

You inform me that you are informed that Gov. Reynolds is about to make a new demand for you; and you implore my protection from what you term this renewed persecution. In the month of August last, I was furnished by your friends with a very large amount of affidavits and evidence, said to be intended to show cause why no further writs should be issued against you. As they are very voluminous, I have not yet read them, and probably never will, unless a new demand should be made, in which case they will receive a careful perusal, and you may rest assured that no steps will be taken by me but such as the constitution and laws may require.

I am very respectfully, &c.,

THOMAS FORD."

It appears from this letter that Governor Ford has never taken pains to examine the evidences placed in his hands, "and probably never will," in relation to the Missouri writs; and evidently as little pains to examine the Constitution of the United States, or even reflect upon the ordinary principles of human rights; to suppose that a State, after having by a union of executive, judicial, and military powers exterminated 15,000 of its innocent inhabitants who were not even charged with any crime; robbing them of all they possessed on earth, murdering hundreds of men, women, and children; and expelling all the others from the State among strangers in midwinter; destitute of every thing upon the face of the earth that could possibly have a tendency to make life desirable, should be constitutionally entitled to demand back from banishment, persons who have thus suffered its absolute decrees of exile to satiate a yet unsatiated thirst for human blood and cruel torture; oh! reason where art thou fled? Oh! humanity, where hast thou hidden thyself? Patriots of '76, has your blood been spilt in vain? that in 1843 the executive of a great republican State, can coolly say, "I have not yet read them, and probably never will." Is liberty only a name? is protection of person and property fled from free America? Let those answer who can.

Friday, 15.—I awoke this morning in good health, but was soon suddenly seized with a great dryness of the mouth and throat, sickness of the stomach, and vomited freely; my wife waited on me, assisted by my scribe, Dr. Willard Richards, and his brother Levi, who administered to me herbs and mild drinks. I was never prostrated so low in so short a time before, but by evening was considerably revived.

Very warm for the season.

Saturday, 16.—This morning I felt considerably better; arose at 10, and sat all day in the city council which was held in my house for my accommodation.

The mayor, aldermen, and councilors signed officially the Memorial to Congress for redress of losses and grievances in Missouri. While discussing the petition to Congress, I prophesied by virtue of the holy priesthood vested in me, and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that if Congress will not hear our petition, and grant us protection, they shall be broken up as a government, and God shall damn them, and there shall nothing be left of them, not even a grease spot.

I informed the council, that it was my wish they should ask the privilege of calling on government for the U. S. troops to protect us in our privileges, which is not unconstitutional, but lays in the breast of Congress.

Heber C. Kimball was duly elected city auctioneer, in place of Charles Warner, removed.

The council passed "An ordinance regulating Merchant and Grocers;" also "An ordinance concerning the landing of Steamers;" and Jonathan Dunham was appointed wharf master for one year.

Heber C. Kimball and Geo. A. Smith were appointed a committee to wait on Mr. Davidson Hibbard, and solicit from him a block of land whereon to erect a city prison.

After council conversed with some of the Twelve, brother Turley and others, till 8 p.m. Prayer meeting in the evening.

Warm, foggy, and muddy day.

Sunday, 17.—At home till 4 p.m.; attended prayer meeting at the Assembly Room; Samuel Harrison Smith admitted. Returned home at 7.

River clear of ice as far up as the Stone Tavern.

Mr. King Follett, one of the constables of Hancock county, started with ten men this afternoon to arrest John Elliott, for kidnapping Daniel Avery, upon a warrant granted by Aaron Johnson, Esq., J.P.

Monday, 18.—After dinner, Constable Follett returned with John Elliott, a schoolmaster, when an examination was had before Esq. Johnson in the Assembly Room. Elliott was found guilty of kidnapping Avery, and bound over in the sum of \$3,000 to the circuit court at Carthage for trial. I endeavored to have the court reduce those bonds, as Mr. Elliott was comparatively a stranger in Nauvoo, but did not succeed.

During the investigation, testimony appeared to show that Elliott had threatened my life, and for this I made affidavit and brought him to trial before Robert D. Foster, J.P., immediately after he had received the sentence of Esq. Johnson. I extract from the Neighbor:—"The prisoner was brought forward, and the court said it was his privilege to plead for a change of venue, by paying the costs; but as the costs were not forthcoming, the court proceeded.

Mr. Styles then read the "Act to regulate the apprehension of offenders and for other purposes," p. 219 r. s. The act sets forth that the use of threatening language is sufficient to criminate individuals; this we are prepared to prove.

