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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JULY, 1844.

The following was sent to Gen. Deming:—
"Nauvoo, Sunday, July 7, 1844.
Gen. Deming, Acting Commander of the
Forces of Hancock Co."

Sir:—We are informed that Dr. R. D. Foster is in this city, and that he has an order from Governor Ford to call out Capt. Dunn's company of militia to guard him while here transacting business.

You must be aware, sir, at sight of such communication, the situation in which such an order of things must place this people, and of the difficulties which might grow out of such a course, and we earnestly desire your immediate action as agent of the Governor for this county, to prevent any such occurrence.

We request Gen. Deming to interfere in this matter,—we request that no troops be quartered among us, for any such purposes lest excitement arise between them and the citizens.

We desire that Dr. Foster's business be transacted by agency, or some way, so that there may be no cause of contention or excitement in our midst. Nothing shall be wanted, on our part, to keep the peace, but without the co-operation of government, it would seem impossible to accomplish it.

We are, sir, most respectfully,

Your servants, and the friends of peace,
WILLARD RICHARDS,
W. W. PHELPS,
J. P. GREENE.

P.S.—Gen. Deming knows the threats which have been made by Dr. Foster, and the cause we have to fear his presence, as well as troops in such a case."

Elder Kimball's journal records a conference held this day at Salem. He preached in the forenoon, Elder L. Wight in the afternoon, and Elder O. Pratt in the evening.

The conference went off well, the brethren realizing they had a good time.

A conference was held in the Presbyterian meeting house in Scarborough, Maine, which continued through the 6th and 7th; Elder W. Woodruff presided.

The conference was addressed, and business attended to by Elders W. Woodruff, M. Holmes, E. Tufts, and Saml. Parker.

A large mob assembled in Philadelphia on the 6th, and gathered in front of St. Phillip's Church, with the intention of burning it, because of some difficulty existing between the Protestants and Irish Catholics; the mob continued two days. The Governor of the State called out 3000 of the militia. There were 14 killed and 50 wounded during the riot.

Monday, 8.—About this time a letter was received from D. S. Hollister, reporting progress for the Baltimore convention to nominate candidates for the Presidency.

Elders B. Young, H. C. Kimball, O. Pratt, L. Wight, E. Snow, Daniel Spencer and J. L. Heywood held three meetings in the Concert Hall, Salem. The house was full and the brethren felt well.

The following is extracted from the New York Tribune:—

"THE TROUBLES AT NAUVOO."

We begin almost to fear that the terrible scenes of cruelty, devastation of peaceful homes and indiscriminate hunting down of men, women and children, which disgraced Missouri a few years since, during the expulsion of the Mormons from that State, are to be re-enacted in Illinois.

The history of these deeds has never been, and probably never will be written; but enough of their atrocities has been heard from casual recitals of eye and ear witnesses to make the soul sick with horror at their contemplation.

We are not the apologists of Joe Smith, or of the mummeries of Mormonism; we are ready to admit that the existence of that sect in the shape which it would seem Smith is bent on imparting to it, is fraught with danger, and should be looked to by the proper power; but in the name of common humanity, we stand up for the lives and security of helpless women and innocent children.

The executives of Illinois and Missouri have had loud and fair warning, by the meetings in Carthage, Warsaw and St. Louis, of the dreadful scheme of arson and assassination that is going on to exterminate the Mormons; and if they permit the monstrous crime of the sack of a city, the murder of men in cold blood, and the sacrifice of women and children to the

demoniac fury of an inflamed mob, they will not, they cannot be held guiltless.

There are other means by which the course of the Mormons, if unlawful or destructive of the rights of others, can be restrained and punished; but even if there be no immediate legal redress, are murder, rapine, desolation, the brand of civil war hurled among those who should be friends and neighbors—are these a suitable substitute for a little time and patience?

Let the citizens of Illinois look to their votes when next they approach the ballot box, and examine well for whom and for what principles they are cast, and they can restore the Government of their State to hands that will remove their grievances and reassure them in their rights much more speedily than they can rebuild one log hut sacrificed to brutal war, or atone for the blood of a single human victim."

