

There can be but one feeling for such creatures who may be clothed with a little brief authority, and that is contempt. We have outlived many generations of them. We have seen them come and fret their brief hour upon the stage and pass off, no more to be heard of or noticed. At the time none were greater or more important than they—in their own estimation. But where are they now? So it will be with those now here who take this unfair, dishonest and false course. It is an old oriental saying that the justice of God never sleeps. Men who take solemn oaths and then violate them, as many officers who have been sent here have done, will find this to be true.

THE following letter, kindly handed to us for publication, by General de Trobriand, will be read with a great deal of interest by our numerous subscribers. We should have been pleased to have made some comments on the subject to which it refers, but lack of space precludes our doing so to-day. We shall probably refer to it to-morrow.

LETTER

FROM GENERAL R. DE TROBRIAND, COMMANDING AT CAMP DOUGLAS, TO HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR J. W. SHAFFER.

CAMP DOUGLAS, Utah Territory,
September 29th, 1870.

To his Excellency, J. W. Shaffer, Governor of Utah Territory:—Sir,—I was in Provo City, and had been there three days when, yesterday evening, I was informed, for the first time, by public papers, that during my absence I had been honored with a letter from you, the original of which was handed to me only this afternoon on my return here. This will explain the delay of my answer, which otherwise would have been immediate.

That the object of your letter is more with the public than with myself is sufficiently shown by the fact that it was published in the DESERET EVENING NEWS, even before the original had reached Camp Douglas; but as you thought fit to append it to my name, you will allow me, in answer, to point out to you some of the mistakes, misstatements, wrong insinuations and erroneous implications which it contains; and to furnish you some information, which however old for everybody else, will, to all appearances, be new to your Excellency.

Your first mistake, Sir, is to have addressed your letter to me. Those who are behind the scenes and know something of the game will, without difficulty, see through it as I do; but all others will not understand how it is that you write to the Commander of Camp Douglas a letter exclusively in reference to matters pertaining to Camp Rawlins, for nearly everybody knows, although your Excellency seems to ignore it, that there is no organization of military districts in the Department of the Platte, that all posts are independent from each other, and that their respective commanders, communicate direct with the Department Headquarters. So your letter should have been addressed to the commanding officer at Fort Rawlins. But it may be, that provided the document would produce the intended effect on the public, it was immaterial to you to whom it was addressed. Not so to me, however, and considering its import, I take the liberty respectfully to inform you that you have entered the wrong pew.

Your second mistake, Sir, is to base your communication on the supposition that because you did not hear about it—having evidently made no inquiry in the matter—no action has been taken on the part of the military to bring the perpetrators of the outrages at Provo to punishment. This is a gross error, as I will show you presently, by the most precise information.

Your third mistake, Sir, is to suppose that it is the duty of the officer in command at Camp Rawlins to make public his official report, stating all the facts. Any one familiar with military matters would know better, and in that respect, Sir, I take again the liberty to respectfully inform you that such reports must be sent first to superior headquarters and made public only by proper authority and not otherwise. I hope you will not find it strange if Major Osborne and I conform ourselves to the orders on the subject.

Your fourth mistake, Sir, is to say: "I have waited thus long, in the earnest hope that you would have taken such action as would convince the citizens that the soldiery was stationed at Provo to protect and not destroy."

This, Sir, implies directly that I did not do it and it is another gross error on your part, as I propose to show you presently, that it did not take me five minutes to do my duty, while it took you five days to consider in which way most suitable to your purpose you could appear to do yours.

Your fifth mistake, Sir, is in the appreciation of our respective duties. In that respect I beg respectfully to inform you that it is not my duty, as you seem to believe it, to keep you posted about what occurs in your Territory, when you shut deliberately your door and your ears to any common information which could disturb your sickly slumbers or interfere with your little private schemes. Nor have I to communicate to you what I may do in the execution of superior orders or otherwise in my military capacity, without any initiative of inquiry on your part. And I respectfully suggest that whenever any occurrence renders a military interference necessary it is your duty to notify the nearest post commander, making upon him any requisition of troops that circumstances may require, and not wait passively at home, barricaded against any outside information as you did in the present case.

Your sixth mistake, Sir,—but I suppose I can stop with the fifth one, not to make this letter too long, I will then pass to the informations.