Sisson Chase sworn.

The testimony was similar to that before delivered with the following additional items:

I did ask him if he had authority. In the morning he said that he would not care about shooting some of the Mormons. In conversation with him he carried the idea that a conspiracy was formed against Joseph Smith and others, and that some of them would be shot. These conversations were had at different times. He thought Mr. Smith was a bad character. He thought they ought to be taken.

Ques.: Who? Joseph Smith, and some others. I told him he had been taken, but had been acquitted. He did not thank the Governor for that. He carried the idea that there was a conspiracy against his life, and said we have a plan in operation that will pop him over.

Mr. Elliott sworn.

By the court: Is your residence, Mr. Elliott, in this county? Yes.

Messrs. Marr and Styles, attorneys, resident in Nauvoo, made some thrilling remarks pertaining to the outrageous proceedings of Missouri. The diabolical conduct of those wretches who could be engaged in destroying and kidnapping their fellow men was portrayed in glowing colors.

Judge Phelps and General Smith then followed on the same subject, their language was thrillingly eloquent and powerful: if ever inhumanity and deeds of blood were depicted in their true colors, it was on that occasion; their thoughts flashed as fire, and they spake in "words that burned." We never saw the character of General Smith so clearly developed, for while he abhorred and depicted the fiendish crime that the culprit stood charged with in its true colors, he pitied the poor wretch that then stood before him, and with feelings of commiseration, benevolence and philanthropy, withdrew his charge, wished if it was in the power of the court that the culprit might be forgiven, promised to pay all the charges, and invited him and those of his friends who came along, to come to his house and they should be taken care of. It would be superfluous for us to attempt to give even a faint outline of the remarks made by the above named gentlemen, we hope to have at least a synopsis of their speeches for publication, which we are sure would be highly interesting to our readers, upon the whole, although a painful, yet it was an interesting occasion, and will long be remembered, and unless Mr. Elliott's heart, and those of his friends, were made of adamant, it must have made an indelible impression on their minds, and almost made them hate themselves."

I received from Aaron Johnson, Esq., the following demand:—

"City of Nauvoo, Dec. 18, 1843.

Sir:—I have been informed that a writ issued by me for the body of Levi Williams, for kidnapping Daniel Avery, will be resisted by an armed force. Therefore, according to the provision of the charter, I wish you to order me a detachment of the Nauvoo Legion, say 100 men to enforce the law of the State and bring the said Williams to justice.

AARON JOHNSON, J.P."

Which demand I complied with by writing to Major General Wilson Law:—

"City of Nauvoo, Dec. 18, 1843.

Sir:—You will detach 100 men under the direction of Aaron Johnson, a justice of the peace, for the purpose of assisting the constable in executing the law of the State in taking Levi Williams, who is charged with kidnapping Daniel Avery. Yours, JOSEPH SMITH, Lieut. Gen. N. L. To Major Gen. Wilson Law, Commanding Nauvoo Legion."

Who detached Col. Stephen Markham, with 100 men for that purpose. About 10 p.m., two young men arrived as express, stating that a mob was collecting at Warsaw, also at Col. Levi Williams' house; and messengers had gone to the mob in Missouri to reinforce their number there.

Dr. Richards made the following affidavit:—"State of Illinois, City of Nauvoo, December 18, 1843."

Personally appeared Willard Richards before me, Joseph Smith, mayor of said city, and upon his oath depose and saith that from information he has received, he verily believes that the peace of said city is in danger from a mobocratic assemblage at Warsaw, and a force collected under the command of Col. Levi Williams in the lower part of the county, and runners having been sent to Missouri to excite the Missourians to join the mobbers in this county, for the purpose of making a descent on said city, or disturbing its peaceable inhabitants, and further your deponent saith not.

WILLARD RICHARDS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th December, 1843.

W. W. PHELPS,

Clerk of the Mayor's Court. Whereupon I wrote to Major Gen. Wilson Law:—

"City of Nauvoo, Dec. 18, 1843.

Sir:—I am credibly informed that a warlike force is collecting at or near Warsaw, for the purpose of some violent move towards this city, or some of the inhabitants thereof, you will therefore order out such a portion of the Nauvoo Legion as may be necessary to repel any such mobocratic or hostile design of the said unlawful force, and also as may be sufficient to secure the peace of the citizens according to law. Yours,

JOSEPH SMITH, Lieut. Gen. N. L.

Major Gen. Wilson Law,

Commanding Nauvoo Legion."

I returned home to rest about one o'clock in the morning of the 19th.