Tuesday, 9.—Elders Willard Richards and John Taylor wrote as follows:—

"Nauvoo, Illinois, U. S.,
July 9th, 1844."

Elder Reuben Hedlock, Presiding Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ in England, and the Saints in the British Empire:—

Beloved Brethren:—As Elder James Parsons, is about to leave for England, we embrace this, as the first opportunity, to communicate to you one of the most signal events which has ever transpired in the history of the church.

It has been declared by all the former Prophets and Apostles, that God had reserved unto himself a peculiar people for the last days, who would not only be zealous in good works, but who should be purified as gold in the furnace seven times, and who would have to endure through faith and patience in all long suffering, in meekness, forbearance, love, and every God-like virtue unto the end as good soldiers, and meet all the scorn, scoff, and derision, and chiding, buffeting and persecution a wicked world could heap upon them, and even death itself, not counting their lives dear unto themselves, that they might obtain their inheritance in that kingdom of their Heavenly Father, which Jesus, their elder brother, had gone to prepare for them.

It is in this period of time that we are permitted to live. It is at the dawning of that day of days in which our Heavenly Father is about to usher in that glorious period when times and seasons shall be changed and earth renewed, when after rumors and commotions, turmoils, strife, confusion, blood and slaughter, the sword shall be beaten into ploughshares, and peace and truth triumphantly prevail o'er all the footstool of Jehovah. The day of these events has dawned, although to human view a cloud has overspread the horizon.

You are acquainted with the general history of the Church to which we belong; from our lips and pens you have learned its rise and progress, you have heard of the persecution of the Saints in Missouri and their expulsion from thence, together with their kind reception by the citizens of Illinois, where we have been located for the last four years.

For some months past we have been troubled with the wicked proceedings of certain apostates in our midst, who have striven to overthrow the Church and produce trouble and anguish in the mind of every virtuous being, but their designs having been frustrated by the wise and judicious management on the part of the Prophet and the Saints.

These apostates, reckless of all consequences made a deadly thrust at our overthrow, leaving the city suddenly, and afterwards, by themselves, or agents, fired their own buildings, doubtless thinking they would charge it upon the Saints, and by that means excite a mob in the surrounding country, who would fall upon, and burn the city, but in this they were disappointed, our vigilant police discovered and extinguished the flames.

Their next course was to arrest the Prophet, the Patriarch, and others, by legal process and false pretence, and take them to Carthage, the county seat, for investigation; but they gave themselves up to the requisition of the law, on the pledge of Governor Ford that they should be protected from all personal violence, and went voluntarily to Carthage, without even the attendance of the officer.

Considerable excitement prevailed in the neighborhood, to allay which they voluntarily gave bonds for their appearance at the next session of the Circuit Court; their voluntary and noble conduct should have satisfied every mind, but certain individuals of the basest sort swore out a writ for treason against the Prophet Joseph, and the Patriarch Hyrum Smith, and they were thrust into jail without trial, without examination, without any legal course or procedure, on the 25th of June, where they remained till next day, when they were brought before the magistrate, that a day might be set for their examination.

They were immediately remanded to prison, where they remained until the 27th, when but few of their friends were permitted to see them.

Between 5 and 6 o'clock, p.m., of that day, a company of 150 or 200 armed, disguised and painted men rushed upon the guard who were set to watch the prison door—overpowered them, rushed up stairs into the entry adjoining the room where Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith were, and John Taylor and Willard Ri-

chards sitting with them to keep them company.

As soon as the mob arrived at the head of the stairs, they fired through the door and shot Hyrum in the face; he fell instantly, exclaiming, 'I am a dead man.'

The mob instantly forced open the door with the points of the bayonets, and recommenced an indiscriminate discharge of fire arms upon all in the room.

Mr. Taylor, in attempting to leap from the window, was shot and fell back in the chamber; Joseph, in attempting to leap from the same window, was shot, and fell on the outside, about 20 ft. descent, when the mob gathered instantly round him and again shot him.