The riot at Provo took place on the 23d inst. between 12 and 2 o'clock a.m. The telegraphic dispatch of Mayor Smoot was received at Salt Lake City during the forenoon and was sent to me without delay. Fifteen or twenty minutes after receiving it, I was in the telegraph office forwarding it to General Augur with this introductory remark: "The following telegram is just received from the Mayor of Provo City. As Camp Rawlins is not under my command, I can only forward it as received." The answer of General Augur came the following day, the 24th, ordering me to proceed to Provo, etc. It was brought to me at 8 o'clock in the evening, and on the following morning, the 25th, about 7 o'clock, I was on my way to Provo, where I arrived in the afternoon. The same evening before retiring, I had had a long conference with Major Osborne and had begun to collect information from several citizens. On the 26th I spent the whole morning at Camp Rawlins and the whole afternoon with Mayor Smoot, Alderman Miller, Alderman Sheets, Mr. McDonald and other influential citizens, taking a minute memorandum of the damages in each house attacked by the mob, collecting information, etc., while a military clerk, whom I had taken with me for that purpose, was transcribing all the evidence produced already at the investigation before the civil authorities. The whole day of the 27th was by me devoted to a concurrent investigation with the civil authorities and I was so engaged at the very moment when your Excellency, at last aroused to the necessity of doing something, after having "waited thus long in the earnest hope that I would have taken such action, etc." concluded "now, as Governor of the Territory, sworn to protect all citizens," to ask me with great solemnity to do what?—just what had been already done four days before!!! *Nascitur ridiculus mus*, here is the ridiculous rat born from the child labor of your mountain!

I say "what had been done already four days before," for in the early morning of the 23d, but a few hours after the riot, one of the parties implicated was already in custody of the City Marshal and several others were prisoners in Camp, subject to any demand of the civil authority. Major Osborne that same day offered to turn over all of the prisoners to their custody. This offer was declined, and on the 24th, in the evening, the party in the hands of the City Marshal was by him returned to the military for safe keeping. The offer of Major Osborne was by me renewed on the 26th, with the same result. After all those transactions at Provo, you will acknowledge that your communication of the 27th was most decidedly behind time and behind truth.

Perhaps you would like to know the cause of this persistent refusal of the civil authorities at Provo to take charge of the prisoners. Two reasons were explained to me: the first one that there is no jail in the city; the second that a legal decision of recent date having withdrawn the criminal cases from the jurisdiction of the Probate Court, the prisoners if taken in custody by the City Marshal, would soon be released on a writ of *habeas corpus*. The insistence of your Excellency to have the prisoners in the hands of the civil authorities at Provo could not be in prevision of such contingency. Oh! certainly not.

Now you may see how the matter stands: you ask me solemnly to deliver up the prisoners to the civil authorities. The civil authorities persistently decline to take charge of them. What can we do? Keep them, of course, and for that I have another reason still more conclusive, and that is, that an order to that effect has been received from my Department Commander.

In face of all these facts, it will be hard work for you to make any one believe that you were the active man in the matter, and that I was the inert one. I know that you are not easily discouraged by difficulties, and that you would be much pleased to transfer to my shoulders, part, at least, of your baggage; but you will find me decidedly refractory to such a load as that.

I pass over the balance of your letter, which is especially intended for the public. Between actual facts and eloquent words, the public will be the best judge. I come to the last sentence, in which you say, "If the United States soldiery cannot fulfill the high object they were sent here for, then far better, for the sake of the credit of the nation, and the American armies, we be let alone to ourselves."

If it was not too much of curiosity, I would like to know if the real object of those who caused the "U. S. soldiery," as you say, to be sent to Provo, was not somewhat different from the high object so eloquently set forth by your Excellency. But as any question on this subject would remain unanswered, I will only refer to your last words, "we be let alone to ourselves." By all means, Sir, if you wish it. You know by this time, that we of the Army are not of a meddling temper, we are no politicians; we don't belong to any ring; we have no interest in any clique, and we don't share in any spoils. Our personal ambition is generally limited to the honest and patriotic performance of our duties for our own satisfaction and the best interests of the Government. Wherever we are ordered to go, we go, but we have no voice in the matter, and if we are sent to Provo or anywhere else, it is not, as you are aware, on our application, but by the influential request of somebody else, generally in compliance with the demand of the Governor.

To be let alone! Why, Sir, the military itself, does not wish any better. If our soldiers were let alone instead of being poisoned physically with bad whiskey and morally with bad influences, there would be no trouble with them.

That you be "let alone to yourselves"—you, meaning of course, the people of this Territory, including its Governor, its churches, its militia, its Legislature, its judiciary, its municipality, etc., etc.—would certainly be a great blessing to all, and I am happy to agree with you on that point. Then why not try it? and if the presence of the "U. S. soldiery" interferes in any way with the harmonious workings of your "happy family," a single order from Washington may settle the question. Rest assured, Sir, that in such a case we will all obey without hesitation or murmur, letting you alone to the full enjoyment of that popularity which so justly distinguishes your administration and surrounds your person in this Territory of Utah.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient serv't,
R. DE TROBRIAND, U. S. A.
Com'g Camp Douglas.

