaching in Pennsylvania.

Accounts of the progress of the gospel from the elders abroad are very encouraging.

A magazine of 300 barrels of gunpowder at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, exploded, blowing

the Fort, seven other buildings, and forty persons to atoms.

Wednesday, 12.—The "Rochester," with the elders, came in sight of Cape Sable, Nova Scotia.

Saturday, 15.—Good news has recently reached us from Tennessee, New York, Upper Canada and New Orleans. The elders are baptizing in all directions.

Sunday, 16.—I addressed the Saints. The following is a sketch of my sermon by the Editor of the Times and Seasons.

"At 10 o'clock, a.m., a large concourse of the Saints assembled on the meeting ground, and were addressed by President Joseph Smith, who spoke at considerable length.

He commenced his observations by remarking that the kindness of our Heavenly Father, called for our heartfelt gratitude. He then observed that Satan was generally blamed for the evils which we did, but if he was the cause of all our wickedness, men could not be condemned. The devil cannot compel mankind to do evil; all was voluntary. Those who resist the Spirit of God, are liable to be led into temptation, and then the association of heaven is withdrawn from those who refuse to be made partakers of such great glory. God would not exert any compulsory means, and the devil could not; and such ideas as were entertained by many were absurd. The creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but Christ subjected the same in hope—we are all subject to vanity while we travel through the crooked paths and difficulties which surround us. Where is the man that is free from vanity? None ever were perfect but Jesus; and why was he perfect? Because he was the Son of God, and had the fulness of the Spirit, and greater power than any man. But notwithstanding our vanity, we look forward with hope (because "we are subjected in hope") to the time of our deliverance.

He then made some observations on the first principles of the gospel, observing that many of the Saints who had come from different states and nations had only a very superficial knowledge of these principles, not having heard them fully investigated.

He then briefly stated the principles of faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins, which were believed by some of the righteous societies of the day, but the doctrine of laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost was discarded by them.

The speaker then referred to the 6th chap. of Hebrew, 1st and 2nd verses, "Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, &c., but of the doctrine of baptism, laying on of hands, the resurrection, and eternal judgment," &c. That the doctrine of eternal judgment was perfectly understood by the apostles, is evident from several passages of scripture. Peter preached repentance and baptism for the remission of sins to the Jews, who had been led to acts of violence and blood by their leaders; but to the rulers he said, "I would that through ignorance ye did it, as did also those ye ruled." "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing (redemption) shall come from the presence of the Lord, for he shall send Jesus Christ, who before was preached unto you, &c." The time of redemption here had reference to the time when Christ should come; then, and not till then, would their sins be blotted out. Why? Because they were murderers, and no murderer hath eternal life. Even David must wait for those times of refreshing, before he can come forth and his sins be blotted out. For Peter, speaking of him, says, "David hath not yet ascended into heaven, for his sepulchre is with us to this day." His remains were then in the tomb. Now, we read that many bodies of the Saints arose at Christ's resurrection, probably all the Saints, but it seems that David did not. Why? Because he had been a murderer. If the ministers of religion had a proper understanding of the doctrine of eternal judgment, they would not be found attending the man who had forfeited his life to the injured laws of his country, by shedding innocent blood; for such characters cannot be forgiven, until they have paid the last farthing. The prayers of all the ministers in the world could never close the gates of hell against a murderer.

He then spoke on the subject of election, and read the 9th chap. of Romans, from which it was evident that the election there spoken of, was pertaining to the flesh, and had reference to the seed of Abraham, according to the promise God made to Abraham, saying, "In thee, and in thy seed, all the families of the earth shall be blessed." To them belonged the adoption and the covenants, &c. Paul said, when he saw their unbelief, I wish myself accursed—according to the flesh—not according to the spirit. Why did God say to Pharaoh, "For this cause have I raised thee up?" Because Pharaoh was a fit instrument—a wicked man, and had committed acts of cruelty of the most atrocious nature. The election of the promised seed still continues, and in the last days they shall have the priesthood restored to them, and they shall be the "saviors on Mount Zion," the ministers of our God; if it were not for the remnant which was left, then might we be as Sodom and Gomorrah. The whole of the chapter had reference to the Priesthood and the house of Israel; and unconditional election of individuals to eternal life was not taught by the