Joseph and Hyrum received each four balls, and were killed instantly. Elder Taylor received four balls in his left wrist and left leg—is doing well and is likely to recover.

Dr. Richards was marked on his left ear and cheek, otherwise remained unharmed; the whole scenery occupied only two minutes, when the mob fled rapidly towards Warsaw.

The bodies of the murdered men were removed to Nauvoo on the 28th, and were buried on the 29th. This event has caused the deepest mourning among the Saints, but they have not attempted to avenge the outrage.

The Governor has promised that the whole treacherous proceedings shall be investigated according to law, and the Saints have agreed to leave it with him, and with God to avenge their wrongs in this matter; there has been considerable excitement in the surrounding country, which is now in a great measure allayed. The action of the Saints has been of the most pacific kind, remembering that God has said, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.'

For further particulars we refer you to the statements of Messrs. Reid and Woods, and other statements in the 'Nauvoo Neighbor,' which we send you with this; and now, beloved brethren, we say to you all, as we say to the Saints here, be still and know that God reigns. This is one of those fiery trials that is to try the Saints in the last days.

These servants of God have gone to heaven by fire—the fire of an ungodly mob. Like the prophets of ancient days they lived as long as the world would receive them; and this is one furnace in which the Saints were to be tried, to have their leaders cut off from their midst, and not be permitted to avenge their blood.

God has said, Vengeance is mine, I have not called mine elders to fight their battles; I will fight their battles for them; and we know assuredly that he will do it in his own due time, and we have only to wait in patience and pray for the fulfilment of the promise.

This event is one of the most foul and damnable that ever disgraced the earth, having no parallel in time. Innocent men imprisoned without law, without justice, and murdered in cold blood in the enlightened nineteenth century, in an enlightened country in open daylight.

It will call down the wrath and indignation of all nations upon the perpetrators of the horrid deed, and will prove the truth of the saying, 'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.' They died for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

God has not left his Church without witnesses; as in former days, so shall it be in the latter days, when one falls another will arise to occupy a similar station. Our Heavenly Father always has had a leader to his people—always will have, and the gates of hell can never prevail against the chosen of heaven.

The murder of Joseph will not stop the work; it will not stop the Temple; it will not stop the gathering, it will not stop the honest in heart from believing the truth and obeying it, but it is a proof of the revelations we have received from heaven through him. He has sealed his testimony with his blood, he was willing to die, and desired only to live for the sake of the brethren.

Two better men than Joseph and Hyrum Smith never lived. Two better men God never made. The memorial of their godly lives is embalmed, printed with indelible ink in the memory of every honest heart, who knew their upright walk and conversation; but they are taken away by the hands of assassins, and of the foolish things of the earth God will raise up others to comfort and lead his people, and not one item of his word can fail.

Jerusalem must be rebuilt and Zion must be redeemed, the earth be cleansed from blood by fire, Jesus return unto his own, and all who shall continue faithful unto the end shall rest in everlasting peace and blessedness.

We alone, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, are here at this time to write to you, the remaining ten are in the Eastern States preaching the gospel, and we expect them soon to return, and as soon as God will, we will write you again.

Proceed onward with all your labors as though nothing had happened, only preach Joseph martyred for his religion, instead of living, and God will pour out his Spirit upon you, and hasten his work from this time.

Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits; believe not every report for every false rumor that men and demons can invent is set afloat to gull the world. What we have told you by letter and papers is true, but time will not permit to tell you every particular now.

Be humble, prayerful, watchful, and let not the adversary get any advantage of one of you,

and may the choicest blessings of Israel's God rest upon you and abide with you, that you may endure faithful in all tribulation and affliction, and be prepared to be gathered unto Mount Zion, and enter into celestial glory, is the earnest prayer of your brethren in the new and everlasting covenant. Amen.

WILLARD RICHARDS,
JOHN TAYLOR."