Tuesday, 19.—At home. About 9 a.m., a part of the company who went with Hosea Stout returned, and stated that they went

within two miles of Col. William's, when they were informed that a body of men armed with rifles, &c., were collected at his house, and he judged it prudent to return for weapons and help; also that bro. Chester Loveland told them that he had seen 30 armed men following Constable King Follett, some miles on his way when he had Elliott in custody.

Esq. Johnson immediately wrote to Loveland to have him come to Nauvoo, and make affidavit of the warlike movements of the mob, that he might send to the Governor.

I directed my clerks to make copies of the affidavits respecting the kidnapping of the Averys to send to Gov. Ford, that he might be left without excuse, although he may probably not read them.

Elder William Martindale writes from Washington, Wayne co., Ia.:—

"A singular phenomenon was seen in this neighborhood. Jesse Fox, William and Lorenzo Fox, David Bale, James Wilson, and William Cole, with some others, retired to the house of Solomon Mendenhall, at which place they stayed a short time: while there they discovered a ball rising from the east in an oblique line, and as it ascended it moved towards the west with great rapidity until it was high in the heavens, leaving a streak of light behind it, which, to the natural eye, had the appearance of being thirty or forty feet in length. This light remained stationary for about one minute; both ends then coming round formed a figure of 8, which figure also retained its position for the same space of time; it then was transformed into a figure of 6, which also remained for about a minute; it then was formed into a cypher or 0, which remained for about three minutes. The figures put together made 1860 in large figures, in the heavens. The phenomenon was indeed singular, and has been a matter of great speculation with us."

At 1 p.m., I was present when the Legion paraded near the Temple, were inspected by the officers and instructed to prepare themselves with arms and ammunition, and to hold themselves in readiness for a moment's notice. Brother Henry Boley was shot severely under the arm by the accidental discharge of his gun.

Amos S. Chase made the following affidavit:—

"State of Illinois, } ss.

City of Nauvoo, }

On the 19th day of December, 1843, came Amos S. Chase before me, Joseph Smith, mayor of said city; and after being duly sworn depose and saith, that on the 18th day of December, 1843, he was about four miles below Warsaw, in Hancock county, shortly after the constable arrested John Elliott for being concerned in kidnapping Daniel Avery, not long since, and saw the men of the neighborhood gathering with arms, to retake the said John Elliott; and when asked what they would do if the Governor did not sanction such an unlawful course, several of them replied, 'Damn the Governor! if he opens his head we will punch a hole through him! He dare not open his head! we will serve him the same sauce we will the Mormons.' The said mob then went to Warsaw, where your affiant saw them with their arms, and further your affiant saith not.

AMOS S. CHASE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of December, 1843.

W. W. PHELPS, Clerk M. C."

Wednesday, 20.—At home in good health and spirits, counseling and attending to business in general.

The clerk of the municipal court took the following affidavits:—

"State of Illinois, } ss.

City of Nauvoo, }

On the 20th day of December, 1843, personally appeared before me, Willard Richards, clerk of the municipal court of said city. Philander Avery, of Bear Creek precinct, in said county, and after being duly sworn depose and saith, that on the 19th day of November, 1843, at his house, in the precinct aforesaid, Ebenezer Richardson, of Lee county, Territory of Iowa, by false pretences, persuaded your affiant to accompany said Richardson to the Mississippi river at Warsaw, where your affiant was seized by one Joseph C. McCoy, of Clark county, Missouri, in connection with the said Richardson, and about one dozen of other individuals, whose names are unknown to your affiant, and by them forced across said Mississippi river, where they bound your affiant, and Mark Childs swore that your affiant had stolen said McCoy's horse and colt, and that his father Daniel Avery had secreted said horse and colt, and said Richardson threatened your affiant with death or seven years imprisonment, in order to persuade him to make false statements, and testify that his father, Daniel Avery, had stolen said McCoy's horse and colt, which statements your affiant made, and swore to the same, while in duress, with a bowie knife presented to intimidate. And your affiant further saith that the testimony he gave concerning his father's guilt was extorted from him through fear, while in duress, and said testimony was absolutely false, and your affiant fully believes that his father is innocent of the crime of stealing said McCoy's horse and colt, and farther your deponent saith not.

PHILANDER AVERY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me; in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at Nauvoo aforesaid, this 20th day of December, A.D. 1843.

WILLARD RICHARDS,

Clerk of the Municipal Court of the City of Nauvoo."

State of Illinois, } ss.

