

Written for this Paper.

TAR AND FEATHERS.

Many of your readers will be interested to peruse an exact copy of a paper in a suit planted in the circuit court at Independence, Jackson county, Missouri, in the February term, 1834, by Bishop Edward Partridge, plaintiff, against fifty-five mobbers who without color of law seized and dragged him to the public square in Independence, and after abusing him tarred and feathered him, after which they turned him loose. The reason for this outrage was because of Bishop Partridge's religious belief in Apostles, Prophets and the organization, gifts, blessings and ordinances of the Church of Christ.

I personally knew the plaintiff, our esteemed and worthy Bishop Edward Partridge, as a true friend of the poor, of liberty and of freedom of thought. In regard to his character at the time of inflicting the cruelties mentioned upon him, as stated in his complaint, I will give General Wilson's testimony. Bishop Partridge, besides being tarred and feathered, was expelled from his home and state. The fifty-five mobbers, in their answer now on file in the Independence court, each acknowledged that they assisted in the unastardly act. Each one of the fifty-five put in the same answer, that they did it "in self-defense."

General Wilson was one of the chief mobbers who helped to drive out of the county, and finally out of the state, one who was asking the courts for redress, so that he was barred from bringing to justice his persecutors. General Wilson said to P. P. Pratt and others: "We Jackson county boys know how it is, and therefore have not the extreme hatred and prejudice which characterize the rest of the troops. We know perfectly well from the beginning that the Mormons have not been the aggressors at all. As it began in 1833 in Jackson county, Missouri, so it has been ever since."

* * * We mob you without law; the authorities refuse to protect you according to law. You, then, are compelled to protect yourselves, and we act upon the prejudice of the public, we join forces and the whole is legalized for your destruction. When we drove you from Jackson county we burned 203 of your houses, plundered your goods, destroyed your press, type and paper, books, office and all; tarred and feathered old Bishop Partridge, as exemplary an old man as you can find anywhere. * * * Let a set of men serve me as your community have been served and I'll be d—d if I would not fight till I died."

General Wilson was engaged with, as he has already stated, a legalized mob, at Far West, on November 1st, 1833, and just before making the above statement, he held a conversation with the Prophet Joseph Smith at the time when he was condemned by the mob to be shot on the public square at Far West, Caldwell county, Mo. Joseph asked General Wilson what he had done that he should be treated with such indignity, stating that he had always been a supporter of the Constitution and of good government. Wilson's reply was, "I know it, and that is the reason I want to kill you, or have you killed."

I was in Far West and saw General Wilson and Captain Bogart, a Methodist preacher, and his son-in-law, Mr. Cook. It was a time of general excitement. A great many of the rabble were led on by false rumors and fanaticism. This feeling died out with that generation and a new generation now appears. Only a very few remain who took part in driving the Mormons from their lands and homes fifty-five years ago. During my recent trip, I only found two, and they are old men, who were then boys. One of them, a Mr. Mason, at Independence, Missouri, said, "I helped to drive the Mormons away, but I was only in my teens. I have nothing against the Mormons. They never harmed me. I now can see if we had let the Mormons alone they would have built up the country as they have done in Utah." Mr. Mason is now about 70 years of age. I visited him at his home, and he and his family treated me with kindness.

Having had the opportunity of copying the amended complaint, in the matter first referred to in this communication, and also the 55 answers now on file in the circuit court at Independence, Mo., I availed myself of the opportunity of presenting those copies for the perusal of our young folks, that they may read of some of the difficulties encountered by the fathers in establishing so good a cause as we are now enjoying.

The foregoing documents afford food for serious reflections as to the conditions of that time:

AMENDED DECLARATION.

In the Circuit court, February term, eighteen hundred and thirty-four (1834):

Jackson county court.