P.S.—We would have said that while Joseph was on his way to Carthage, and on the prairie, he said to his friends around him, 'I am going like a lamb to the slaughter, but my mind is calm as the summer's morning. I have a conscience void of offence towards God and towards all men.' Joseph also said to his friends, 'I am going voluntarily to give myself up, and it shall be said of me that I was murdered in cold blood.'"

Elders B. Young and O. Pratt were at Boston when they first heard the rumors of the massacre of the Prophets, but did not believe the accounts were correct.

Elders Kimball and Wight were in Salem this morning, and heard of the death of the Prophets. Elder Kimball recorded he was unwilling to believe it, though it struck him to the heart. They took cars for Boston in the morning, where they stayed during the day. In the evening they proceeded to New York.

Elder W. Woodruff was in Portland, Maine, and ready to step on board of a steamer for Fox Islands, when he received the Boston Times newspaper, containing an account of the death of the Prophets, he immediately took cars and returned to Boston, stopping over night at Scarborough.

Wednesday, 10.—Elder Willard Richards, Patriarch John Smith, Elders Samuel H. Smith and W. W. Phelps met in council in the Council Chamber.

Elder Willard Richards wrote as follows:—
"Nauvoo, July 10, 1844.

A. Jonas, Esq.:—

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 6th, per Mr. Meete is received, and I have only time to thank you for the information it contained, and all your endeavors for the promotion of truth and justice, and can still give you the fullest assurance that all is perfect peace at Nauvoo,—calmly waiting the fulfilment of Gov. Ford's pledge, to redeem the land from blood by legal process. You can do much to allay the excitement of the country in your travels, and the friends of peace will appreciate your labors.

Most respectfully,

W. RICHARDS."

Elder P. P. Pratt arrived at Nauvoo.

A committee of nine ladies, among whom were Mrs. Hyrum Smith, Mrs. John Taylor, Mrs. Arthur Milliken and Mrs. W. W. Phelps waited upon Mr. R. D. Foster and told him they would not bear his taunts and insults any longer; they ordered him to leave the city forthwith, or he would be visited by a stronger force to-morrow. These ladies having good reason to believe that Foster was accessory to the murder of their relatives, the Prophets, took the liberty of pursuing this course towards him.

Mr. Hiram Kimball obligated himself that Foster should leave before morning, accordingly he got his team ready and took him out of the city that evening.

We copy from the Neighbor:—

"Elder Taylor is recovering as fast as can be expected. His wounds are doing well."

"GOODNESS SHALL BE REWARDED."

The senior editor of this paper, Mr. Taylor, at the horrible assassination of Joseph and Hyrum Smith in Carthage Jail, on the afternoon of the 27th day of June, received three wounds in his left thigh and knee, and one in his left wrist; besides which a fifth ball spent its force against his watch in his left vest pocket. This ball, but for the timely interference of this valuable watch, must have caused instant death, as it would have passed directly into his lungs. This watch, though dreadfully shattered, is a friend that points to the very moment when he stood between life and death, the hands pointing to 5 o'clock, 10 minutes and 26 seconds.

While upon this subject, Mr. Taylor and his friends wish, through this channel, to tender their thanks to Mr. Hamilton and family, and to all who assisted him in any manner during his stay at Carthage, while unable to be removed to his own home. Kindness, assistance, and the tender offices of humanity in such times of deep distress, give the noble mind a chance to appreciate help when it is needed, and to remember such friends in future. Nor should the assistance rendered to lay out the bodies of the Messrs. Smith, preparatory to their removal to Nauvoo, be forgotten. Though the people of Carthage, under the excitement of the moment, generally fled, yet those who did stay did all they could to forward the bodies, as well as to make me as comfortable as the circumstances of the case would permit.

One thing further: In this awful tragedy, Dr. Willard Richards, equally exposed to the shower of bullets which were fired into the room at the door and windows, escaped unhurt, and while he would render thanksgiving and praise to his God for this signal preservation of his life, he would also return his grateful acknowledgments to the Messrs. Hamilton and others, who rendered all the assistance in their power in this awful hour of murder and we at Carthage."