Hancock county, }

On the 20th day of December, 1843, personally appeared before me Aaron Johnson a justice of the Peace in and for said county, Andrew M. Hamilton, and James B. Hamilton of Bear creek precinct, in said county, and after being duly sworn depose and say that on the evening of the second day of December, 1843, at Vernon Doty's mill, in said precinct Colonel Levi Williams of said Hancock county, as principal, and his son John Williams, with William Middleton of the county of Clark, and State of Missouri, Capt. McCoy of the said county of Clark and State of Missouri, John Fox of Green Plains precinct, and about a dozen other men armed with pistols, dirks and bowie knives, came forcibly upon Daniel Avery at said Doty's mill and seized and bound him; the said Avery told them to stand off; they said they had a writ; he observed he would not resist legal authority; they said they would take said Avery to Warsaw and there try him; the said Avery replied, 'I understand you; you will take me to Warsaw and there pass me over the river to Missouri.' Some of said gang then shouted 'lay hold of him, God damn him, lay hold of him there's no use of parleying;' at which Colonel Levi Williams with a large bowie knife in his hand, and others then forced the said Daniel Avery to submit, telling him (without a writ) that his life would be taken if he did not submit. They then tied him with silk handkerchiefs; Colonel Levi Williams and another person then led the said Daniel Avery away, and as they passed your affiants within the distance of about four rods; the said Daniel Avery cried out to one of your said affiants, 'Tell my friends where I am gone.' Col. Williams told said Avery to hold his peace for it was of no use; William Middleton then got a horse and after tying him upon said horse as sworn to before, by another witness, they then conveyed him to Missouri without a writ or trial as your affiants verily believe, and further they say not.

ANDREW M. HAMILTON,

JAMES B. HAMILTON.

Subscribed and sworn to this 20th day of December 1843, before me.

AARON JOHNSON, J. P.

Thursday, 21.—About 1 o'clock in the morning I was alarmed by the firing of a gun, got up, and went down to the river bank to see the guard, and enquire the cause of it; to my surprise they had not heard it, although I felt sure it was fired in Montrose; the morning proved it to be correct, some rowdies in Montrose had been firing in the night.

At noon met with the city council, which voted that Councilor O. Pratt present the Memorial and Ordinance to Congress.

Passed "An ordinance to prevent unlawful search or seizure of person or property by foreign process in the city of Nauvoo."

Heber C. Kimball resigned his office as city auctioneer, and Charles Warner was re-elected.

John P. Greene was duly elected city marshal, in the room of Henry G. Sherwood, who expects to leave soon.

I gave instructions to the marshal and policemen to see that all carrion is removed out of the city; and all houses kept in order, to stop the boys when fighting in the streets, and prevent children from floating off on the ice, and correct any thing out of order, like fathers; and I offered to build the city jail, if it was left to my dictation; which the council authorized me to do.

REMARKS

By Pres. D. H. Wells, Tabernacle, March 22 1857.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

Brethren and sisters: I feel it a privilege to have a part in the work of the latter days, and I feel thankful that I have been brought upon the stage of existence in this period of time. It is a privilege which you all enjoy as well as myself, and one which we should appreciate more than we do. When we reflect upon the misery and degradation that prevail in the world, we ought to highly prize the privilege we enjoy.

I heard one remark in the forenoon that he looked younger than he did twenty years ago. This brought to my mind what I had heretofore observed among what we term the world's people. Men and women plod along in the "even tenor of their way" for fifteen, twenty or more years, and become perfectly rusty, as rusty as iron that has been long exposed to the action of the elements. But let the Spirit of truth come upon persons and their minds expand, and you at once see a difference in their countenances. Who among us has not noticed this? I know that the Spirit of the Lord gives life and that men grow younger when they come into this kingdom and live their religion. This is true, although unbelievers may make sport of it. I know that the feelings of the righteous are enlivened, their flesh and blood are quickened, and they become a glorious people; they receive and enjoy the Spirit of the Lord.

Look at the nations of the earth, and see them plodding along without improvement in the knowledge of the things of God—without being touched in their spirits with the life giving power—and they rust out; they do not enjoy themselves near so much as do the 'Mormons,' who enjoy themselves a great deal better than any people within my knowledge, for it is a peculiarity of 'Mormonism' that its followers enjoy themselves. Upon the plains you can see them dancing and kicking up their heels. There is not much formal sanctity about them, and in this particular they are also right, for the Lord loves a cheerful heart and a buoyant spirit; and those who receive the Spirit of the Lord are full of life and animation. They are not apt to have the 'blues,' or if at times they do they do not go into their graves with that complaint. They are ready to do anything that will