Edward Partridge complains of Samuel D. Lucas, Russell Hicks, Lewis Franklin, Richard Simpson, George M. Simpson, Lendas Aldcham, Thomas M. Wilson, James M. Hunter, Henry Chiles, Nathaniel K. Almstead, Zachariah Miller, Samuel Weston, William L. Irwin, Samuel D. Owens, Dan Overton, John Harris, Harmon Gregg, James H. Flourna, Morris G. Wilson, Robert Johnson, James Campbell, Joel T. Child, Richard Fustin, Abram T. Staples, William Cannon, John Smith, John Davis, Joseph C. Davis, Thomas Pitcher, Guss Johnson, James Reynolds, James Cockrel, Jonathan Sheppard, John W. Dame, Revd. Tarton Eldredge, David A. Staton, John Carnot, John Cook, Daniel King, Edwin F. Hicks, William Martin, Richard W. Clemins, James P. Hickman, William Brown, Samuel Johnson, William Pugh, John Lewis, James H. McGee, Ruland Flourroy, John M. Walker and Benjamin Major, of a plea of trespass. For that the said defendants heretofore named, on the twenty-fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-three (1833), with force and arms at the county of Jackson aforesaid, assaulted the said Edward Partridge and then and there took and carried the said Edward into a public place (the old court house square) in the town of Independence, in the county of Jackson aforesaid, and then and there in the presence of a large concourse of people indignantly and abusively treated the said Edward, and the said defendants then and there, with great force and violence struck and pulled about the said Edward, and cast and threw him down to and upon the ground, and then and there violently kicked the said Edward, and gave and struck him a great many other blows and shakes; and then and there with

great force and violence put on the body of the said Edward a large quantity of pitch and tar, and completely covered his body therewith, and then and there rolled him in feathers so as completely to cover his body with feathers, and then and there in that situation turn him the said Edward loose among the said large concourse of people; and then and there, with great force and violence, rent, tear and damage the clothes and wearing apparel, to-wit: One coat, one hat, one waistcoat, one pair of breeches, one cravat, one shirt and one pair of stockings of the said Edward, of great value, to wit, of the value of (\$50) fifty dollars, which he the said Edward was then and there greatly hurt, bruised and wounded, and then and there, from the indignity and public insult offered him, was greatly insulted and suffered in his reputation and standing in society to wit at the county of Jackson aforesaid, and other wrongs to the said Edward, then and there, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, did assault the peace and dignity of the state, and to the damage of the said Edward, of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), and therefore he brings this suit.

Wood, Atchison, Wells, Donaphan and Reese,

Attorneys for Plaintiff.

This Declaration was endorsed on the back with Samuel D. Lucas, with orders to file in the court.

Filed away Feb. 15th, 1834.

SAMUEL C. OWEN, Clerk.

THE ANSWER.

Robert Johnson, impleaded with others, ads. Edward Partridge, Trespasser. And the said Robt. Johnson comes and defends the force and injury, when &c., and says: as to the assaulting and taking and carrying the said Edward Partridge into a public place, in the town of Independence, and before a large concourse of people, indignantly and abusively treating him the said plaintiff, and as to the shaking, pulling about and throwing him upon the ground, and as to the kicking and striking the said plaintiff a great many violent blows, & as to the putting on the body of the said plaintiff a large quantity of pitch & tar, rolling in & covering his body with feathers, then turning him loose among a large concourse of people, and as to the rending, tearing, and damaging the clothes of the said plaintiff, as is stated and set forth in the declaration, the said plaintiff ought not to have or maintain his aforesaid action thereof against him, because he says: that the said plaintiff just before the said time, when &c. in the said declaration mentioned, at the county of Jackson aforesaid, with force and arms &c. made an assault upon him the said defendant, and would then and there have beat, bruised, and ill treated him the said defendant, if he had not immediately defended himself against the said plaintiff, wherefore, he the said defendant did then and there defend himself against the said plaintiff, as he lawfully might, for the cause aforesaid, and in so doing did necessarily and unavoidably, a little, pull and haul about before a large concourse of people, and thereby, then and there in self defense, did indignantly treat the said plaintiff, by shaking, kicking, striking, throwing him upon the ground and did then and there for the cause aforesaid, a little, rend, tear and damage the clothes of the said plaintiff, and there being then and there upon the ground, where the said defendant was so compelled, in self defense as aforesaid, to throw down the body of the defendant as aforesaid, a large quantity of tar, pitch and feathers, by means whereof, the said plaintiff became a little covered and besmear'd with tar, pitch and feathers, as stated in the said declaration mentioned, doing no unnecessary