P. S.—As you were pleased to send your communication to the DESERET EVENING NEWS for publication, I hope you will not have any objection to my using the same privilege for this answer.

THAT LETTER.

THE letter of General de Trobriand, published in the NEWS, yesterday, in answer to the one from his Excellency Governor Shaffer, was doubtless read with unfeigned pleasure by the public generally, but we are much deceived if the feelings of the crowd who are using all their efforts to injure the people of this city and Territory, were not anything but pleasurable on perusing it. They have evidently mistaken the character of the General commanding at Camp Douglas, and, while expecting that he would fraternize with them in their machinations against the people of Utah, they have met with a rebuff they will not soon forget in the blunt, honest avowal that "we of the army are not of a meddling temper, we are no politicians, we don't belong to any ring, we have no interest in any clique, and we don't share in any spoils."

We say "they" have met with a rebuff, for although the letter in Tuesday's

NEWS was ostensibly from his Excellency the Governor, it is really the emanation of the "ring," to which we much fear he has lent himself, and the General's letter, being in reply to that, it is therefore a rebuff to the entire party.

The object of the letter on Tuesday is patent to all now; it was designed to make the public believe, as General de Trobriand very justly says, that the military authorities were inert, and that the civil authority, was not only entirely unconcerned in and ignorant of the raid on Provo, but were very anxious to have the raiders brought to justice; neither of which the public believe now any more than before the Governor's letter was printed. The publication of such a letter betrays the usual lack of caution on the part of the enemies of the people here; for none can suppose for a moment, that the nest of pettifoggers and tricksters of which the "ring" is composed, can be so utterly ignorant of the rights, privileges and duties of the incumbent of the gubernatorial office, as to make such a series of "mistakes" &c, as that alluded to by General de Trobriand.

The fact undoubtedly is that the clique expected the commander at Camp Douglas to fall in with them, and to lend his aid and influence in carrying on their despicable game; being a U. S. officer, they hoped he would look through their spectacles; but alas! for them, he was not as they are, bankrupt in honor, and in everything constituting the true gentleman.

This letter, of General De Trobriand is, if we mistake not, the greatest surprise, coming as it does, from a source entirely un-Mormon, that the anti-Mormon "ring" in Utah has had for some years; and if any of its members had the least spark of honor left within them, or the faintest conception of its meaning they would speedily hide their "diminished heads" and endeavor to find "fairer fields and pastures new," to ply their vocation; but as brass and impudence are the only concomitants of their natures, and lying, to them, is as natural as life itself, we have no doubt they will still appear in the community with their accustomed effrontery, and will endeavor, as usual, to carry out their schemes and plots against the peace, welfare and happiness of the people here.

We do not deem it necessary to comment on the "mistakes" of the "ring," specified by General De Trobriand; he has stated them in such a terse and forcible manner that comments would almost be an injustice. In future the "ring" will do well not to count, untried, on aid and succor from all men who may happen to be officers of the government; for it is gratifying to know that some, among them, possess the right to be considered men of honor and gentlemen. The relations between the people of the Territory and the military, for some years past, have been very amicable; and as long as gentlemen are in command there is no reason whatever to fear anything else, notwithstanding the statement "that much feeling exists in this community against the Federal officers and soldiers."

It is an extremely lucky thing for this nest of political adventurers that their lot happens to be cast in Utah, for known, as they all are to the community at large, if they were among a people not strictly law-abiding, many of them would fare badly. The fact that they are permitted to move in the midst of this community unmolested is the best evidence which can be afforded of the falsity of their charges and the loyalty of the people of Utah. But though they are permitted to go unmolested, nothing can save them, ultimately, from oblivion, and the contempt and scorn of the just and good everywhere. This has been the fate of their predecessors; and we think we are justified in saying that a more unprincipled set of knaves and scoundrels never infested or disgraced this or any other portion of the earth than the great majority of those composing the "ring" now trying to run the civil affairs of Utah Territory.

NOTICE

THE Members of the 37th Quorum of Seventies are requested to report themselves to Thomas McIntyre, Deseret News Office, by order of the PRESIDENCY OF THE QUORUM.

d264-1 w35-2

ESTRAYS!

I Have in my charge the following:
A red and white COW, about 7 years old, no brand, point of horns, underbit out off ears and bit off right ear;
Also a gray HORSE, about 8 years old, branded S on left shoulder and S₂ on left thigh.
The owners can have the above stock by paying charges.

Wm CLARK,
Sugar House Ward, Salt Lake City,